

**A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE SEMANTIC FEATURES
OF THE ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN WORDS
MEANING 'FEMALE'**



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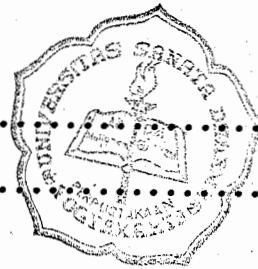
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INTRODUCTION

According to Gleason, vocabulary comes and goes. It is the least stable and even the least characteristic of the three components of language, namely, the structure of expression, the structure of content, and vocabulary. That portion of vocabulary which changes most freely is sometimes referred to as 'slang'. But even staid and dignified words are constantly being created and continually passing out of active use, to be preserved only in literature which is dated by their very presence. While certain types of words are more transient than others, none are absolutely immortal. Even the most familiar and commonly used words, which might be expected to be most stable, have a mortality rate of about twenty percent in a thousand years.

Therefore, it is reasonable that in the past, there were only very few researches done on semantics, the study of meanings. The problem encountered now, is the lack of techniques to understand words in general. Bloomfield writes that the meaning is the weakest point in language study. In fact semantics has a great role in language learning. If a person knows English, it means he should know the semantic system as well as the phonology, morphology and syntax of the English language.

'language without meaning is meaningless' (Roman Jakobson). When a person heard some one speaking without knowing the meaning of the utterances, for him those utterances are not a language they are merely noise.

The meaning of word is specified in part by a set of semantic features.

Suppose some one said:

'The assassin was stopped before he got to Mr. Fried'.

If you know the meaning of 'assassin' you will know it was some person who was prevented from murdering some important person named Fried, even though you do not know who Mr. Fried is. Your knowledge of the meaning of 'assassin' tells you that the individual to whom the word refers is human, is a murderer, and is a killer of very important people. These then are the semantic features of the word that speakers of the language will agree to.

Considering that to know the semantic features or properties is important not only when some one want to find the meaning of a word, but also to clarify the word in language teaching, I am interested in doing this preliminary study. The aim of this study is to know the nature of words especially from the point of view of the semantic properties, factors which made the meanings.

In this thesis, I limit myself on the nouns that share the semantic property 'female'. Further more I will limit my analysis on words having the semantic property 'human being'.

In general, I follow the structuralists in that I collect the data first, than subject the data to an analysis. The data of this study is presented in chapter one. Chapter one consists of the lists of the English and Indonesian words and the definition of each word.

Chapter two is about the analysis of semantic features of the English and Indonesian words. The analysis is done with the help of two lecturers; for the English part is Miss Mary Mc. Carthy, and for the Indonesian part is Mr. Slamet Soewandi.

The methodology of the analysis:

- a. collect the words from "Roget's Thesaurus" and the definitions from the Advanced
- b. contrast a pair of words to find the semantic features

In chapter three, I try to see the uses of some English words in various meanings to find out how a word can function in many different ways.

I also try to give the improvement(s) on the definition of some of the English words that share the semantic features 'female' and 'human being'. This will be presented in chapter four.

In the last chapter of this thesis I will present the application of the knowledge of semantic features in teaching English and the concrete example of the application.

Since this study is a preliminary one and seeing that the semantic study is the least developed, I am not free from difficulties. By showing the difficulties in this study I hope that this information will be useful for further studies.

The first difficulty is in collecting the data. In fact my topic is quite broad and my knowledge and time are limited. Therefore, there might be words which are not listed, especially those of archaic and derogatory ones.

In analyzing, I find some difficulties. The data from the dictionary are not complete. Sometimes, the informants, either from the English side or the Indonesian side are not very sure about their own information. Another difficulty is to name some semantic features found in the dictionary such as:

- has not experienced sexual union with a man

- not married again
- lives with a man as if she were his wife or kept by him and visited for the purpose of sexual relation

Seeing that each is the thing which specified the word, I then decide to call those semantic features as 'state'.

The same problem also occurs in analyzing the Indonesian words.

- who is capable of creating or doing anything of arts (seniwati)
- has left the worldly life (rohaniwati)

In this case I also call them as 'state'.

Besides that, I also find difficulty when contrasting words like:

- gadis, dara, perawan, the definitions in KUBI are almost the same. There is not enough information about the difference(s).
- siswi and mahasiswa

In KUBI, siswi means: students of an academy. In fact people use siswi to refer to students of elementary and high school and mahasiswa to university, college or academy students.

CHAPTER I

THE DATA OF THE STUDY

In the first part of this chapter, I will give all of the data of English, the list of the words and the definition of each word listed.

Talking about the word female, according to The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, it is an adjective that means:

1. of the sex that produces offspring
2. of women

There are a lot of words in English which share the semantic feature female. Most of the words in the list below are taken from Roget's Thesaurus. The listing is done alphabetically.

The following is the list of the words:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. abbess | 15. colleen |
| 2. actress | 16. comedienne |
| 3. aunt | 17. concubine |
| 4. authoress | 18. conductress |
| 5. baroness | 19. countess |
| 6. belle | 20. cow |
| 7. begum | 21. czarina |
| 8. bitch | 22. daily |
| 9. bride | 23. dame |
| 10. cat | 24. damsel |
| 11. chantress | 25. daughter |
| 12. chaperon | 26. directress |
| 13. chick | 27. doe |
| 14. coed | 28. dona |

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 29. donna | 60. maharanee |
| 30. dowager | 61. maid |
| 31. duchess | 62. maiden |
| 33. duenna | 63. manageress |
| 34. empress | 64. mannequin |
| 35. executrix | 65. marchioness |
| 36. flapper | 66. mare |
| 37. floosy | 67. margravine |
| 38. gammer | 68. matron |
| 39. geisha | 69. Miss - miss |
| 40. girl | 70. mistress |
| 41. goddess | 71. mother |
| 42. goose | 72. Mrs. |
| 43. governess | 73. niece |
| 44. grisette | 74. nun |
| 45. heifer | 75. nurse |
| 46. heiress | 76. nymph |
| 47. hen | 77. pantheress |
| 48. heroine | 78. peahen |
| 49. hostess | 79. pen |
| 50. infanta | 80. pierrette |
| 51. jade | 81. poetess |
| 52. lady | 82. princess |
| 53. lass | 83. queen |
| 54. lassie | 84. ranee |
| 55. laundress | 85. relict |
| 56. leopardess | 86. seamstress/semptress |
| 57. lioness | 87. shepherdess |
| 58. madam | 88. sister |
| 59. madame | 89. skirt |
| 32. duck | 90. slavey |

91. songstress	99. usherette
92. soubrette	100. virgin
93. spinster	101. viscountess
94. squaw	102. waitress
95. stewardess	103. wench
96. sultana	104. widow
97. tigress	105. wife
98. tragedienne	106. woman

In general the words can be grouped into two major groups, namely animals and human beings. I will list the animal group, the rests belong to the human being group.

