



AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE

SALEM – 636004

(REG NO: TN-20-0012039)

NET/SET/ARTS TRB EXAM

(ENGLISH ONLY)

for the post of

**Assistant Professors in Government Arts and
Science Colleges**

SALIENT FEATURES

- ☞ Well Trained Professors
- ☞ Excellent Coaching
- ☞ Unit Wise Materials
- ☞ All Previous Year Questions
- ☞ Slip Test, Unit Test, Revision Test, Model Test

Website: www.akshiraa.com

Email: akshiraa@gmail.com

Contact: 9487976999

Unit V - Language and Linguistics

S.No	Title	P. No
Language		
01.	The Origin of Language	3
02.	The Place of English in the Indo-European family	9
03.	The Characteristics of the Germanic Language	18
04.	Old English	21
05.	Middle English	25
06.	Modern English	29
07.	Standard English	32
08.	The Growth of Vocabulary	34
09.	The Change of Meaning	41
Linguistics		
10.	Introduction to Linguistics 10.1. Definition, Nature and Scope of Linguistics 10.2. Linguistic Terms 10.3. Glossary of Linguistic Terms	49
11.	Phonology 11.1. Introduction 11.2. Speech Organs 11.3. Sounds in English 11.4. Transcriptions 11.5. Syllable, Stress, Intonation	82
12.	Morphology 12.1. Morpheme 12.2. Affixes 12.3. Word Formation 12.4. Morphophonemics	106
13.	Syntax 13.1. Word, Phrase, Clause 13.2. Structural Linguistics 13.3. Immediate Constituent Analysis 13.4. Transformational Generative Grammar	122
14.	Semantics 14.1. Meaning 14.2. Terms and Concepts in Semantics 14.3. Theories of Semantics	141
15.	Pragmatics	158

14. Semantics

Semantics - Definition:

- Semantics is the **branch of linguistics and it is the study of meaning of words, phrases and sentences.**
- It is the study of linguistic development by classifying and examining changes in meaning and form.
- It is also called as ‘Semasiology’ or ‘Sematology’.
- The word ‘Semantics’ was first used by **Michel Bréal, a French philologist.**
- The term ‘Semasiology’ was first used in German by **Christian Karl Reisig** in 1825 in his work, ‘*Lectures on Latin Linguistics*’.
- It comes from **Greek word ‘Sema’** which means ‘**Sign**’.
- It focuses on the relationship between a word in the form of sign and the meaning that the sign refers to.
- It is devoted to the study of meaning at the levels of words, phrases, sentences, and larger units of discourse.
- It attempts to relate meaning to logic and truth, and deals with meaning as a matter primarily of sense relations within the language.
- It analyzes the structure of meaning in a language, e.g. how words are similar or different.
- It is an abstract level of linguistic analysis because it can’t be seen or observed.
- It is closely related to the human capacity to think logically and understand the meaning.
- Logical semantics is concerned with matters such as sense and reference and presupposition and implication.
- Lexical semantics is concerned with the analysis of word meanings and relations between them.
- “*Semantics gives a systematic account of the nature of meaning*”- Geoffrey Leech.
- The minimal unit of meaning is called ‘**Sememe**’.
- The basic study of semantics is oriented to the examination of the meaning of signs, and the study of relations between different linguistic units.
- Semantic analysis attempts to focus on what the words conventionally mean, rather than on what an individual speaker intended to mean.
- This approach is concerned with linguistic meaning that is shared by all competent users of the language.

14.1. Meaning

Meaning:

- The term ‘meaning’ can be defined as the totality of impression in terms of worldly experiences which is encoded in a word in order to make communication successful.
- The words in a language correspond to or stand for the actual objects in the world is found in **Plato’s dialogue ‘Cratylus’**.
- The meaning of a word is not the object it refers to, but the concept of the object that exists in the mind.
- **Saussure points out that the relation between the word (signifier) and the concept (signified) is an arbitrary one, i.e. the word does not resemble the concept.**
- In their book, *The Meaning of Meaning (1923)*, **L.K. Ogden and I.A. Richards** made an attempt to define meaning in different ways as follows:
 1. An intrinsic property of something.
 2. Other words related to that word in a dictionary.
 3. The connotations of a word.
 4. The thing to which the speaker of that word refers.
 5. The thing to which the speaker of that word should refer.
 6. The thing to which the speaker of that word believes himself to be referring.
 7. The thing to which the hearer of that word believes is being referred to.

Types of Meaning:

1. Denotative meaning (or) Logical meaning:

- **Denotative meaning is the literal meaning of a word indicating the idea or concept to which it refers. (e.g.) dog, home.**
- It remains stable since it defines the essential attributes of a concept.
- The word ‘man’ may be defined as a concept consisting of a structure of meaning ‘human + male + adult’.
- All the three qualities are logical attributes of which the concept ‘man’ is made.
- They are the minimal qualities that the concept must possess in order to be a distinguishable concept.
- If any of these changes, the concept too changes. (e.g.) ‘human + female + adult’ would be the concept that refers to ‘woman’.

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE – SET/NET/ARTS TRB - English Study Material

2. Connotative meaning:

- **Connotative meaning is an idea that adds additional meaning to its main meaning.**
- It consists of associations made with a concept whenever that concept is referred to.
- ‘Weaker sex’ or ‘frailty’ are the connotations associated with the concept of ‘woman’.
- Thus, connotative meaning consists of the attributes associated with a concept.
- It changes in course of time as it is based on associations.
- It is defined as *‘the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to over and above its purely conceptual content’* - Leech.
- (e.g.) The word ‘professional’ has the connotations of skill and excellence.

