THE WORD SEMANTIC CHANGE IN THE ARABIC DICTIONARY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE MODERN ARABIC LANGUAGE, CURRENTLY USED IN EGYPT.

Ph.D. Thesis
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Ph.D., Summary

Semantics appears as the most crucial linguistic branch, compared to the other branches. This reflects our persistent point of view.

Semantics could be, thus, viewed as the other face of a coin, without which it can not manifest its characteristics. In other words, linguistic branches are basically dependent on semantic, this is applicable to phonology, single word, contextual word as well as simple and compound sentences.

Our herein given opinion is, however, not ignoring that of the western linguists**,** exemplified by **Bloomfield**, who considered that a semantic is the weakest point in a language study. Similarly, **Chomsky** who viewed semantic as the lowest level of language precision, compared to phonology, which, for example, has more principals, rules and restrictions.

From this point of view, the present study is dealing with the word meaning and is basically considering the western lexicographers approaches identifying semantics as the branch of linguistics that is concerned with the lexical meaning. Evidently this comes in contradiction with the settled the realization that lexical meaning isn't the unique semantic level that is able to express the global meaning of a language and its limitations to only four levels over five of the global meaning that contribute to a language significance.

Accordingly, our study, was capitalized upon the level of the word, thus investigating the reasons of its semantic change, and the meaning of this change in the Arabic language currently used in Egypt. The study then utilized the theory of componential analysis to analyze the word, particularly, to put in view the difference between the heritage and the modern readings according to the **semantic features**, and both of the **selectional restrictions** and **features**. It was, aiming to trace the direction of the word semantic changes and the relations resulting from these changes.

This research work is based on the descriptive and historical methodologies initially to investigate the word semantic change **synchronically** and secondly to realize it **diachronically** without, however, proposing aspects of criticism.

Consequently, this thesis falls into an **introduction**, a **preface**, **theoretical entrance,** an **applied study** (six chapters**),** and is terminated by a concise **conclusion**, and **appendix**.

The **introduction** deals with the subject of the study, the title included terms, the aim of the work, and the reasons for its selection. The encountered difficulties during the study ,the followed research methodology and the plane of work were, equally, included.

The **preface** constitutes a theoretical coverage for semantic fields and componential analysis theories, which were used in the applied part of this thesis. Equally, their processing in both west and east. their concept, value, criticism, and application were, additionally, detailed.

The **theoretical entrance** represents an essential part of the study, its a total comprehensive theoretical introduction that illustrate the reasons and means of semantic change, its directions and the semantic relations that resulted due to it.

The **applied study**, which presents the core part of the thesis, consisted of six chapters, including twenty seven subchapters (twenty seven main semantic fields, actually), all affiliated to four main semantic sectors, namely, the Entities, Events, Abstracts, and finally the Relations.

Finally, The **conclusion** outlined the most important herein achieved results. A list of Arabic and foreign references is, equally conveniently linked.

The study revealed that the **reasons** of the word semantic change in the modern Arabic language currently used in Egypt to be counted as twenty six reasons. These reasons could be grouped into two principal categories of reasons namely, the linguistic and the indirect linguistic .

Additionally, the study revealed that , in relation to the meaning of the word semantic change, that the modern current Arabic language used in Egypt, adopted several means; namely, **collocation** , **Affixation**, **derivation**, **partial idioms**, and **Zero change**, respectively.
This order is the result of the study of the selected sample according to the most effective and in the descending order.

Additionally, the study had indicated that, in the case of the directions of the semantic change that, if we compare between the heritage and modern semantic of the word, it leads to five directions namely, **true narrowing**, **metaphorical narrowing**, **true expansion**, **metaphorical expansion**, and finally **meaning transformation** that is related to neither narrowing nor expansion. The later was manifested, according to the observation of the social relations in meanings, that was tending towards **amelioration** in some of which and to **degeneration** in the others.

Finally, regarding semantic relations items resulting from the change in word semantic, this research work has revealed that these relations could be classified in six relations, namely: **synonymy** that was manifested in 135 words, **antinomy** appearing in 62 words, **polysemy** found in 50 words, **part- whole relation** exhibited in 21 words, **hyponymy** for which 17 words were counted, and finally the **incompatibility relationship** that was located in only 2 words.

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