1. cow	8. leopardess
2. doe	9. mare
3. duck	10. pantheress
4. goose	11. peahen
5. heifer	12. pen
6. hen	13. tigress
7. lioness	

Actually there are still other words that share the semantic feature female. They are compound words such as:

bed-maker
better-half
bride-maid
chamber-maid
char-woman
daughter-in-law
grandmother
granddaughter
hand-maid
kitchen-maid

house-keeper
 land-lady
 mother-in-law
 nautch-girl
 parlour-maid
 school-marm
 sister-in-law
 stepdaughter
 stepmother
 stepsister
 waiting-maid

I admit that the above list is not perfect yet. Perhaps there are words which I never heard. As the time is limited, I will not discuss the animal group and the compound words. In other words I will give the definition(s) of the words having the semantic feature 'human being'.

What does the dictionary say?

A word may have lexical or grammatical meaning. The meaning found in a dictionary or what a dictionary says is called 'the lexical meaning'. The grammatical meaning is the meaning of a word in contex. In this thesis I will give the lexical meaning of each word in the list that have the semantic property 'human being'.

Most of the definitions are taken from The Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Some old-fashioned words like: donna, dona, floosy, gammer, jade, margravine, grisette, pierrette, are taken from The Student's Standard Dictionary of The English Language by Funk and Wagnalls.

1. abbess:

- woman at the head of a convent

2. actress:

- woman who acts on the stage or for cinema films

3. aunt:

- sister of one's father or mother; wife of one's uncle

4. authoress:

- a. woman writer
- b. woman who creates or begins something

5. baroness:

- wife of a baron

6. belle:

- a beautiful and attractive woman

7. begum:

- moslem princess or lady of high rank

8. bitch:

- (abusively) human female who deliberately uses her sexual attraction to get men round her

9. bride:

- woman on her wedding-day, newly married woman

10. cat:

- a spiteful woman given to gossip and scandal (slang)

11. chantress:

- girl or woman who sings a chant (use a singing note, e.g. for prayer in church)

12. chaperon:

- married or elderly woman in charge of a girl or young

unmarried woman on social occasions

13. chick:

- young small female child

14. coed:

- girl or woman at a co-educational college or school
(colloquial U.S.A.)

15. colleen:

- young girl

16. comedienne:

- actress in a comedy

17. concubine:

- woman who lives with a man without being lawfully
married to him

18. conductress:

- woman who collects fares on a bus or tram

19. countess:

- a. wife or widow of a duke
- b. woman whose rank is equal to that of a duke

20. czarina:

- Russian empress

21. daily:

- woman servant who comes every day

22. dame:

- a. married woman
- b. title of woman who has been made a member of the order
of the British Empire

23. damsel:

- girl, young unmarried woman

24. daughter:

- one's female child

25. directress:

- a. woman who directs actors or actresses
- b. woman who manages the affairs of business company

26. dona:

- the feminine title corresponding to don, a Spanish or Portuguese

27. donna:

- Italian lady

28. dowager:

- a. woman with property or a title from her late husband
- b. dignified elderly lady (colloquial)

29. duchess:

- a. wife or widow of a duke
- b. woman whose rank is equal to that of a duke

30. duenna:

- elderly woman acting as governess, a companion in charge of girls, especially in a Spanish family

31. empress:

- a. woman governing an empire
- b. wife of an emperor

32. executrix:

- woman who is chosen to carry out the terms of a will

33. flapper:

- girl, not yet old enough to attend social events with grown-ups

34. floosy:

- girl or woman who is not clever and unattractive

35. gammer:

- an old woman, grandmother

36. geisha:

- Japanese girl or woman trained to entertain men by singing and dancing

37. girl:

- a. female child, daughter, unmarried woman
- b. maidservant

38. grisette:

- a Parisian working girl, especially one of easy virtue

39. goddess:

- female god, esp. in Greek and Latin mythology

40. governess:

- woman who is employed to teach young children in a private family

41. heiress:

- woman or girl with the legal right to receive a title, property, etc., when the owner dies

42. heroine:

- a. girl or woman respected for bravery or noble qualities
- b. chief woman in a poem, story, play, etc.

43. hostess:

- a. woman who entertains guests
- b. wife of one's host
- c. woman in keeper

44. infanta:

- a princess of the blood royal in Spain and, formerly in Portugal

45. jade:

- immoral woman

46. lady:

- a. woman belonging to the upper classes, woman has good manners and some claim to social position
- b. woman of any kind or class with or without good manners and refinement
- c. female
- d. title used of and to the wives of some nobles, title used of and to the daughter of some nobles

47. lass:

- girl, sweetheart

48. lassie:

- girl, sweetheart

49. laundress:

- woman who earns money by washing and ironing clothes

50. madam:

- respectful form of address to a woman

51. madame:

- used before names of married woman who are not British or American

52. maharanee:

- maharaja's wife

53. maid:

- a. girl (literary use)

- b. young woman (old use)
- c. woman servant (modern use)

54. maiden:

- girl, young unmarried woman

55. manageress:

- a. female manager; one who manages, especially one who has the control of a business or a business establishment (a directress)
- b. woman skilled in financial

56. mannequin:

- woman employed to display new clothes for sale by wearing them

57. marchioness:

- wife of a marquis

58. margravine:

- the wife or widow of margrave

59. matron:

- a. woman house keeper in a school or other institution
- b. woman who manages the domestic affairs and nursing staff of a hospital
- c. married woman or widow

60. Miss:

- title for an unmarried woman or girl

miss:

- young girl, school girl

61. mistress:

- a. woman at the head of a household or family, woman in authority who gives orders to servants

- b. woman school teacher
- c. woman loved and courted by a man
- d. woman who lices with a man as if she were his wife
or is kept by him and visited for the purpose of
sexual relation

62. mother:

- a. female parent
- b. head of a female religious community

63. Mrs. :

- title for a married woman

64. niece:

- daughter of one's brother or sister

65. nun:

- woman who after taking religious vows lives with
other woman in a convent

66. nurse:

- a. woman or girl employed to look after babies and small
children
- b. woman trained who cares for people who are ill or
injured

67. nymph:

- beautiful young woman

68. pierrette:

- a. woman character in French pantomime
- b. member of a group of entertainers dressed in white
loose clothes and with a whitened face

69. poetess:

- woman who writes poems

70. princess:

- a. wife of a prince
- b. daughter or granddaughter of a sovereign

71. queen:

- a. woman ruler in her own right
- b. wife of a king
- c. dowager, widow of a king

72. ranee:

- a. Hindu queen or princess
- b. wife of a rajah

73. relict:

- widow

74. seamstress/semptress:

- woman who makes a living by sewing

75. shepherdess:

- woman or girl who takes care of sheep

76. sister:

- a. daughter of the same parents as another person
- b. senior hospital nurse
- c. member of certain religious order

