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CONTENTS

Sl.NO	NAME OF THE PAPER	PAGE NO
1.	Financial Inclusion: Effects, Opportunities and Challenges MEGHARAJU, Dr. ANOOP K. K	1-6
2.	A study on the Maturity Profile of Assets and Liabilities Management in Indian Scheduled Banks Dr. S. SIRISHA, Dr. P. MALYADRI	7-21
3.	New Innovations and Dimensions of Human Resource Management activities to improve in Enterprises of Current Environment R. MEENAKSHI, Dr. T. A. TAMILSELVI	22-27
4.	A Study of two wheeler insurance in Oriental Insurance Company Limited – Sivakasi Dr. S. MURUGAIYAN, R. SASI JEYANTHI	28-33
5.	Solid Waste Management in Tiruvannamalai Municipality K. PUGANRAJ, Dr. A.M. AYYOTHI, Dr. A. UDHAYAKUMAR	34-40
6.	A structural semantics study of Binary Antonyms in Irula Language Dr. P. SURESH	41-45
7.	Human Resource Management and Employees Performance in Retail Banking Sector S. SUBHA, Dr. E. RAJA JUSTES	46-49
8.	Impact of GST in India-Some Issues M. INBAPARANJOTHI, D. SUSHEELA, V. SWARNALATHA	50-51
9.	FDI in Indian Retail Sector-Some Issues P. PALANIKUMAR, JINU GEORGE. M, M. INBAPARANJOTHI	52-56
10.	Goods and Service Tax – An Overview B.S. VENUKUMAR, Dr. C. SATHYAKUMAR	57-59
11.	The confidence vote and technical age of Mass Communication in Direct Democracy Dr. SHIVANAND K PATWADI	60-64
12.	A study of Investors Perception towards Mutual Funds in the city of Tiruchirappalli T. VIJAYALAKSHMI, T. MALATHI, R. LALITHA	65-69
13.	“Consumer Preferences towards Milk and Milk Products” A study with special reference to consumers in Cheyyar Town Dr. J. EZHILARASI, S. VIJAYAN, G. KAVITHA	70-77
14.	Motivation of Employees in Automobile Industry - A Study with Special reference to Dymoslear Automotive India Pvt. Ltd, Sriperumbudur. T. MALATHI, T. VIJAYALAKSHMI, R. LALITHA	78-83
15	Evaluation of Unit Linked Schemes of Life Insurance Corporation of India and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited Dr. SNEHA ARYA SHARMA	84-93
16	A study on Employee’s Perception towards Organizational Commitment and Job Satisfaction in Tamilnadu Newsprint and Papers Limited Kagithapuram – Karur, Tamilnadu A. PREMAVASUMATI, Dr. R. THANGAPRASHATH	94-99
17	A study on training need analysis of Hyundai Motor India limited, Chennai. P. KARNAN, Dr. S. VENKATESH	100-106

