

Titel: Semantics. Scope, Definitions, Methods, [Nice1951] 046-0650

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and its use in speech is the paper REFERENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS  
by Garvin, in

9. In applying the method of comparison in order to establish identities and differences use should be made of various working hypotheses which have already proved to be of considerable help, and which, in fact, have not been proved wrong on the evidence of actual facts of speech or language.

The first is that, except for special cases, i.e. cases with disturbing factors, a significant has always the same meaning. The seeming contradiction that it may be used to refer to, or to express, different things or states of mind, is accounted for by the fact that in speech usually only part of the features of a meaning constitute the actual clue to what is meant. This is a hypothesis of Roman Jakobson's.

The second, of Trubetzkoy and Jakobson's, is that the oppositions of morphological or grammatical systems, such as cases and tenses, are always simple, even biterminal, i.e. of the type a/a plus b, or: a without b/a plus b, or: a plus b/a plus a (cumulative, privative, and contrarious oppositions).

A third seems to be that there is always different rank of features of meaning within the same meaning, as has been illustrated before.

As to morphological systems, it has not been settled as yet whether, e.g. in case systems, oppositions of meaning, or oppositions of syntactical valence of the words in which the morphemes occur, are primary, the others secondary. Compare L. Hjelmslev, La catégorie des cas, 1935-37; Roman Jakobson, Beitrag zur allgemeinen Kasuslehre, Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Prague 6, 240-88 (1936); A.W. de Groot, Les oppositions dans les systèmes de la syntaxe et des cas, Mélanges Hally, 107-27 (1939); and, recently, J. Kurylowicz, Le problème du classement des cas, Bull. de la Soc. Polonaise de Linguistique 9, 20-43 (1949).

10. The most important distinction of types of meanings, or of features of meanings, seems to be the distinction of referential meanings, used by the speaker to refer to something in the outer world, i.e. in supposed, or fictional, thought of reality, and attitudinal meanings, used by the speaker to express his state of mind or attitude to things referred to (by means of words of the same sentence), or implied by the word itself, e.g. an interjection: ouch! or: Yes. No. Attitudinal are also statements and questions, e.g. the attitudinal actor-action construction he ~~sings~~, as opposed to the merely referential actor-action construction (I want) him to ~~sing~~, or birds sing as opposed to singing birds. Compare my paper STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS AND SYNTACTIC LAWS, word 5, 1-12, esp. 4-5, where I called them objective and subjective meanings. See also my book STRUCTURELLE SYNTAXIS, 1949, Register sub "betekenis".

In matter of language, as opposed to speech, the first aim should be to establish the structure of the system of all words of the given language, i.e. the structure of the system of word classes, with its subdivisions. Compare my paper STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS AND WORD CLASSES,