77. skirt:

- woman (slang)

78. slavey:

- young servant girl especially in a boarding-house

79. songstress:

- female singer, a woman or girl who sings especially in public

80. soubrette:

- maid servant in a comedy for the theatre

81. spinster:

- unmarried woman

82. squaw:

- American Indian woman or wife

83. stewardess:

- a. woman who arranges for the supply of food
- b. servant who attends to the needs of passengers in a ship or an airline

84. sultana:

- wife of Sultan, muslim ruler

86. tragedienne:

- actress in a tragedy

86. usherette:

- a. woman or girl who shows people to their seats in theatres or cinemas
- b. doorkeeper in a law court
- c. assistant schoolmaster

87. virgin:

- girl or woman who has not experienced sexual union

88. viscountess:

- wife of a viscount

89. waitress:

- woman who waits at a table in a restaurant, in a hotel dining-room

90. wench:

- a. girl or young woman (old use)
- b. servant-girl (formerly, esp. of a country girl)

91. widow:

- woman who has not married again after her husband's death

92. wife:

married woman

93. woman:

- a. adult female human being
- b. female sex

Some notes on the definitions:

1. baron:

- a. (in Great Britain) nobleman, lowest rank of Peer (called Lord -); holder of non British title (called Baron -)
- b. (U.S.A.) great industrial leader

2. count:

title of nobility in France, Italy, etc. (but not in Great Britain)

3. duke:

nobleman of high rank (next below a prince), (in some parts of Europe) independent sovereign, ruler of a small state

4. earl:

title of British nobleman of high rank

5. maharaja:

title of some Indian princess

6. marquis:

- a. (in Great Britain) nobleman next in rank above an earl

- b. (in other countries) nobleman next in rank above a count

7. prince:

- a. ruler, especially of a small state
- b. male member of a royal family

8. rajah:

- a. Indian prince
- b. Malayan chief

9. viscount:

nobleman higher in rank than a baron, lower than an earl

Indonesian also has a lot of words which have the semantic features female and human being, but English has more words than Indonesian. Some of the words in the list below are taken from Kamus Sinonim Bahasa Indonesia.

The following is the list of the words:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. aktris | 14. gadis |
| 2. babu | 15. hartawati |
| 3. biarawati | 16. inang |
| 4. bibi | 17. isteri |
| 5. bidadari | 18. janda |
| 6. biduanita | 19. mahasiswi |
| 7. bini | 20. muslimat |
| 8. cewek | 21. nenek |
| 9. dara | 22. nona |
| 10. dayang | 23. nyonya |
| 11. dewi | 24. olahragawati |
| 12. direktis | 25. pemudi |
| 13. emban | 26. peragawati |

27. perawan	36. saudari
28. perempuan	37. selir
29. pramuria	38. seniwati
30. pramugari	39. siswi
31. primadona	40. sukarelawati
32. putri	41. suster
33. ratu	42. wanita
34. rekanita	43. wartawati
35. rohaniwati	

Indonesian does not have specific terms for female animals like in English.

The same as the English words, here I will also give the definition of each word listed. Most of the definitions are taken from "Kamus Umum Bahasa Indonesia" by Poerwadarminta. Such new words like: cewek, rekanita, biduanita, rohaniwati, aktris, direktris, olahragawati, pramuria, primadona, and sukarelawati are not found in Kamus Umum Bahasa Indonesia. Therefore, the definition of those words are based on my knowledge.

1. aktris:

- actress, woman who acts on a stage or for cinema films

2. babu:

- female servant

3. biarawati:

- woman who lives in a convent

4. bibi:

- a. address form for a rather old woman
- b. father's or mother's sister or uncle's wife

5. bidadari:

- a. goddess

b. beautiful woman (in figurative sense)

6. biduanita:

- female singer

7. bini:

- woman who has become the partner of a man

8. cewek:

- girl (colloquial)

- girl, broad, dame (An Indonesian English Dictionary
by John M. Echols and Hassan Shadily)

9. dara:

a. virgin

b. girl, unmarried

10. dewi:

a. female god or goddess

b. beautiful woman

11. dayang:

a. girl (old use)

b. girl servant in a palace

12. direktris:

- directress

13. emban:

- nurse for children (not used anymore)

14. gadis:

a. girl who is old enough to get married

b. virgin, unmarried, has not experienced sexual union
with a man

15. hartawati:

- wealthy woman

16. inang:

- woman who suckles her master's child

17. isteri:

- a. woman
- b. married woman
- c. wife (more refined than 'bini')

18. janda:

- woman who has not married again either because of her husband's death or divorce

19. mahasiswi:

- student of academy or university

20. muslimat:

- moslem woman

21. nenek:

- a. father's or mother's mother
- b. address form for old woman

22. nona:

- address form for girl or unmarried woman (usually for those who are not known by the speaker)

23. nyonya:

- address form for married woman

24. olahragawati:

- woman who likes to do sports

25. pemudi:

- girl, young woman

26. peragawati:

- woman who introduces new clothes

27. perawan:

- a. girl, unmarried woman
- b. virgin

28. perempuan:

- a. kind of sex
- b. wife

29. pramuria:

- woman who serves customers in a shop

30. pramugari:

- woman who arranges and serves the passenger of an airplane

31. primadona:

- beautiful woman who is known for her beauty

32. putri:

- a. king's daughter
- b. (respectful word for) girl or woman

33. ratu:

- a. female ruler
- b. king's wife or queen

34. rekanita:

- female friend who works together in a company or who belongs to a certain group

35. rohaniwati:

- woman who has left the worldly life

36. saudari:

- woman of the same class, religion or ideology

37. selir:

- a. illegal wife

37. b. woman who is kept by a man and visited for the purpose of sexual relation and also supported by him

38. seniwati:

- female artist, woman who is capable of creating or doing anything of arts

39. siswi:

- academy student (KUBI)
- student of elementary, junior and senior high school (commonly used)

40. sukarelawati:

- female volunteer for military affairs

41. suster:

a. woman who belongs to a religion group who lives in a convent
b. nurse

42. wanita:

- female human being (more refined than 'perempuan')

43. wartawati:

- woman reporter, woman who writes for newspaper or magazine

CHAPTER II

THE ANALYSIS OF THE SEMANTIC FEATURES



Actually, a definition of a word is a collection of semantic features or properties. Based on the definitions found in the Advanced and information from a native speaker, I try to analyze the words listed to find the semantic features. As this paper is only a preliminary study, the analysis is far from being perfect. However, I hope that this thesis is useful for the readers.

In the first part of this chapter, I will analyze the English words. Then I will continue to analyze the Indonesian words. Since there are a lot of words either English or Indonesian that share the semantic properties 'female' and 'human being' and also because of the lack of time, I will not analyze all of the words in the list. I will choose those which are still frequently used. Sometimes a word has more than one meaning. In this case I choose the commonly used meaning(s).