A STRUCTURAL SEMANTICS STUDY OF BINARY ANTONYMS IN IRULA LANGUAGE

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Abstract

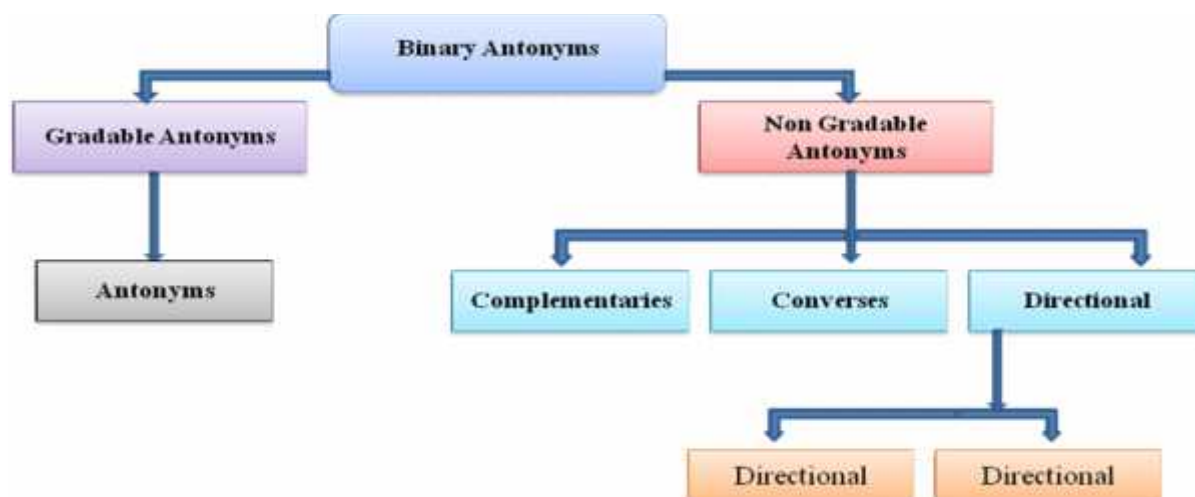
Language, man's wonderful creation, acts as a means of social interaction. It is used for the maintenance of connection between individuals. Language is a system effectively used by man for the exchange of thoughts, emotions, beliefs, ideas or feelings. For the more than two decades the structuralism in the structural semantics idea has tried to display that all classes of lexical relation consequently one of the main concept is to present this uprising has been the thought of the binary Antonyms. Saussure's philosophy of language made opposition to his thought of the binary opposition, also lexical relation theory proposed by John Lyons. The general features of opposites are either gradable or non gradable. Grading involves comparison. Belated 'big' and connate 'small'. Whereas, opposite pairs like a: maple 'male' and pimple 'female' are non gradable antonyms. Such pairs do not involve comparison. In this study, the attempt is made to explain the concept of the binary

Antonyms with Identity test of Irula language speaker.

Keywords: Binary antonyms, gradable antonyms, Non gradable antonyms, Irula language, opposite pairs.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is a usual and very ordinary feature of language, which is "most readily apprehended by ordinary speakers" (Cruse 1986:197) of a language can be defined specifically. Binary Antonyms is the relation of oppositeness of meaning between two Lexemes. Normally, the standard technical term used in the previous studies for oppositeness of meaning between lexemes is antonym (Lyons 1977: 281-287). When semantically related lexemes show contrast or difference between two lexemes, it is called binary Antonym.



Gradable Antonyms

Grading involves comparison, “when we compare two or more objects with respect to their possession of a certain property, it is usually, though not always, appropriate to enquire, whether they have this property to the same degree or not” (Lyons 1977:271). For example in the Irula language,

-) cali ‘cold’ x cu:du ‘hot’
) ci:kkiram ‘fast’ x meLLa ‘slow’
) nalla:rukku ‘good’ x cerille ‘bad’
) maNam ‘good smell’ x na:tem ‘bad smell’
) aRivirikku ‘wise’ x aRiville ‘foolish’ etc.,

Mentioned examples 1 to 5 are gradable Antonyms in Irula language. When the pair of opposites, tanake ‘tall’ and ku: le ‘short’ are taken as an example, the property of ‘height’ is possessed to a greater or smaller level. These lexemes are used when two persons are compared with respect to their height. The following Irula sentences will substantiate this

-) murugecu ganesaneviTa tanake
 ‘Murugesh is taller than Ganesh’
) ganecu murugeseviTa ku:le
 ‘Ganesh is shorter than Murugesh’

In the sentences from examples (6) and (7), one person is taller and the other one is shorter, with respect to their height. Similarly, the antonymous pair, gundu ‘fat’, elumbu ‘lean’ is used to compare two persons with reference to their body structure as in the sentences from examples (8) and (9) given below:

-) kalai vims lama ka:nu gunda cA:sti
 ‘Kalai is fatter than vimala’
) vima kalaiya ka:nu elumbi
 ‘Vimala is leaner than kalai’

Also in the earlier mentioned gradable Antonym pairs like cu:du ‘hot’x cali ‘cold’, ci:kkiram ‘fast’x meLLa ‘slow’ and so on, cu:du ‘temperature’, ba:ra ‘weight’, ve:ga ‘speed’, aLevu

‘measure’, maNam ‘smell’, tu:rem ‘distance’, and eNNO:m ‘wisdom’ respectively are the common properties of the gradable Antonym pairs.

