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**IDENTIFYING THE ROLE OF
LEXICAL RELATIONS IN TWITTER COMMENTS**

A paper

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by

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Dedication

To my lovely family....

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Abstract

This study deals with identifying the role of lexical relations in Twitter comments. The aim is to explore and analyze the role of the different lexical relations including hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, and homonymy. The first section provides the introduction, aim, hypothesis, limits and value of the study. The second section explores the meaning and types of lexical relations. In section three, the researcher selects a number of tweets and analyzes them in terms of lexical relations. In section four; the analysis of the lexical relation and discussion of result. In section five include conclusion and references.

Section One

1.1 Introduction

One of the subfields of semantics is called lexical semantics, which is entirely concerned with the study of the meanings of the words in terms of their relationships with other words . Lexical relation is one of the most important semantic relations in exploring the meanings of words in the English language. These lexical relations are mainly used to analyze the meanings of words in terms of their relations to each other within sentences. Those relations vary according to the kind of the relation that a word may have with another word or words. (Yule, 2006). The lexical relations include: hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, and homonymy. These lexical relations are widely used in comments on twitter, one of the most important social media platforms, but these lexical relations are widely used on social media, including twitter content, but their role is still not well identified or explored.

This study is trying to find answers to the following questions:

1. What are lexical relations?
2. What are the main types of lexical relations?
3. What is the role of lexical relations in twitter comments?

1.2 Aim of the Study.

This study aims at:

1. Identifying the meaning of lexical relations.
2. Showing the major kinds of lexical relations in English.
3. Exploring the role of lexical relations in twitter comments.

1.3 Hypotheses

It is hypothesized that:

1. Lexical relations are one of the important semantic relations.
2. There are different types of lexical relations.
3. Lexical relations play a significant role in twitter comments.

1.4 Procedures

1. Collecting and classifying information about the topic
- 2 Identifying twitter comments with lexical relations to be used for the study.
- 3 Analyze the tweets to find the role of lexical relations in them.

1.5 Limits

The study will be limited to identifying lexical relations in twitter comments.

1.6 Value

This study is hoped to be of value to learners of English in general and twitter users since lexical relations are one of the most significant features in understanding language.

Section Two

Literature Review

2.1 Definitions

2.1.1 Semantics

Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. The meaning of a word is determined by the word arrangements in sentences or other words (*Palmer, 1976*). *Yule (2010)* defines semantics as the study of meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. *Kreidler* states that semantics is relations of words to other words, and sentences to sentences to discuss the nature of language; the structure of discourse; the distinction between lexical and grammatical meaning (*Kreidler, 1998:12*). In linguistics, semantics is the subfield that studies meaning. Semantics can address meaning at the levels of words, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse (*Partee, 1999*).

2.2.2 Lexical Relations

Bolinger (1968) states that lexical relations are the relationship of the meaning of a word to other words. *Yule (2006)*, on the other hand, states that the relationship between two or more words is called lexical relation, which is the meaning of the word in terms of the relationship between two or more words to each other.

It is the study of how lexicon is managed and how the lexical meanings of lexical items are related to each other. There are several types of lexical relations, such as; homonym, polysemy, synonymy, antonym, hyponymy, and

metonymy (*Palmer, 1976*).

2.2 Types of Lexical Relations

According to *Palmer (1976)*, there are five main types of lexical relations: hyponym, synonymy, antonym, polysemy, and homonymy.

2.2.1 Hyponymy

Hyponymy involves the realm of inclusion. For example, tulips and roses are included in flowers; and lions and elephants in mammals. It refers to a set or a group of words that are included in a higher term or word. The Higher or upper term or word is called a superordinate, and the lower one is called a hyponym (*Lyons, 1963*).

Hyponymy is similar to the notion of embeddedness; meaning, the semantics of one object is implied by another. That is to say, because words represent objects, the semantic properties of a particular object, like whether it is a female or animate, can be embedded in a word that implies those same objects; and so, the meaning of word “x” can be embedded in word “z”. For example, “Robert” implies “human,” or “animate”. This is due to the fact that Robert is both a human and animate. With each word, there is implied the notion of another semantic feature (*Ideasinhathat, 2018*).

Examples of hyponym are:

Vegetable ----- carrots, cabbages, spinach, lettuce

Bird----- Swallow, crane, canary, woodpecker, quail

2.2.2 Synonymy

Synonymy is sameness of meaning which is not related to the conceptual

meaning of words but relations of words that have the same conceptual meaning, like an elevator and lift, gala and festival (*Palmer, 1982*). A synonymous word does not mean identical.