The procedure of the analysis:

1. Observe the definition(s) of the two words analyzed.
2. Add information the writer got.
3. Contrast the definitions of two words to see the difference(s)
4. List the semantic features or properties.

To make clearer, whenever possible and necessary, I will give an example or the usage of the words.

1. woman and lady

woman: adult female human being

lady : woman belonging to the upper classed, woman has good manners and some claim to social position

The differences between the two words are on social status and quality. woman is a common expression for ordinary adult female human being, while lady is for a woman who has high social status and usually has good manner. Both are usually over 22.

The semantic features are:

woman:

- female
- human being
- age

lady:

- female
- human being
- age ,
- socia; status
- quality

The usage:

- a. The women and children hid in the caves for safety.
- b. Please bring this lady a glass of beer.
- c. Ladies and Gentlemen. (addressing a speech to a group of people)

2. madam and Mrs

madam: respectful form of address to a woman

Mrs. : title for a married woman

Both refer to adult female human being who are already married.

madam is a respectful way of addressing a woman, esp. a customer in a shop. Madam (with capital letter) is a word of address used at the beginning of a business letter. Mrs. is a title of a married woman who has no other title.

The semantic features are:

madam:

- female

Mrs. :

- female

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| - human being | - human being |
| - age | - age |
| - marital status | - marital status |
| - address form | - title |
| - users | |

3. mistress and wife

mistress: woman who lives with a man as if she were his wife
or is kept by him and visited for the purpose of
sexual relation

wife : married woman

The differences between the two are on the law status and social status. Both are female adult human beings. wife is legally married, while mistress lives with a man as if they are husband and wife without legal marriage. mistress is considered having a low social status in society.

The semantic features are:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <u>mistress</u> : | <u>wife</u> : |
| - female | - female |
| - human being | - human being |
| - age | - age |
| - law status | - law status |
| - social status | - marital status |
| - state | |

The usage:

- a. After his wife left him he began seeing another woman, who soon became his mistress.
- b. Violet is married to Patrick. - She is Patrick's wife.

4. spinster and woman

spinster: unmarried woman

woman : adult female human being

woman can be used either for married or unmarried woman provided that she is an adult female human being. spinster is used only to refer to unmarried woman who is rather old, usually over 40. Sometimes spinster is considered unfavourable.

The semantic features are:

spinster:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- quality

woman:

- female
- human being
- age

5. mistress and concubine

mistress : woman who lives with a man as if she were his wife or is kept by him and visited for the purpose of sexual union

concubine : woman who lives with a man without being lawfully married

The main differences are on the social status and location.

mistress is not socially acceptable, she is considered having low social status. Where as concubine is socially acceptable in a polygamy country. Both refer to a woman who lives with a man without being lawfully married.

The semantic features are:

mistress:

- female
- human being
- age
- law status

concubine:

- female
- human being
- age
- law status

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| - state | - atate |
| - social status | - location |

The usage:

The king has two wives and three concubines.

6. girl and virgin

girl : female child, unmarried

virgin: girl or woman who has not experienced sexual union

Both are unmarried female human beings. girl is about 6 - 22.

Where as for virgin, age is not an important criterion. As

long as she has not experienced sexual union, although she

is old, she is still called a virgin. Somtimes, virgin can be

used to refer a male person who has not experienced sexual union.

The semantic features are:

girl:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- age

virgin:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- state

7. girl, miss and Miss

girl: female child, unmarried

miss: young girl, school girl

Miss: title for an unmarried woman or girl

The three words are for unmarried, young female human being.

Miss is a title for unmarried woman with no superior title.

miss is an address form used by shopkeepers, servants to an unmarried woman; by anyone to a waitress, girl working in a

shop; by pupils to a woman teacher especially in Great Britain.

The semantic features are:

miss:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- users (dialect)
- address form

girl:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status

Miss:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- title
- state

8. lassie and girl

lassie: girl, sweat-heart

girl : female child, unmarried

There is only one difference between the two words, namely lassie is a dialect, it is used for Scottish girl. girl is a common expression for young, unmarried, female human being.

The semantic features are:

lassie:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- style

girl:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status

9. maiden and girl

maiden: girl, young unmarried woman

girl : female child, unmarried

There is also only one difference, that is on the style.

Usually maiden is used in literature and it is rather old fashioned.

The semantic features are:

maiden:	girl:
- female	- female
- human being	- human being
- age	- age
- marital status	- marital status
- style	

10. widow and relict

widow : woman who has not married again after her husband's death

relict: widow

There is only one difference that is on the style. relict is very rarely used for it is a slang and vulgar expression. Both refer to women who have not married again after her husband died.

The semantic features are:

widow:	relict:
- female	- female
- human being	- human being
- age	- age
- marital status	- marital status
	- style

11. queen and princess

princess: a. wife of a prince

b. woman ruler in her own right

queen : a. wife of a prince

b. daughter or granddaughter of a sovereign

(a)

The difference is only in terms of social status. queen has a higher position or rank than princess.

The semantic features are:

princess:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- age
- social status

queen:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- age
- social status

(b)

Both are titles; queen for her right as a ruler, while princess for she is a daughter or granddaughter of a sovereign. queen is usually an adult female human being and princess can be either young or adult one.

The semantic features are:

princess:

- female
- human being
- (age)
- kin ship
- title
- social status

queen:

- female
- human being
- age
- title
- state
- social status

12. woman and aunt

woman: adult female human being

aunt : sister of one's father or mother

wife of one's uncle

aunt is a woman who married to one's uncle or sister of one's mother or father. So, aunt is different from woman in general because there is a kin ship or because of her marital status.

The semantic features are:

woman:

- female
- human being
- age

aunt:

- female
- human being
- age
- kin ship/ marital status

13. maid and girl

maid: woman servant

girl: female child, unmarried

The main difference is that maid is a term for a certain occupation namely woman servant. Usually, maid is not very old. To some people, maid is considered having low social status.

The semantic features are:

girl:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status

maid:

- female
- human being
- age
- occupation

14. stewardess and waitress

stewardess: servant who attends to the needs of passengers in an airline or a ship

waitress : woman who waits at table in a restaurant, in a hotel dining-room

Both are kinds of occupation, they are different in terms of the location and task. stewardess works in an airline or a ship. waitress works in a restaurant or hotel. A stewardess's task is to attend to the needs of passengers and a waitress's task is to wait at a table (serves food at the table in a restaurant)

The semantic features are:

stewardess:

- female
- human being
- occupation
- location

waitress:

- female
- human being
- occupation
- location

15. sultana and princess

sultana : wife of a sultan

princess: wife of a prince

Both have high social status. They are respected in society.

The differences are on religion and place. sultana is a moslem while princess is usually a christian (especially in Europe). sultana is found only in Islam country. Both are adult ones.