Identity Test for Gradable Antonyms

Methodologically, the following identity test proposed by Lyons (1977:274) is used to identify the gradable Antonyms, “the predication of one implies the predication of the negation of the other, but the converse does not hold i.e., the predication of the negation of the one does not generally imply the predication of the other”. For example in Irula, the sentence,

-) i: ma:mpa:mu ruciya:kedakkutu
 ‘this mango is sweet’
 implies that,

-) i: ma:mpa:mu pulikkale
 ‘this mango is not sour’

Similarly, it does not imply that it is totally sour, but it may be understood that it is not sweet up to the required level i.e. it is to some extent sour. Gradable Antonyms can be explained with another example using the similar identity test. In the Irula Language, For example,

-) emtu kavusa putucu
 ‘my shirt is a new one’,
 This implies that,

-) emtu kavusa puticu ana: palacille
 ‘my shirt is not an old one’
 likewise, if one says that,

-) emtu kavusa palacille
 ‘my shirt is not an old one’,
 it implies that,

-) emtu kavusa puticille
 ‘my shirt is not a new one’

But, the predication of the negation i.e.,

-) emtu kavusa puticille
 ‘my shirt is not a new one’

does not normally imply that,

-) emtu kavusa palace
 ‘my shirt is an old one’

It may imply that,
 J emtu kavusa rumba puticille ana:lumu itu
 putucu

‘my shirt is not a very new one’, but it is new’

The following are some pairs of gradable
 Antonyms in the Irula language that occur in the
 contexts:

culabe ‘easy’ x kesTom /ciremo: ‘difficult’

J cinne maratila e:ratu culabe
 ‘it is easy to climb up a small tree’

J bella maratila tenedukretu kesTom
 ‘taking honey from a big tree is
 difficult’

potta ‘ripe’ x pecce ka:yi ‘unripe’

J ava: avenukku pottama:mpa:mu koTuttirukke
 ‘she gave him a ripe mango’

J ava: avenukku peccema:nkeka:yi koTuttirukke
 ‘she gave him an unripe mango’

maNam ‘good smell’ x na:ttam ‘bad smell’

J mellipu maNamarukkutu
 ‘the jasmine flower smells good’

J kIga na:ttamatikkum
 ‘the mushroom smells bad’

Non Gradable Antonyms

Another type of binary Antonym is non
 gradable Antonyms, non gradable Antonyms does
 not involve in comparison. According to Lyons, the
 non gradable Antonyms are divided into three
 types, namely, complementaries, converses and
 directional Antonyms.

Complementaries

Complementaries can also be identified by
 the irregular nature of a sentence refusing both
 terms for example, **usuroduirukke** ‘alive’ and
cattute ‘dead’, signifies that that either something
 is alive or it is dead; there is no central point (mid-
 word).

J va: kine \longrightarrow
 J koTutte:n \longleftarrow

J **umme ‘true’/ bolli ‘false’**
 J **a:mpLe ‘male’/ pompaLe ‘female’**

J ambu oru a:mpLe
 ‘ambu is a male’

Implies the denial of

J ambu oru pompaLe
 ‘ambu is a female’

Likewise and if one says

J ambu oru pompaLe
 ‘ambu is a female’

Then, it implies the denial of

J **ambu oru a:mpLe**
 ‘ambu is a male’

At the same time

J **ambu oru pompaLeyille**
 ‘ambu is not a female’

That is the complementaries a:mpLe
 ‘male’ / pompaLe ‘female’ are does not involve in
 comparison that means there is no middle part.

Converses

Converses are the couple of Antonym s in
 which both the members hold the relation of
 converses to each other. In other words they are
 opposites that are interdependent i.e the meaning
 and existence of one word is dependent on the
 meaning and existence of another lexeme and vice-
 versa.