Synonymy is the idea that some words have the same meaning as others, though this is not always the case; that is, there are some synonyms which cannot replace one another in a sentence, we will give some examples of this further down. For example, we can say “he answered the door.”, but we cannot say “He replied to the door.”, though *answer* and *reply* are synonymous (*Yule, 2006*). When words have the same meaning, they can replace one another without altering the meaning of a sentence; for example:

Jane is quick

Jane is fast

Jane is speedy

All three sentences have the same meaning even though they are each unique instances of that sentence; only because the meanings of all three words at the end of the sentences are the same. This, by extension, then allows each sentence to maintain the same meaning as before.

2.2.3 Antonymy

Antonymy is the oppositeness of the meaning; it is also related to word meaning, like synonyms. Two words are antonyms if their meanings differ only in the value for a single semantic feature. The following pairs are all antonyms: “dead” and “alive”, “hot” and “cold”, and “above” and “below”. The meaning of the members of each pair are presumably identical except for opposite values of some semantic feature (*Parker and*

Riley, 1994:42). For example, *ice/hot, beautiful/ugly, and big/small*. These words have meanings which are opposite to one another, and these opposite meanings come in two forms: categorical and continuous.

The categorical distinction is one that has two categories that contrast one another; for example, *fire/water*. These are categorical because there is no continuum between them; that is, less fire never means more water and less water never means more fire. Comparatively, antonyms that are continuous are constructions like *big/small*. (Ideasinhart, 2018)

Palmer (1982) divides antonyms into three types: gradable Antonyms, complementarity, and relational (reversal) opposites. In gradable Antonyms, the meaning of each word is relative so that it can be put in a graded scale, like *thin/fat, bad/good, black/white, sad/glad, interesting/boring, light/heavy, old/new*, etc.

In complementarity, the meaning of the word is absolute, not relative; that is just one possibility of meaning, which is fixed. For example: *male/female; single/married; up/down; empty/full, open/closed*. In relational opposites, the pairs of words are the reversal of a relationship of words: *buy/sell, lend/borrow; own/belong, give/receive, above/below, in front of/behind*, etc. (Palmer, 1982)

2.2.4 Polysemy

Polysemy deals with constructions that have multiple meanings; for example, “head,” “over,” or “letter,” can all adopt multiple meanings. These words could be considered polysemous since they each have many potential meanings.(Zakiyah, 2018:18)

The word “head” can be used to refer to the top of someone’s body: “Jane received a head injury”; it can be used to refer to the front of a line: “Jane is at the head of the line”. It can also be used to refer to how prepared someone is: “Jane is way ahead of the curve, she already read the chapter for next week”. So, the word “head” is polysemous since it has many meanings (*Yule, 1996*). Other examples:

Back: Human back; back of a chair; back of a sofa; back of a knife, etc.

Eye: human eye; eye of a needle; hook and eye; eye of a potato, etc.

Foot: human foot; foot of a bed; foot of a hill; foot of a mountain, etc. (*Ibid: 19*)

2.2.5 Homonymy

Homonymy is the term that refers to one form, which is the same in both written and spoken words with two or more related meanings. An example of homonymy is the word *bank* (bank of a river; a financial institution); pupil (student; part of the eye); mole (an animal, a small dark mark on the skin, a stone wall built in the sea); bill (a bird’s mouth, a statement of charges, a proposed law, a bank note); ball (any solid or hollow sphere as used in games, social gathering for dancing); and miss (failure to hit, a title given to an unmarried woman or girl) (*Zakiyah, 2018*).

Section Three

Data

3.1 Date

Following is an analysis of the lexical relation used in twitter comments :

3.2 Data Description

Twitter is an American microblogging and social networking site on which users post and interact with messages known as "tweets". Twitter was created by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams in March 2006 and launched in July of that year. By 2012, more than 100 million users posted 340 million tweets a day. By the start of 2019, Twitter had more than 330 million monthly active users. In practice, the vast majority of tweets are written by a minority of users (Carlson, 2009: 12). A tweet is a status update on Twitter that is broadcast to other users. Limited to 140 characters or less, tweets can express how users are feeling, what they're doing. There are many types of comments in tweets including: news and information; educational tweets; status updates; random and personal; questions; re tweets; replies and conversation; links to relevant content; broadcasts of live events; and promotional messages.

3.3 Data Selection

1. dorar-alkalam

When you are sad, go away from every eye and squeeze your sadness on the threshold of God, only He alone will turn your sadness into happiness for free

sadness and happiness (antonym)

2. dorar-alkalam

A man is a human being only if he can resist what he loves and endure what he

hates

Love _ hate (antonym)

3. dorar-alkalam

They practice lying so that they do not break our hearts, and has trickery become a remedy for our thoughts ?