The semantic features are:

sultana:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- social status
- religion
- place/location

princess:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- social status

16. chaperon and duenna

chaperon: married or elderly woman in charge of a girl or young unmarried woman on social occasions

duenna : a companion in charge of girls or elderly woman acting as governess, especially in a Spanish and Portuguses speaking country

These two words are really synonyms (meaning: married or elderly woman is charge of girls), except that duenna is a

dialect. Both are elderly or married woman who have the same tasks.

The semantic features are:

chaperon:

- female
- human being
- age/marital status
- occupation
- task

duenna:

- female
- human being
- age/marital status
- occupation
- task
- dialect

17. mother and nun

mother: head of a female religious community

nun : woman who after taking religious vows lives with other women in a convent

The only difference between the two is that mother has a higher rank in religious community than nun. Both are adult ones.

Usually they are considered having a high social status.

The semantic features are:

mother:

- female
- human being
- age
- state
- social status
- rank in religion

nun:

- female
- human being
- age
- state
- social status

The following is the list of all semantic features found in the analysis of the English words:

1. female
2. human being
3. title

4. address form
5. occupation
6. marital status:
 - married
 - unmarried
7. law status:
 - legally married
 - illegally married
8. rank:
 - age: young, adult, old, over ..., about ...-...
 - social status: high - respected in society
low - not respected in society
 - religion: high, e.g. the head of religious community
ordinary, e.g. member of religious community
 - kin relationship
9. quality: beautiful, good mannered, unfavourable
10. religion
11. task: what the subject does or the job
12. location:
 - place where the subject works: in a restaurant, in a hotel, in a family
 - usage location: in letter writing, in speech
13. user: the person who usually uses the word: pupil , waiter, shop-keeper
14. style:
 - slang
 - literary
 - old fashioned/archaic
 - dialect
15. state: the condition that specified the word

e.g. : - who has not married again

- takes religious vows
- has not experienced sexual union
- has no superior title
- lives with a man as if they were husband and wife
- ruler of her own right

Besides the above semantic features, I also collect other semantic features of concrete nouns from the analysis of my friends. The following is the list of the total number of semantic features of the English concrete nouns that I have collected.

1. female/male
2. human being
3. unanimate
4. title
5. address form
6. occupation
7. marital status
8. rank:
 - age
 - social status
 - religion
 - kin relationship
9. quality
10. law status
11. religion
12. task
13. location:
 - place
 - usage location

14. user

15. style:

- slang
- literary
- old fashioned/archaic
- dialect

16. state

17. function

18. shape

19. measurement:

- length
- width
- size

20. material composition

21. agent/doer/actor

22. owner

23. origin

24. emotional overtone:

accompaniment - level of speech

25. colour

26. degree on monetary price

27. part

28. direction

29. smell

30. flexibility of form

Now comes to the second part of the analysis, that is the analysis of some of the Indonesian words. The procedures are the same as in analyzing the English words.

1. wanita and perempuan

wanita : female human being (more refined)

perempuan: kind of sex

The main difference is on the age. wanita is used for mature female human being, while perempuan is neutral. The word perempuan refers to kind of sex. When perempuan is used to refer to an adult one, it has a bad connotation. wanita is more refined.

The semantic features are:

wanita:

- female
- human being
- age
- style

perempuan:

- female
- human being
- accompaniment

The usage:

- a. Wanita itu sangat anggun.
- b. Ia mempunyai dua anak perempuan dan seorang anak laki-laki.
- c. Ia terkenal sebagai seorang perempuan jalang.

2. nyonya and isteri

nyonya: address form for married woman

isteri: wife, married woman

Both are married female human being. The difference is that nyonya is an address form and isteri is a term.

The semantic features are:

nyonya:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- address form

isteri:

- female
- human being
- marital status

3. putri and ratu

putri: king's daughter

ratu: king's wife

Either putri or ratu refers to female human being of a high social status. putri is king's daughter and ratu is king's wife. ratu is usually an adult one, while putri can be young or adult. Both are titles.

The semantic features are:

putri:

- female
- human being
- social status
- title
- kin ship

ratu:

- female
- human being
- social status
- title
- marital status
- age

4. gadis and perawan

gadis: virgin, has not experienced sexual union

perawan: virgin, has not experienced sexual union

The differences are on the age and style. perawan can refer to either young or adult female human being who has not experienced sexual union. For perawan 'has not experienced sexual union' is an important criterion. Usually gadis refers to a young one. gadis is more refined. It seems that perawan more emphasize the virginity than gadis. When perawan is used to refer to an adult one, it becomes an unfavourable expression.

The semantic features are:

gadis:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- state
- age
- style

perawan:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- state

5. pemudi and gadis

pemudi: girl, young woman

gadis : girl (who is old enough to get married)

The only difference is about the style. pemudi is a formal expression for a girl, especially when it is connected with patriotism or country affairs. Both refer to a young, unmarried female human being.

The semantic features are:

pemudi:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- age
- style

gadis:

- female
- human being
- marital status
- age

6. pemudi and cewek

pemudi: girl, young, (unmarried) woman

cewek : girl (colloquial)

The two words are different only in terms of the style. cewek is colloquial and pemudi is formal. Both are young and unmarried.

The semantic features are:

pemudi:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- style

cewek:

- female
- human being
- age
- marital status
- style

7. wanita and bibi

wanita: female human being

bibi : a. aunt

b. address form for a rather old woman

wanita refers to adult female human being. bibi (a) is not always refer to an adult one, especially if bibi is younger sister of one's mother or father. bibi (a) has the semantic feature 'kin ship' which makes it different from wanita. bibi (b) is an address form for a rather old woman, it can refer either to married or unmarried one.

The semantic features are:

wanita:

- female
- human being
- age

bibi (a):

- female
- human being
- kin relationship

bibi(b):

- female
- human being
- address form
- age

8. pramugari and peragawati

pramugari: woman who arranges and serves to the passengers of an airplane

peragawati: woman who introduces new clothes

Both are kinds of occupation. They differ in terms of location, task and age. pramugari works in an airplane and peragawati is on a stage. pramugari serves passengers while peragawati has very different task that is introduces new clothes. Usually both are still young, but peragawati sometimes is an old or rather old one.

The semantic features are:

pramugari:

- female
- human being
- occupation
- location
- task
- age

peragawati:

- female
- human being
- occupation
- location
- task

9. muslimat and biarawati

muslimat : moslem woman

biarawati: woman who lives in a convent

The two words are different in terms of religion. muslimat is a moslem, biarawati is usually a catholic. biarawati is not married and lives in a convent. muslimat is any moslem female human being, she is either married or unmarried one.

The semantic features are:

muslimat:

- female
- human being
- religion

biarawati:

- female
- human being
- religion
- marital status
- place

The following is the list of all semantic features found in the analysis of the Indonesian words.

