Learning the Polysemy of the French Noun "Souris" and the Verb "Battre"

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ANNOTATION

This article deals with the polysemy of the noun "souris" and the verb "battre", that is to say to reinforce the emphasis of a sentence.

KEYWORDS: meaning, mouse, pace, artificial intelligence, beat, figure, particularity, direct object complement, use.

Introduction. Constructivist models were originally developed specifically to analyze the polysemy of natural languages. Contrary to objectivist theories, which find themselves obliged to represent the semanticism of a polyseme by as many lists of descriptive referential traits as this expression has referents, constructivist models favor unity rather than fragmentation.

As we have just mentioned, supporters of constructivist theories of meaning consider that each expression – polysemic or not – has a core or semantic potential (described using more or less abstract features), from which are obtained the sense(s) following the action of different contextual mechanisms of specialization and/or enrichment. The idea is that the core of meaning associated with each of the expressions of the language is unique and specific to them, like an organizing scheme, from which the different meanings of unity in context are constructed, including the primary meaning as 'it is conceived in the theories of objectivism. To determine the semantic potential of an item, constructivists are keen to free themselves completely from any referentialist vision. To do this, they proceed in reverse of the semasiological approach adopted by the objectivists.

Instead of starting from a description of the properties of one of the objects to which the word refers to find the primary meaning, and then explain how the other meanings of the word can be derived, constructivists opt for the onomasiological method to identify the properties of the word. word itself. It is these properties that explain why the word can take on different meanings depending on the statements in which it is inserted, and at the same time that it also powerfully evokes, on its own, the class of objects with which it is associated. spontaneously. This point of view can thus explain what the word brings to the overall meaning of the utterance in which it appears, what the other elements of this same utterance bring to it, and what types of elements are necessary for the construction of its meaning.
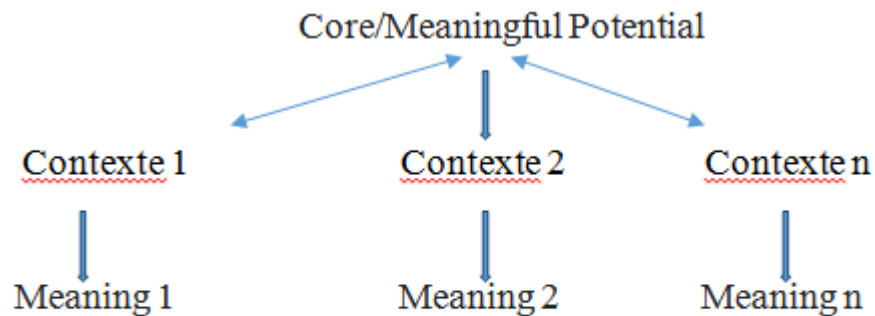
Core hypothesis/meaningful potential for structuring lexical polysemy[1]

In short, constructivist analyzes thus emphasize what makes the uniqueness and originality of a polyseme. Fundamentally dynamic, they also make it possible to underline its creative capacities, responsible for the permanent production of new meanings, which was not the case for the objectivist approaches.

Main part. A relatively intuitive and non-exhaustive analysis of the polysemic noun "souris" based on the lexicographical item proposed will help us illustrate this mode of semantic description, in terms of primary meaning and derived meanings.

1. Schéma proposé à partir de G. Jacquet, F. Venant & B. Victorri (2005 : 108). Noyau/Potentiel de sens Contexte 1 Contexte 2 Contexte n Sens 1 Sens 2 Sens n tel-00545777, version 2 - 13 Feb 2012

Lexicographers have chosen to note the primary meaning of : 'small rodent mammal […] whose common species measures 8 to 10 cm, has a gray coat, a long tail, large whiskers, a pointed muzzle, and can, by its extreme faculties of adaptation and reproduction, cause much damage in dwellings, etc.'. In the objectivist framework, the other meanings are obtained from this first meaning by various operations of derivation. For example, the name "souris" in French is given by extension to non-domestic species close to the common mouse but also to small marsupials which resemble the latter, as evidenced respectively by the expressions agrarian mouse/fields/thorny/etc. or marsupial/flying mouse/etc.

By metaphor, this item can also designate a person who by his behavior, his pace, his small size, etc. is reminiscent of the animal of the same name, often a young girl or a young woman. By analogy of form or color with the rodent or one of its particularities, the name mouse can still denote a small electric or electronic robot endowed with artificial intelligence and capable of recognizing a given environment (automatic mouse), a peripheral input connected to a computer by a cord, a small bone or cartilaginous fragment floating freely in a cavity and fleeing under the fingers on palpation (articular mouse), the fleshy muscle located at the end of a leg of mutton, etc.

However, it must be recognized that the limits of this type of exercise are quickly reached. Indeed, some of the meanings considered as derived are difficult to attach to the meaning given initially. For example for mouse, how to explain that this name can designate both a light woman or a furtive kiss on the eye? Here is another of the major difficulties encountered when it comes to determining how the meanings of a polyseme are derived after having managed to agree on its primary meaning (if at all possible): find sufficiently precise

systematic and general rules of derivation which would make it possible to explain all the meanings of the item in question.

THE VERB "battre". In order to illustrate the notion of meaning potential, we will sketch a semantic analysis of the verb "battre" from the lexicographical definition of the French language. Let's assume that the semantic core common to all jobs revolves around the idea that we will paraphrase by the expression ' donner des coups'', declined and enriched with various elements in the expressions " battre un enfant , un tapis, le blé etc. In these examples, the direct object complement specifies the action verbalized by the verb "battre": we beat someone, a rug, the wheat by hitting him with any object (fists, stick, flail, etc.).

In the statements the rain beats the windows, the hair beats his face, etc. it is still about blows given but the idea of repetition has been added to the initial semantic potential, and in the expression beat an enemy, in addition to blows given repeatedly, there is the idea of the intended goal , namely annihilation. Other enrichments or specializations of the core meaning of departure could thus explain the uses of the verb "battre" in the expressions "« battre les cartes, les œufs », (the drum to give the signal of) la retraite, (the metal to to make) monnaie, (his chest to show) sa coulpe, etc.

Conclusion. However, the idea of kicking is less obvious, if not absent, in other jobs such as batting the eyelashes, the pavement, the woods, as well as in the frozen phrase to beat someone's head or beat someone's eye. someone or something. In order to preserve the unity and the bursting of the semanticism of "battre", one would have to imagine a core of meaning so that it can account for these last uses. Otherwise, the verb "battre" would be analyzed as a homonym with several different unrelated meanings. Faced with such a profusion of such disparate, even contradictory proposals, our objective at the end of our work will consist in determining how effectively tackled the question of polysemy according to the main principles underlying the models from objectivist and constructivist paradigms of meaning and reference. We will present in more detail different semantic approaches and we will we will study more particularly how each of them takes into account the polysemy linguistic expressions and what are the difficulties encountered when it comes to describe and explain their meanings. We will first consider the models semantics of necessary and sufficient conditions and then to prototypical approaches to meaning.

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