



THE DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION OF A WORD

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Abstract

This article deals with denotation and connotation of a word in the English and Uzbek languages. The article also discusses logical-philosophical concept of connotation, semantic connotations, connotations with an emotional basis. This way, the term could be better defined according to how it has been used in a sentence or a phrase. In deciphering such meaning, a listener or a reader uses different aspects that most often than not relate to personal interpretation basing from his experience and the history that binds the word being defined.

Keywords: figurative, suggestive, perception, denotation, connotation, feminism, emotion, contextual meaning, interpretation.

Introduction

Denotation is the straightforward dictionary definition of the word. It is the actual literal definition or meaning of a word or term, whereas connotation is an association of a term [1]. It can also be an emotional input attached to a word thus making it more figurative and suggestive [2].

The description of a word under the process of connotation takes a more complex approach than that of the aspect of word-meaning followed through denotation [3]. In the process of giving meaning to a word through connotation, it is important that the one giving meaning does not use what is evident or what is specifically obvious about the matter. Instead, it deals more with the process of deciphering the inner meaning of a word [4]. It poses the need to see more than what is actually described; to explore different aspects of possibilities that may be related to the word and how it is viewed by the person aiming to describe it. Unlike the undeniable and unchangeable descriptions gained through denotation, connotation often deploys different points of meaning depending on the person that is aiming to make a distinctive description of something. For instance, a rose [as an example used in the presentation of denotation] may appeal to one as a symbol of love, while to another person it may present a symbol of passion. How one deciphers the meaning of a word or a matter through connotation is affected by fundamental elements that are evidently creating a specific impact on





the way one understands a word [5]. In a way, connotation is more dependent on the perception of the individual regarding the deeper meaning of a particular word.

From the discussion presented herein, it could be noticed how denotation and connotation are both utilized as forms of defining grounds for words that are imposed in several factors of human communication [6]. May the communication be structured or not, denotation and connotation both work together to create a direct and a deeper meaning that would create a more meaningful message for each uttered word. The examples that were used show that denotation of words used in conversation and communication often cannot be refuted because of their being direct and certain. Relatively though, in the aspect of creating a connotation on the meaning of words, the diversification of interpretation could depend on several factors that humans consider to be strongly relative to their emotions, beliefs and personal perceptions [7].

From classical to modern literature, denotation and connotation play a great role in creating different worlds from the different worded art that writers have produced through the years [8]. In terms of the classical era, literary writers are often accustomed to utilizing words that describe their emotions, their surroundings, their history or whichever topic they might want to present in their writing [9]. These words may have a direct indication on their case. For instance, flowers have been used to define the vast array of vegetation in the past, however, not only did the flowers represent the actual vegetation, instead, they also represented particular elements relating to feminism and the emotion that comes along with it.

Today, the utilization of both denotation and connotation on single literary works by new writers continue to influence the field of literature. Around the globe, the same practice is embraced to give deeper and more recognizable value for the readers to contemplate with [10]. The aspect of connotation on this end however is much more given value. This is the reason why at present, even the classical novels are used as tools of analysis for academic requirements. The reason behind this is that at some point, the meaning of one written work alone changes through time depending on how the new generation assumes about the meaning of the said written piece [11]. The attention placed upon the interest of the readers on such written works through time creates a massive indication that written art lives longer than expected due to the existence of connotation. With the changing situations of time, the people perceive old and new stories differently. Depending on their personal understanding of the words used to represent the ideas that the authors wanted to convey, these stories, novels, poems and other forms of literature gain different meanings from particularly different readers coming from different ages and generations [12].





Communication is also often defined as a manner of conversation. May it involve two or more people exchanging thoughts and ideas, a conversation often imposes on the capacity of a the speaker to send message and perhaps even influence the thinking of the listener [13]. The words utilized by the speaker are chosen depending on the topic being discussed and the people being talked to. In practical conversation, denotation of the meaning of the words used in speaking helps the listeners to directly identify what is being said. However, when it comes to understanding the real worth of the speech that has been presented or that has been uttered, then the utilization of giving meaning through connotation comes in handy [14]. In a way, in practical conversations, the process of denotation assumes the capacity of the listeners to hear the words and know what they mean as they are, however when connotation comes in, a deeper sense of deciphering the meaning of the words is required. Sometimes, personal reflection is even suggested so as to get the gist of a speech that has been released for the sake of sending a meaning that has undergone a certain course of connotation [15].

Humans respond to messages differently because of the different backgrounds they develop regarding certain matters presented to them. The discussion presented in this research gives a proof that the meaning of words changes depending on the interpretation of the listeners. Truthfully, such matter becomes real at the process of involving word-connotation. Denotation on the other hand is the primary aspect of giving meaning to words used in a speech or conversation. With the application of denotation, a word gains first hand interpretation that becomes the basis of further understanding that is developed through applying the process of giving connotation to specific words in specific passages. It has been considered herein that unlike denotation, connotation of words often involves the consideration of the contextual meaning of a term. This way, the term could be better defined according to how it has been used in a sentence or a phrase. In deciphering such meaning, a listener or a reader uses different aspects that most often than not relate to personal interpretation basing from his experience and the history that binds the word being defined. At this point, it could then be realized that the reason behind the different meanings of words to different people become possible due to the indicative application of giving meaning through connotation.





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