1. female
2. human being
3. occupation
4. address form
5. title
6. marital status

7. task: what the subject does or the job
8. rank:
 - age
 - social status
 - kin relationship
9. religion
10. style:
 - formal
 - colloquial
 - more refined
11. state: the condition that specified the word
e.g. : has not experienced sexual union
12. location: the place where the subject works or
lives
e.g.: in an airplane, on a stage, in a convent
13. accompaniment : bad connotation
14. quality: beautiful, unfavourable

The lists of the English and Indonesian semantic features are not complete, for those lists are only based on the analysis of certain nouns. The semantic feature list of the English words is based on the analysis of words having the semantic features 'female' and 'human being' and words under the generic term: bag, seat, street, and hat. Where as the semantic features list of the Indonesian words is only based on my analysis on the words having the semantic features 'female' and 'human being'. Therefore, if there are other words (concrete nouns) that are analyzed, the lists can be added.

CONCLUSION

If we compare English and Indonesian words that have the semantic features 'female' and 'human being', it is obvious that English has more words than Indonesian. From the lists we can see that there are 93 English words and 43 Indonesian words. Indonesian does not have specific terms for female animals. They are named by adding the word betina to the general names, for example: lembu betina (cow), kuda-betina (mare), ayam betina (hen), etc. The reason why English has more words than Indonesian and Indonesian does not have specific terms for female animals is that English people are very concerned with kind of sex.

Every language is unique. Therefore, a lot of words in a language may not have equivalent word(s) in other languages. Indonesian does not have specific terms for the following words:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| - authoress | - lady |
| - bride | - laundress |
| - comedienne | - niece |
| - conductress | - pierrette |
| - daily | - poetess |
| - dowager | - seamstress |
| - duenna | - shepherdess |
| - empress, duchess, | - slavey |
| countess, etc. | - waitress |
| - governess | - spinster |
| - heiress | - tragedienne |
| - heroine | - usherette |

On the other hand, English does not have specific words for the following words:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| - cewek | - dayang |
|---------|----------|

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| - hartawati | - saudari |
| - inang | - seniwati |
| - muslimat | - siswi |
| - olahragawati | - sukarelawati |
| - wartawati | |

The 'femaleness' of some of the English words are formed by adding the suffix: ' - ess' or ' - ix', or ' - enne'. Where as Indonesian by adding the suffix: ' - wati', ' - ita' and also by changing the final vowel 'a' into 'i'. There is a word 'cewek' which is equivalent to the male 'cowok', here the two vowels are changed.

Some of the Indonesian words are derived from the English words like:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| actress | aktris |
| directress | direktris |
| sister (nun) | suster (biarawati) |

The English word chaperon nowadays is often used and as Indonesian does not have equivalent or specific term for that word so it is use as what it is.

In terms of the semantic features, English and Indonesian is not very different in number and kind. English does not have the following semantic features:

- accompaniment
- style: - formal
- more refined

While Indonesian does not have the semantic features like:

- user
- law status
- style: slang
- dialect

1. babu:
 - maid
2. biarawati:
 - nun
3. bini:
 - wife
4. cewek:
 - girl
5. dara:
 - a. girl
 - b. virgin
6. dewi:
 - a. goddess
 - b. belle
7. direktoris:
 - directress
8. gadis:
 - a. girl
 - b. virgin
 - c. maiden
9. isteri:
 - wife
10. janda:
 - widow
11. mahasiswa:
 - coed
12. nenek:
 - grandmother
13. nona:
 - a. Miss
 - b. girl

14. nyonya:

a. Mrs.

b. madam

15. peragawati:

- mannequin

16. perawan:

a. virgin

b. girl

17. pemudi:

- girl

18. perempuan:

a. woman

b. female

19. pramugari:

- stewardess

20. putri:

a. princess

b. girl

c. daughter

21. ratu:

- queen

22. selir:

- mistress

23. suster:

a. nurse

b. nun

24. wanita:

a. woman

b. female

CHAPTER III

THE USES OF SOME ENGLISH WORDS IN VARIOUS MEANINGS

In this chapter, I will discuss four words out of the English words I have listed, namely mother, lady, maiden, and widow. Sometimes a word may have more than one meaning either of the same class or different class. In discussing each word, firstly I will try to see if there are any other meanings that have not been mentioned in chapter one.

A word may change its original meaning like in compound words and in idiomatic expressions. Therefore, secondly I will present some compound words and idiomatic expressions that contain the words: mother, lady, maiden, or widow, and the meaning of each.

The purpose of this chapter is to find out how a word can function in many different ways and to help understanding the nature of compound words and idiomatic expressions. While the contrastive analysis in chapter two is to find out the semantic properties or semantic features.

The dictionaries that I used are:

1. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English
2. A Dictionary of English Idioms, part II, colloquial phrases, by B.L.K. Henderson and M.A. D. Lit
3. A Dest - Book of Idioms and Idiomatic Phrases in English Speech and Literature, by Frank H. Vizetelly and Leaden I de Bekker
4. Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language

A. mother

Besides functioning as a noun mother can function as a verb.

As a verb mother has three meanings:

- a. (esp. of a woman) to care for someone like a mother
- b. (of a woman or female animal) to give birth to
- c. (derogatory) to treat someone (esp. a child) with too great protectiveness and care

1. mother-in-law:

the mother of a person's husband or wife

2. stepmother:

the person to whom one's father has been remarried

3. motherhood:

the state of being a mother

e.g. Motherhood doesn't suit her, she shouldn't have had children.

4. mother country or mother land:

- a. the country of one's birth, one's native land
- b. the county of origin of a group of settlers in another part of the world which is usually also mentioned or understood

e.g. Most Australians regard Britain as their mother country.

5. mother ship:

a ship that supplies other ships with their needs, at sea or in harbour

6. mother tongue:

a person's native language

7. mother of pearl:

a hard smooth shiny variously coloured substance on



the inside of the shell of certain shellfish, used for making ornamental articles .

8. mother wit:

a person's native or natural sense

9. mother-to-be:

a future mother or pregnant woman

10. Mother of God:

the title of the virgin Mary

11. mother maid:

The Virgin Mary

12. artificial mother:

a chamber in an incubator kept at an exact temperature for newly hatched chickens

13. mother map:

an original map made from surveys and serving as a model from which other maps are made

14. mother of thousands:

the Knilworth ivy also sometimes several other similar plants as the strawberry geranium

15. Mother of Presidents:

The State of Virginia

16. mother water:

the residual liquid remaining after the substances in solution had been deposited by crystallization or precipitation

17. mother's heart:

a common weed, the shepherd's purse

18. Mother Goose rhyme:

(Am E) nursery rhyme

19. Mother Carey's Chicken:

any of several species of small petrel, esp. the
stormy petrel

20. mother of coal:

a soft black compound, probably a transition product in
the formation of coal, showing a wood-like

21. Mother's Day:

a day appointed for the honoring of motherhood and the
loving remembrance of one's mother

22. mother of wheat:

a. the ivy-leaved speedwell

b. the purple cow-wheat

23. Mother Hubbard:

a. the subject of a well-known nursery rhyme

b. a type of loose full gown worn by women

24. mother lode:

the main lode or vein of ore in a mine

25. become a mother:

to give birth to a child

26. every mother's son:

every man with none left out

The word mother also has the adjective forms:

1. motherless:

destitute of mother

2. motherly:

having, showing, the tender, kind qualities of a
mother

3. motherlike:

in the manner of a mother

B. lady

The word lady does not have any other different meanings.

