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## IDENTIFYING CRITERIA FOR DISTINGUISHING POLYSEMY IN LINGUISTIC TERMS

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### Abstract

*This study explores the complex semantic phenomenon of polysemy in linguistic terms, focusing on the differentiation between polysemy and related phenomena such as synonymy, homonymy, polyaspectuality, and multifunctionality. Employing criteria outlined by scholars like Апресян and Кузьменко, the research categorizes the various forms of polysemy – chain, radial, and mixed – and examines how these forms are influenced by cultural and contextual shifts within language use. By analyzing the semantic relationships between a term's primary and secondary*



*meanings, the study establishes criteria crucial for understanding the functionality and evolution of language. These insights reveal the structured and nuanced ways that meanings are interconnected within and across languages, contributing to a deeper understanding of linguistic complexity.*

**Key words:** polysemy, linguistic terminology, semantic relationships, language evolution, cultural influence, lexical meaning

In the study of linguistic terminology, researchers employ several criteria to distinguish between instances of polysemy, where a single term may have multiple meanings. This complexity in semantics has led scholars like Apresean and Kuzmenko to outline specific characteristics and relationships between these meanings to better categorize and understand them (Apresean & Kuzmenko, 1980).

Polysemy, the occurrence of multiple meanings for a single linguistic term, can manifest in diverse forms, specifically chain, radial, or mixed. These variations arise depending on how derivative meanings accumulate over time, often influenced by cultural and contextual shifts within language use. For example, a chain polysemy develops when meanings extend linearly from a core idea, while radial polysemy branches out from a central meaning in various, less directly connected directions. Mixed polysemy incorporates elements of both forms, creating a complex web of meanings that can intersect in various ways.

To effectively distinguish polysemy from related linguistic phenomena such as synonymy, homonymy, polyaspectuality, and multifunctionality, researchers have pinpointed several key categorical features specific to polysemantic linguistic terms. These include the presence of multiple distinct meanings that are semantically linked, the existence of a semantic invariant across these meanings, and the discrete application of these meanings based on specific linguistic and contextual criteria. Additionally, the meanings of a polysemantic term are often confined within a particular semantic field, further defining their use and understanding in communicative contexts.

These criteria not only aid in differentiating polysemy from other semantic complexities but also provide a framework for analyzing the evolution and



functionality of language, offering insights into how meanings are structured and understood across different languages and cultural backgrounds:

1. **Multiplicity of Meanings:** The presence of two or more meanings for a single term.
2. **Semantic and Associative Connections:** These links exist between the concepts designated by the term, indicating a deeper semantic structure.
3. **Semantic Invariant:** A consistent semantic element across the polysemantic structure of a term.
4. **Discreteness of Meanings:** Each meaning differentiated by the scientific and linguistic context.
5. **Contextual Relativity:** The meaning of a term is linked to a specific denotatum only within a particular scientific and linguistic context.
6. **Semantic Field Limitation:** All meanings of a term are confined to a single semantic field.

### **Criteria for Determining Types of Polysemy**

To pinpoint the specific type of polysemy a term exhibits, researchers meticulously analyze the semantic relationships between a term's primary concept (hypernym) and its secondary meanings. This analytical process involves understanding how meanings branch out from the core concept and establish their distinctness or overlap. Such scrutiny is crucial for identifying whether the connections among meanings form a linear, radial, or mixed pattern, each reflecting a different type of semantic development.

In exploring these relationships, scholars assess the degree of semantic proximity or distance, the nature of the conceptual links, and the presence of semantic shifts that might indicate evolutionary changes in language use. For instance, in radial polysemy, the meanings radiate from a central sense and may be related metaphorically or metonymically, reflecting diverse yet inherently connected uses of the term. Moreover, this investigation also considers the functional aspect of the terms within different linguistic contexts, examining how each meaning operates in its particular



usage environment. By analyzing these factors, researchers can classify polysemy into more precise categories, providing insights into the fluid dynamics of language and enhancing our understanding of how semantic fields are structured and modified over time. This analysis leads to the identification of several key criteria:

1. **Semantic Correlation:** The degree to which a polysemantic term relates to two or more concepts.
2. **Regularity/Irregularity:** Some polysemies are regular, as discussed by scholars like Leech and others (Leech, 2003), while others are not, affecting how they are understood and used.
3. **Secondary Semantic Relations:** These relationships determine how secondary meanings relate to the primary concept, a method crucial for understanding hypernymy and hyponymy in polysemy.
4. **Congruence/Incongruence:** The comparison of a term's meanings with common usage based on their form and function helps determine if a term functions similarly across different sciences or domains.
5. **Dictionary Interpretations:** Variations in how a term is defined or equated across languages can reveal hidden polysemies that are specific to linguistic or interlinguistic contexts.

This research highlights the intricate nature of polysemy within linguistic terminology and establishes a set of criteria for distinguishing polysemy from similar semantic phenomena. By categorizing the forms of polysemy and examining the semantic links between meanings, it provides a robust framework for understanding how meanings evolve and interact within a semantic field. The findings underscore the importance of contextual and cultural factors in shaping the semantic structures of languages, offering valuable insights into the dynamics of language use and evolution. The established criteria not only aid in linguistic analysis but also enhance our comprehension of how languages adapt and function across various communicative contexts.

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## ЛЕКСИКОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ЯЗЫКА МОЛОДЕЖНОЙ СУБКУЛЬТУРЫ: ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ ЛЕКСИЧЕСКИХ ИННОВАЦИЙ И ИХ ВЛИЯНИЕ НА ЯЗЫКОВУЮ НОРМУ

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### Аннотация

Данное исследование направлено на анализ лексических инноваций в языке молодежной субкультуры и их влияния на языковую норму. В работе рассматривается концепция молодежной субкультуры и ее роль в формировании лексических изменений. Особое внимание уделяется процессам изменения языковой нормы под воздействием субкультурных явлений. Методология исследования включает анализ лексических единиц, характерных для молодежного языка, и изучение способов их распространения и утверждения в языке. На основе проведенного анализа выделяются ключевые тенденции в использовании лексических