

# TEACHING SEMANTICS TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

## ОБУЧЕНИЕ СЕМАНТИКЕ ИЗУЧАЮЩИМ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

### INGLIZ TILI O'RGANUVCHILARIGA SEMANTIKANI O'QITISH

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**Annotation:** This article provides information about how English language learners can be taught semantics and their types. Some students have semantics deficit, which may cause making meaningless sentences. That is why, the article also explains what should be considered by teachers while teaching semantics to students, in order to expand their vocabularies. Semantics, the branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of different language units, is extensively and thoroughly explored in this article.

**Keywords:** semantics, common semantic groups, word card activities, polysemy, homographs, synonyms.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilini o'rganuvchilarga semantika va ularning turlarini qanday o'rgatish mumkinligi haqida ma'lumot berilgan. Ba'zi o'quvchilarda semantika etishmovchiligi mavjud bo'lib, bu ma'nosiz jumlar tuzishga olib kelishi mumkin. Shuning uchun ham maqolada o'qituvchilar o'quvchilarga semantikani o'rgatishda ularning lug'at boyligini kengaytirish uchun nimalarga e'tibor qaratishlari kerakligi ham tushuntirilgan. Tilshunoslikning turli til birliklarining ma'nosini o'rganuvchi bo'limi bo'lgan semantika ushbu maqolada keng va batafsil yoritilgan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** semantika, umumiy semantik guruhlar, so'z kartalari faoliyati, polisemiya, omograflar, sinonimlar.

**Аннотация:** В этой статье представлена информация о том, как изучающих английский язык можно обучать семантике и ее типам. У некоторых

учащихся наблюдается семантический дефицит, что может привести к бессмысленным высказываниям. Поэтому в статье также объясняется, что следует учитывать преподавателям при обучении студентов семантике, чтобы расширить их словарный запас. Семантика, раздел языкознания, изучающий значение различных языковых единиц, широко и подробно исследуется в этой статье.

**Ключевые слова:** семантика, общие семантические группы, словарные карточки, полисемия, омографы, синонимы.

It is important to understand the meaning of a word before it interacts with a sentence. The ability to understand how words are constructed, what meaning they give, and why they are used is an essential part of English language. Many words have very similar meanings or a word has various meanings and it is important to distinguish subtle differences between them. For example, the word “*right*” means “*true or correct*” and “*a moral or legal claim to have or get something or to behave in a particular way*”. In this case, it is necessary to know how to use words correctly in sentences, according to the context of the sentences. For example:

Did you get the answer *right*? - “true or correct”

They had fought hard for equal *rights* - “a moral or legal claim to have or get something or to behave in a particular way”. The importance of meaning is revealed in the following well-known example from Noam Chomsky, who is known as the father of modern linguistics, an American theoretical linguist: “*Colourless green ideas sleep furiously*”. Though grammatically correct, this sentence is largely meaningless in ordinary usage. The study of the various types of meaning of words is semantics. Semantics is essential for understanding the world around us and developing the ability to express ourselves in a concise and meaningful way. However, some English learners have semantics deficits and they may face major difficulties across the entire spectrum of semantics, while others may have difficulty in understanding more specific areas, such as understanding how words are grouped in semantic fields providing word definitions. In addition, students may have learned a considerable number of words but may confuse words and meanings in finding right words when they speak, and cannot express what they want to say accurately about something.

Students who learn English as a second language want to speak like native speakers or writing essays without making mistakes. Even though they learn grammatical structures perfectly for not to make sentences incorrect, many of them

make mistakes in choosing right words, phrases, collocations or idioms. Semantics is thought pretty complex but it is essential for expressing ideas and understanding messages. That is the reason why teachers should teach semantics with the help of some ways, which can be used for increasing learners' knowledge and expanding their vocabularies. Semantics contains its semantic groups. Common semantic groups are: synonyms, which are words that have similar meanings; antonyms, which are words that have the opposite meaning; homographs, words that have the same form but different meanings; polysemy, in which a word has multiple meanings. These may be seemed challenge for English language learners but there are some strategies which can be used by teachers, in order to improve the comprehending semantics of students. Firstly, using word card activities with students is also effective strategy. Additional activities include matching picture and word cards, identifying homophones, making compound words with flashcards, making compound words with picture cards, making sentences with picture and word cards, matching picture cards with word cards, creating lists of word families by categories (foods, medicin, drinks), identifying synonyms for common words by listing, matching pronouns with nouns, and rephrasing simple sentences and paragraphs. These activities can be done independently or as a whole group under the control of teacher. These activities can definitely lead students to achieve a good result in comprehending, memorizing and using words in English. Turning to the next, teachers should choose and read books on a specific subject (for example, science and technology, environmental problems or health and lifestyle ) to expose their learners to a wide variety of words on a specific topic. This will allow them to categorize words as themes in their mental lexical network and enable them to comprehend, learn and remember the new words more effectively. Another way for building English language learners' ability to understand semantics is making up sentences for each meaning of word while learning by heart a new word or a phrase. Learning words, phrases, collocations or verb patterns with examples can assist students to know how to use right word while speaking or writing they want to explain.

To conclude, knowing only one meaning of a word becomes limiting and inefficient. Therefore, semantics is important in education as it increases students' understanding and awareness of word meanings, sentence relationships, and discourse and context. Students must study semantic fields in order to comprehend how words and their relationships relate to one another because it largely determines their reading comprehension, how they understand others, and even what decisions they make as a result of their interpretations.

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