1. ladybird or ladybug (Am E) :

a type of small round insect, often a kind that is red with black dots

2. landlady:

a. woman who owns and runs a small hotel or a boarding-house

b. female landlord

3. lady-killer:

a man who is believed to charm and conquer all the women he meets

4. lady-in-waiting:

a lady who attends a queen or princess

5. ladyship:

(the word used when speaking to or of) a woman with the title Lady

In the phrases: her ladyship, our ladyship, their ladyships.

6. lady finger:

a small finger-shaped sponge cake

7. lady love:

a sweetheart or mistress

8. lady kin:

a little lady

9. extra lady:

a female stage performer without a speaking part

10. ladies' companion:

a reticule or handbag for woman frequently fitted with hand-mirror, powder-puff, purse, etc.

11. ladies' man:

a man given to paying excessive attention to women or one who is fond of their society

12. ladies' pocket:

a plant, the touch-me-not

13. ladies' tobacco:

any one of various plants of the aster family, commonly called everlasting

14. ladies' sea:

the tradewind region of the North Atlantic, so easy of navigation that even a girl might take the helm, or a transition of a term used by early Spanish navigators

15. lady-bell:

a bell with which the angelus is rung

16. lady-bracken:

a plant, the common brake

17. lady-chair:

a seat founded by two persons with their hands, each siezing with one hand, his opposite forearm and with the other the forearm of his fellow

18. lady of dower:

a dowager

19. lady of easy virtue:

a woman of equivocal reputation

20. lady of the manor:

a lady having the control of a manor, also the wife of the lord of a manor

21. Lady Psalter:

the psalter used in the worship of the Virgin Mary

22. Lady Day:

any feast day of Virgin Mary, now Annuciation Day, March, 25

23. lady quarter:

the quarter in which Lady Day occurs

24. lady's smock:

cuckooflower

25. lady's tresses, lady's traces:

any orchid of the genus spiranthes

26. lady's bedstraw:

a. a perennial herb having yellow flowers, naturalized in the United States

b. a low- growing shrub of the East Indies with white flowers

27. lady's wind: a gentle breeze

28. lady's clover: the common wood sorrel

29. lady's comb: a plant, Venus's comb

30. lady's eardrops: a fuchsia

31. lady's garters: Ribbon grass

32. lady's delight: the pansy

33. lady's milk: a plant, the milk-thistle

34. lady's slipper: a kind of orchid

35. lady's nightcap:

a flowering plant, the hedge-bundweed

36. lady tide:

the period of time around Lady Day

37. leading lady:

the leading actress of a theatrical company

38. lady's thumb:

a common species of Polygnum with dense rose coloured

The word lady has an adjective form, that is lady-like: (of a woman) looking or behaving like a lady, having good manners

C. maiden

maiden as a noun has another meaning: a horse which has not won a race

maiden can function as an adjective having the meanings:

a. fresh, not used before

e.g. maiden land

b. first, not done before

e.g. The aircraft makes its maiden flight tomorrow.

c. of a woman - unmarried

e.g. a maiden aunt, a maiden lady

1. maidenhood:

(esp. lit.) the condition or time of being a young unmarried woman or girl

2. maiden name:

the family name a woman has or had before the marriage

3. maiden hair:

a kind of fern

4. maiden head:

a. (for a woman) the state of being a virgin

b. hymen or virginal membrane

5. maiden over:

(in cricket) an over in which no runs are made

6. maiden assize:

a sitting of a Court of Law at which there are no cases to be tried

e.g. The judge was pleased to find that he had a maiden assize and in his own home town, too.

7. maiden speech:

a person's first speech in Parliament

maiden also has a different adjective, that is maidenlike: of or like a maiden, modest.

Besides that, maiden also have the adverb form : maidenly.

e.g. She turned her eyes maidenly away from the scene.

D. widow

widow as a noun has another meaning; (in poker) a small amount deducted from each jack pot to pay refreshment.

Besides as a noun widow can function as a verb having the meanings:

a. to reduce to the state of a widow, to bereave of a husband; as thousands widowed by the war

b. to deprive of anything esteemed, to bereave

1. widowhood:

state of being a widow, time during which one is widowed

2. widow bird:

a kind of bird, from the somber colour of its plumage
and long black tail feathers

3. widow's cruse:

an inexhaustible supply

4. widow's mite:

a small contribution, willingly given, that is all one
can afford

5. to feed the widow:

to draw out the widow's portion

The word widow has an adjective form, namely widowed: left
alone after one's husband death.

From the compound words I present above, there is one interesting thing about a compound that can be seen. One cannot tell the meaning of a compound by the words it contains. The meaning of a compound is not always the sum of the meanings of its parts. A compound may include some of the meanings of the individual words. But there are compounds which do not seem to relate to the meanings of the individual parts at all. Therefore, the meanings of many compounds must be learned as if they were individual simple words.

There is also one thing that one must know about idioms or idiomatic expressions in terms of the meanings. The meaning of an idiom cannot be inferred by knowing the meanings of the individual words.

CHAPTER IV

THE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE DEFINITIONS

One of the advantages of knowing the semantic features of a word is to define the word more clearly and in more detail. Based on the semantic features in the analysis and the information from a native speaker, I try to improve the definitions given by the Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Due to the lack of time, I will not improve all of the English words in the list.

After I give the improved definition(s) of a word, I will mention the additional semantic feature(s) - (ADSF).

