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Thesaurus Semiotics and Thesaurus Lexicography



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Dimitrova, G.: *Thesaurus semiotics and thesaurus lexicography*.

Int. Classif. 19(1992)No.2, p. 86

The building of information thesauri involves the representation of two new terms: thesaurus semantics and thesaurus lexicography. The aim of the research is to describe the specific features of thesaurus semantics by comparing basic concepts of theoretical semantics as well as to point out some problems of thesaurus lexicography. (Author)

The building up of information thesauri is connected not only with the needs of information service but also with solving important problems of semiotics and with modelling the conceptual aspects of language.

A thesaurus display of lexical items is an approach suggesting interaction between the methods of theoretical linguistics and those of applied linguistics. It also presents the question of correlation between theoretical and thesaurus semantics.

The purpose of this study is to point out the specific features of thesaurus semantic description of lexes and their impact on lexicographical practice. This analysis is mainly centered upon the following:

1. *Specific peculiarities of the presentation of information language paradigms as compared to paradigmatic relations in a natural language.* It is necessary to underline the fact that systematic organization of lexes with thesauri is mainly determined by the information in demand, that is by the need of resolving a particular information problem. Therefore it suggests a new approach to such phenomena as synonymy, quasisynonymy, antonymy, etc. The central position of the paradigmatic

set of conceptual relations definitely belongs to "Genus-Species" or "Whole-Part" relations which further determine the positioning of each concept into the common conceptual system of language.

2. *Specifics of syntagmatic parameters of information languages lexes.* Revealing of syntagmatic links is carried out through defining the so-called associative relations between descriptors (lexical items of informational languages). These conceptual relations explicitly show the matching variabilities (valencies) of lexical items in a natural language.

3. *The problems of general and thesaurus lexicography.* Since lexicography is a vast area of instant relation and application of semantic research, the thesaurus semantics peculiarities mentioned suggest the specifics of information dictionaries, namely:

- absence of definitions in the traditional meaning of the word;

- a dictionary article (descriptive dictionary article) consisting of some information about the usage of logical semantic relations aiming at revealing as completely as possible the contents of a given concept.

It ought to be made quite clear that the *bare* structure of a definition in thesauri offers an opportunity to create more exact definitions in common unilingual dictionaries, as the traditional defining procedure does not give rise to any optimistic prognoses.

On the other hand, the thesaurus approach in lexicography, according to a number of scientists and in our opinion as well, will bring about the creating of an universal model of a terminology dictionary with a clearly formalized structure.