J **na:nuakke Takka: ranitiruntu**
ma:mpa:mu va: kine:

‘i bought mangoes from the shopkeeper’

J **akkeTakka:re:n enakku ma:mpa:mu**
tante:n

‘the shopkeeper sold mangoes to me’

J **na:nu karthinukku ke:cu koTutte:n**
 ‘i gave money to karthi’

J **na:nu karthitiruntu ke:cu va: kinen**
 ‘i received money from karthi’

tante:n = interdependent

va: kine = interdependent

Pairs of words from the examples 33 and 34 **va: kine / tante:n** and **keTutte:n / va: kine** which shows interdependence in their meaning.

Directional Antonyms

One term that describes movement in one direction, and the other the same movement in the opposite direction. Some ordinary terms such as

-)] (po: 'go') **mele** 'up' x **ke:le** 'down',
-)] (po: 'go') **uLLe** 'in' x **veLiye** 'out',
-)] (**tirumbu** 'turn') **puTTuke** 'right' x **Takke** 'left'

Mentioned examples 35, 36 and 37 can be considered as directional Antonyms in Irula Language.

kalekku 'east' / mo:kku 'west'

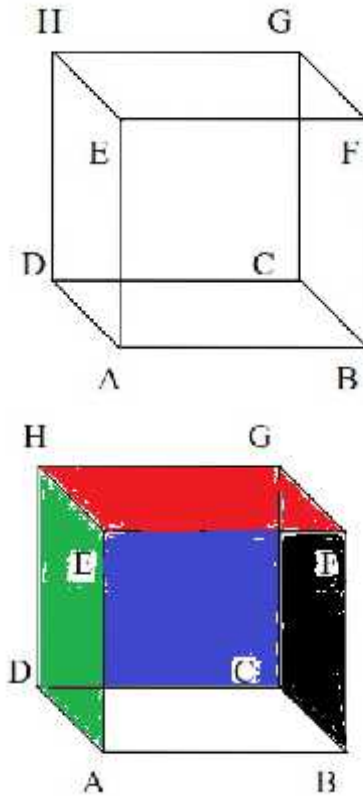
-)] cu:riye:n kale:kkiruntu uduttu varukutu 'the sun rises in the east'
-)] cu:riye: mo:kke: moRaketu 'the sun sets in the west'

tekku 'south' / vaTakku 'north'

-)] i: ke:tu tekke pa:ttu po:kutu 'this wind goes to south side'
-)] i: kere:ti vaTakke pa:ttu po:kutu 'this river flows to north side'

Each of the four members of the set is opposed orthogonally and antipodally to one another. Thus vaTakku 'north' is opposed orthogonally to, kalekku 'east' / mo:kku 'west'; tekku 'south' is opposed to kalekku 'east' / mo:kku 'west'; kalekku 'east' is opposed to tekku 'south' / vaTakku 'north'; mo:kku 'west' is opposed to vaTakku 'north', tekku 'south'.

likewise, the antipodal Antonyms me:le 'above' is diametrically opposed to aTiye 'under' muntukku 'front' / pinnukku 'behind', puTTuke 'right' / Takke 'left' in a three dimensional space.



Dimensional Spaces of Directional Antonyms

-)] ABFE **muntukku** 'front' is opposed to CDHG / **pinnukku** 'behind' blue color
-)] EFGH **me:le** 'above' red color is opposed to ABCD **aTiye** 'under' white color
-)] ADHE **puTTuke** 'right' green color is opposed to BCGF **Takke** 'left' black color

The directional Antonyms **me:le, aTiye, muntukku, pinnukku, puTTuke, Takke** is found in Irula language.

II. CONCLUSION

In the light of lexical relations given by John Lyons, Here an attempt is made to analyse the binary Antonyms found in the Irula language. This article provides you with a clever way to analyze and talk about essential aspects related to the way of oppositeness and obtained meaning. Consider these binary antonyms pairs and established that is really very important one in lexical relation. As in compare with other Dravidian languages Irula language speaker also have a large number of binary pairs in their vocabulary.

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