1. belle:

a popular, beautiful and attractive girl or woman whose charm and beauty make her a favourite

ADSF: quality (popular)

state (whose charm and beauty make her favourite)

2. colleen:

an Irish word refers to a young unmarried female human being

ADSF: age

marital status

dialect

3. concubine:

an adult female human being who lives with a man without being lawfully married to him, socially acceptable in polygamous society

ADSF: age

place

4. dame:

an American English slang for a married woman

ADSF: style - slang

dialect

5. damsel:

a young unmarried female human being of noble birth,
usually used in literature and it is an old fashioned
word

ADSF: social status

style

6. girl:

a young female human being who is unmarried, usually
about 6 - 22

ADSF: age

7. lady:

a. an adult female human being, usually over 22, who
belongs to the upper class, has good manners and some
claim to social position

ADSF: age

b. an adult female human being of any kind or class
with or without good manners and refinement, used
when one is addressing a speech to a group of
people

ADSF: age

usage location

8. lassie:

a Scottish word for a young unmarried female human being

ADSF: age

dialect

marital status

9. madam:

a respectful form of address to an adult female human being, usually a married one, especially used by a shopkeeper to a customer

ADSF: age
 user
 (marital status)

10. maiden:

a young unmarried female human being, usually used in literature

ADSF: style

11. miss:

a derogatory expression or a word of humour refers to a young unmarried female human being, especially one who is playful or has the fault of a schoolgirl

ADSF: quality
 marital status
 state

12. Miss:

a title placed before unmarried female human being who has no other superior titles

ADSF: state (has no other superior titles)

13. mistress:

an adult female human being, who is illegally married, lives with a man as if she were his wife or is kept by him and visited for the purpose of sexual relation, usually not a socially acceptable one

ADSF: age
 law status
 social status

14. Mrs. :

a title for a female married human being who has no
other superior titles

ADSF: state (has no other superior titles)

15. queen:

a female ruler in her own right, usually an adult one
and she is considered having a high social status

ADSF: age

social status

16. spinster:

an unmarried woman who is no longer young, usually
over 40 and unfavourable

ADSF: age

quality

17. woman:

an adult female human being, usually over 22

ADSF: age

Note:

The age is not a definite thing, it is only an estimation
given by a native speaker who comes from England.

CHAPTER V

THE APPLICATION OF SEMANTIC FEATURES IN TEACHING

As we know, in language learning there are three domains, namely cognitive domain, psychomotoric domain, and affective domain. The knowledge of semantic features of words can help a language learner in the cognitive domain.

A language teacher has to do several things every day such as:

- a. giving exposure of a good language
- b. explaining rules and problems
- c. giving instruction so the students do a lot of practice
- d. evaluating or testing

From among the obligation that the teacher has to do, the knowledge of semantic features helps a language teacher in giving a better explanation to the students, especially in teaching vocabulary.

According to Lado there are three steps in teaching vocabulary.

1. Hearing the word.
2. Pronouncing the word.
3. Grasping the meaning.

There are a lot of techniques suggested by Lado to make the students grasping the meaning.

- a. Self defining context:

The context makes the situation clear, and this in turn illuminates the meaning of the new word.

b. Definitions:

Definition in the target language may be used effectively if they are better known or more easily than the word that is defined.

c. Synonyms:

A synonym may be used to approximate the meaning if the synonym is better known than the word being taught.

d. Opposites:

When one member of a pair of opposites is known, the meaning of the other can be made clear through it.

e. Pictures (representation of the word).

f. Dramatization:

Many actions can be acted out or demonstrated, the learners grasp the meaning through the demonstration.

g. Realia:

Real objects or models of real object.

h. Series, scales, system:

The meaning of such words as the months of the year, the days of the week, the parts of the day, seasons of the year, ordinal numbers, etc., that form part of well known series can be made clear by presenting them in their usual order in the series.

i. Parts of words:

The parts of complex and compound words may be more common, the parts often clarifies the meaning.

j. Illustrative sentences.

Besides those techniques, a teacher can use translation technique and description technique. Translation technique is

better used only when the other techniques fail. By using the translation technique, the students are not challenged to think and guess.

The knowledge of semantic features can help a teacher in teaching using definition, description, or translation technique, synonyms and antonyms.

The followings are some explanations on how the semantic features can help a language teacher in:

a. Describing:

Instead of defining using full sentences, the teacher describes the word in phrases. The description should refer to the semantic features of the word. The students will more easily understand the features of the word which are important to understand the meaning.

e.g. : lady: - female human being
 - adult, usually over 22
 - belongs to the upper class
 - has good manners and some claim to social position

b. Defining:

The definition of a word in the dictionary is often not complete and clear. By knowing the semantic features the teacher can add more information so that it becomes clearer. Therefore, in defining a word the teacher should include all the important semantic features.

c. Translating:

Although there is no exact translation of a language into another, we can try to translate as good as possible that is by knowing the semantic features of the words

of the two languages. The more semantic features of the words to translate and the translations are shared the better the translations are.

d. Giving or explaining synonyms:

Two words are synonyms when they are similar in meaning but different in sounds. By knowing the semantic features of the two words one can know whether those words are synonyms or not. By knowing the semantic features of words the teacher can give the synonyms of a word. The degree of semantic similarity between words depends to a great extent on the number of semantic features they share. When two words are synonyms, usually they share the same semantic features, if not all they differ in terms of unimportant feature(s) like: style, nationality, or accompaniment.

e.g. girl and lass, girl and colleen

e. Giving or explaining antonyms:

Two words are antonyms when they are opposite in meanings. The two words share all but one basic (contrastive) semantic feature.

Example: man and woman both share the semantic features human being, and adult. They differ in terms of the kind of sex. man is male while woman is female. 'male' is the opposite of 'female'. So, by knowing the semantic features of words we can more easily know whether two words are antonyms or not.

The knowledge of semantic features can also help a language teacher in explaining:

a. homonyms:

Two words are homonyms when they have the same sounds

but different meanings. They may not share any semantic features.

b. denotative meaning:

The meaning of a word the dictionary shows us.

Denotative meaning refers to the whole things, all the semantic features of the word.

c. connotative meaning:

Connotative meaning is what the word suggests beyond what it express - its overtones of meaning.

Besides refers to all semantic features of the word, connotative meaning refers to additional, non critical, properties.

e.g. woman: - experienced in cookery
 - emotional, inconsistent, irrational
 - sensitive, gentle, frail
 - compassionate, etc.

d. figurative meaning:

Figurative meaning is the unreal meaning of a word. It is not the meaning of a word the dictionary shows us. It refers to one of the semantic features of the word.

The list of the semantic features that I have compiled from my analysis and from ny friends' is useful for explaining every concrete noun in particular and all nouns.

In this last chapter I will present the concrete example of the application of the semantic features in describing words which share some same semantic features.

Like what Lado says, I also suggest that in teaching vocabulary the teacher follows the three steps:

1. Hearing the word.
2. Pronouncing the word.
3. Grasping the meaning.

In this case I will give the concrete example of grasping the meaning using the description technique. Here I choose six words from the list.

- madam
- madame
- lady
- Mrs.
- girl
- woman

First the teacher list the semantic features that can be found in those words. (This is done before teaching.)

What the teacher has to do in the class is make a table, the horizontal columns are for the necessary semantic features and the vertical ones are for the words. The purpose of making the table is to make the students see the difference(s) easier.

The words	title	address form	female	human being	age	marital status	social status	quality	location	user
madam		+	+	+	adult, over 22			respectful	in letter writing, in a shop	pupils customers
madame	+		+	+		married				
lady			+	+	adult over 22		high	has good manners		
Mrs	+		+	+		married				
girl			+	+	16 - 22	unmarried				
woman			+	+	adult, over 22					

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