Lying - tricky (synonym)

4. dorar-alkalam

Every gold and silver on the face of the earth does not reach the price of the Basra palm

gold – silver (hyponym)

5. dorar-alkalam

A minute of success compensates for years of failure

Success - failure (antonym)

6. dorar-alkalam

The active man succeeds where the lazy grows, and his destiny is

inevitable Active - lazy (antonym)

7. dorar-alkalam

The active man succeeds where the lazy grows, and his destiny is

inevitable man - woman (antonym)

8. Alwaleed-Talal

who have no enfants, do not criticize them, and do not brag that you have children

enfants - children (synonymy)

10. Alwaleed-Talal

Anger is equitable, pity is just, but opinion is never fair

equitable - just (synonymy)

11. Alwaleed-Talal

There comes a moment when the people of truth think that they are crazy, out of the overconfidence and rudeness that the people of falsehood speak about

truth -falsehood (antonym)

12. Alwaleed-Talal

I have a good relationship with the West, and a good relationship with the East, not only in my country, but in the entire region. So, I'll use that to connect the two sides as best I can

country - region (hyponym)

West - East (antonym)

13. Abdulrahman 9

"A message to you: Trust that God will win you a great victory, and will force you to hardship that you did not dream of, and this delay is only for wisdom to choose for you the most suitable times when you are very happy. And you wish you had wings to fly with the power of joy, God willing" .

Victory - win (synonymy)

Very happy - power of joy (synonymy)

14. Abdulrahman 9

If you want to wake up happy in the morning, know who you are talking to at night

Morning - at night (antonym)

15. Abdulrahman 9

Connect with crazy people, sane people are very boring

crazy - sane (antonym)

16. Abdulrahman 9

He appears in the role of the victim at all times, he always has excuses and justifications for his shortcomings and absences, he always runs away from you and always complains about his circumstances and his life

excuses - justifications (synonymy)

17. Abdulrahman 9

If you want to be happy, leave what happened yesterday, and do not take it with you for tomorrow !

yesterday - tomorrow (antonym)

18. Abdulrahman 9

Watch out. love that begins with childish joy may end in early old age !

Childish - old age (antonym)

19. jota 22n

There is a rule in psychology that says: "What you practice daily, you will master very efficiently." For example, when you exercise anxiety, you will worry about trivial matters! Therefore, practice tranquility to master the serenity of the heart. and practice optimism to master peace of mind. and practice trust and goodwill in God to enjoy happiness and security .

anxiety - tranquility (polysemy)

20. 4jxXO

Death is the clear truth in the world, it is the arrow that never misses, rather it leaves no one, dying is God's way into existence.

death - dying (synonym)

21. Abdulrahman 9

We are in this world a trust to God, he calls it whenever and however he wants, we should not grieve, nor cry or wail, but we must return to God and ask for forgiveness .

Cry - wail (synonymy)

22. Abdulrahman 9

tube (a hollow body of metal used for conveying or containing liquids or gasses) / tube (underground)

tube (Homonymy)

Section Four

The Analysis of The Lexical Relation

4.1 The Analysis

Table (1) The Frequented Percentages of Types of Lexical Relation in Twitter

Type of Lexical Relation	Fre.	%
1.Synonymy	8	39%
2. Antonym	10	45%
3.Hyponym	2	9%
4. Polysemy	1	4%
5. Homonymy	1	4%

4.2 Discussion of Result

Lexical relations are one of the most important subfields of semantics which are entirely concerned with approaching the meanings of words through relating them to other words within English sentences. Antonym is the most type used in Twitter the percentages of it is (45%). The percentages of synonyms are (39%) while the percentages of hyponyms are 9% . Polysemy and homonymy have the same percentages (4%)

Section Five

Conclusion

We can characterize the meaning of a word in a number of ways, including morphology, phonology, and categorization: whether it is animate, human, feminine, or adult. There is, however, another way to characterize a word's meaning: through its lexical relations. Lexical relationships are the links made between one word and another; for example, we all know that "closed" is opposite "open," and "literature" is similar to "book." These words have a substantial relationship to one another, although words like "chair" and "coffee" may not; hence, lexical associations can provide information about a word's meaning.

The presentation (explanation) of the different types of lexical relations including hyponymy , synonymy and antonymy should be done after diagnosing areas of strength and weakness in the learner's knowledge of these relations .

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