3. Associative meaning:

- Associative meaning is an unstable meaning that has variants based on individual experience.
- **It is an expression has to do with the individual mental understanding of the speaker.**
- It is related to the association of ideas and things.
- (e.g.) Nurse. It includes the meaning of ‘woman’

4. Collocative meaning:

- **Collocative means classifying words and placing them together.**
- The collocated unit has a meaning which is a composite of both items.
- Collocations such as ‘heavy smoker’ and ‘good singer’ mean ‘one who smokes heavily’ or ‘one who sings well’. It cannot be said ‘good smoker’ and ‘heavy singer’.
- Other examples are ‘burning hot’, ‘heavy rain’, ‘deep sleep’, ‘open an account’.
- All these sense-relations are peculiar to a language and every language develops its own system of sense-relations.

5. Social meaning:

- Social meaning is the meaning that **a word or a phrase conveys by its use in particular social situations or circumstances.**
- The meaning of a word is understood according to the style or situation in which it is used. (e.g.) The words ‘domicile’, ‘residence’, ‘abode’, ‘home’ all refer to ‘house’.

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE – SET/NET/ARTS TRB - English Study Material

- Each word belongs to a particular situation of use - ‘domicile’ is used in an official context, ‘residence’ in a formal context, ‘abode’ is a poetic use and ‘home’ is an ordinary use.
- Social meaning derives from the style in which something is written and spoken or the relationship between speaker and hearer - whether that relationship is formal, official, casual, polite, or friendly.

6. Thematic meaning:

- The meaning is communicated by the way in which a speaker or writer **stresses the message in terms of ordering, focus and emphasis.**
- An active sentence has a different meaning from its passive equivalent although its conceptual meaning seems to be the same.
- (e.g.) ‘*John donated the first prize.*’ ‘*The first prize was donated by John.*’

7. Entailment:

- One sentence entails the other sentence (i.e.) **One sentence includes the meaning of other sentence in its meaning.**
- It is a logical meaning inherent in the sentence which is implied in the sentence.
- (e.g.) The sentence ‘*The earth goes round the sun*’ entails the meaning ‘*The earth moves*’.

8. Presupposition:

- **One sentence presupposes other sentence in its meaning.**
- It is the assumption given by the speaker.
- It is previously known meaning which is implied in the sentence.
- It depends on the knowledge of the facts shared by the speaker.
- For example, (e.g.) The sentence ‘*Shiva’s son is named Ganesh*’ presupposes the sentence ‘*Shiva has a son*’.
- The sentence ‘*John no longer writes fiction*’ presupposes ‘*John wrote fiction*’.

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE – SET/NET/ARTS TRB - English Study Material

9. Lexical Meaning:

- Lexical or word meaning is the meaning of individual lexical items.
- The open class lexical items are **nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs**.
- The open class items have independent meanings, which are defined in the dictionary.
- For example, in the sentence '*The tiger killed the elephant*', there are three open class items: 'tiger, kill, elephant' have independent meanings.

10. Grammatical Meaning:

- The close class items are **prepositions, conjunctions and determiners**.
- They have meaning only in relation to other words in a sentence; this is called grammatical meaning.
- The meaning can be understood from a consideration of the structure of the sentence and its relation with other sentences.
- There is one closed class item 'the' which occurs before each noun.
 - It has no independent reference of its own and can have meaning only when placed before the nouns.

11. Sentence-meaning:

- **Sentence is the grammatical unit which contains a logical statement or proposition.**
- It is the largest independent unit of grammar.
- It begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.
- Sentence meaning is a combination of lexical and grammatical meaning.

12. Utterance-meaning:

- **Utterance is the speaking of a sentence by a user in a context.**
- A speaker may use a sentence to mean something other than what is normally stated in the sentence itself.
- For example, 'I don't like **coffee**' means that the speaker does not like coffee, but may like some other drink.
- 'I don't like coffee' means that the speaker doesn't like coffee but someone else does.
- Speakers can use intonation to change the emphasis and the meaning of the sentence.
- Further, a sentence may be used by a speaker to perform some act, such as the act of questioning, warning, promising, threatening, etc.

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE – SET/NET/ARTS TRB - English Study Material

- A sentence such as *'Its cold in here'* could be used as an order or request to someone to shut the window, even though it is a declarative sentence.
- Similarly, an interrogative sentence such as *'Could you shut the door?'* can be used to perform the act of requesting or commanding rather than questioning; The speaker is requesting the hearer to actually do the action.
- Thus, utterance meaning is that the speaker's intention to perform some act in particular circumstances rather than literal sentence meaning.

13. Proposition:

- **A proposition is a semantic unit of a language.**
- It is an idea expressed in a sentence.
- A proposition is different from a sentence in the sense that two sentences may have the same proposition.
- The sentences *'I wrote books'* and *'Books were written by me'* have the same proposition as both of these contain the same idea.

14. Referential meaning:

- Referential meaning covers the basic, essential components of meaning that **are conveyed by the literal use of a word.**
- It is the type of meaning that dictionaries are designed to describe.
- Some of the basic components of a word like needle in English might include "thin, sharp, steel instrument."
- These components would be part of the referential meaning of 'needle'.
- The following sentences are syntactically correct but semantically incorrect.
 - *The hamburger ate the boy.*
 - *The table listens to the radio.*
 - *The horse is reading the newspaper*
- The oddness of these sentences derives from their semantic structure.