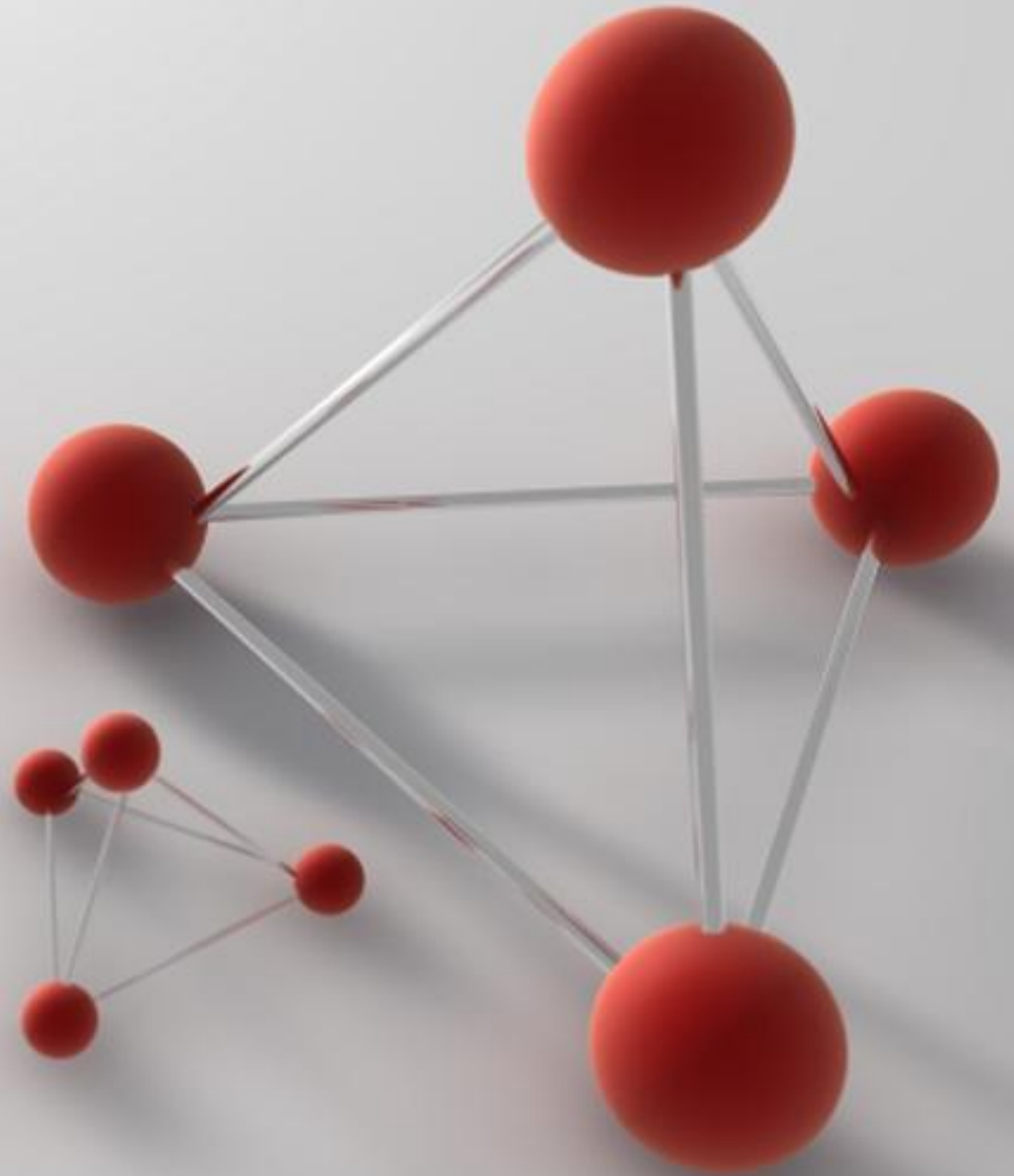


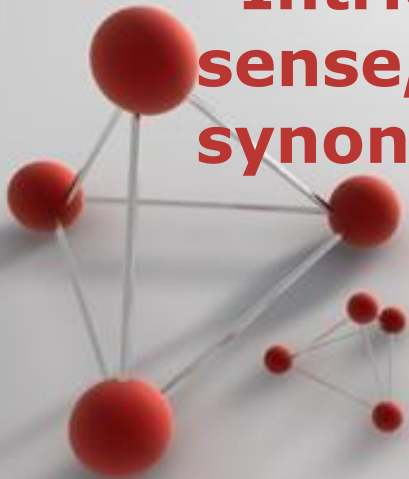
The analysis of meaning

*by:
Donald J. Nababan*



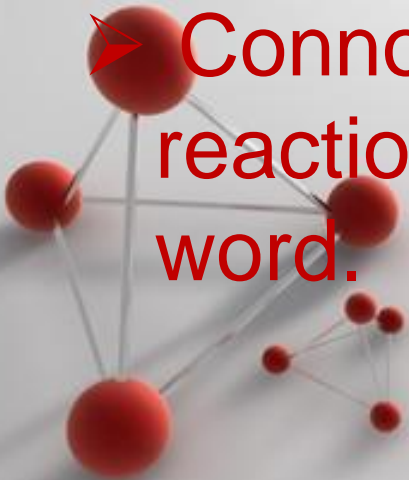
The analysis of meaning

- **Semantic is the study of meaning**
- **semantic is the science of meaning**
- **Analysis meaning was a major practical problem**
- **Intricacies and Ambiguities (multiple sense, figurative meaning, near synonyms)**



The analysis phase involve examination of two kinds of linguistic meaning:

- Referential Meaning (denotation) => which deals with the words as signs or symbols
- Connotative meaning => the emotional reaction engendered in the reader by a word.



Referential meaning:

✓ **Polysemous** (has several meaning): for example; chair

BUT

○ **Semotactic environment or co-text** (figurative meaning): for example; **father** of a child, our **father** in heaven.

○ **near-synonym**

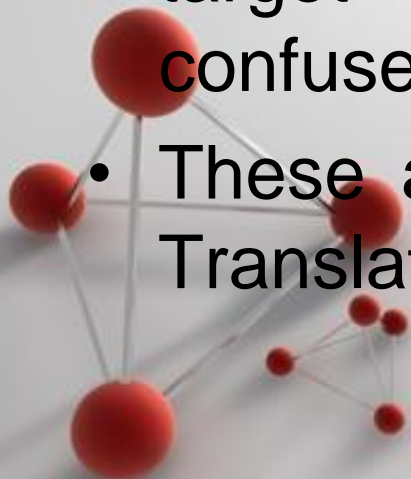
○ **disambiguate**

Those can be done by constastive **semantic structure analysis**



DISAMBIGUATION – SEMANTIC STRUCTURE ANALYSIS

- The ambiguity of choosing term in translation sometimes can't be avoided because when we translate SL to TL, we will find a term that we don't really know the meaning.
- This ambiguity can cause incorrect meaning of target language and can make the reader confused.
- These are some example of disambiguation in Translation



*'We are writing to invite you to a conference.
We expect you will attend.'*

- This is an example of incorrect use of English words. This sentence is written by a Spanish-speaking country. The incorrect word is *EXPECT*.
- The incorrect use of *expect* instead of the more normal *hope* is caused because the SL term (in this case the Spanish verb 'esperar') covers a **wider semantic field** than the English. '*Esperar*' can correspond to hope, want, expect or even look forward to.

esperar



to wish but
not necessarily
with expectation

to wish

to wish
or require
with strong
expectation

to await eagerly

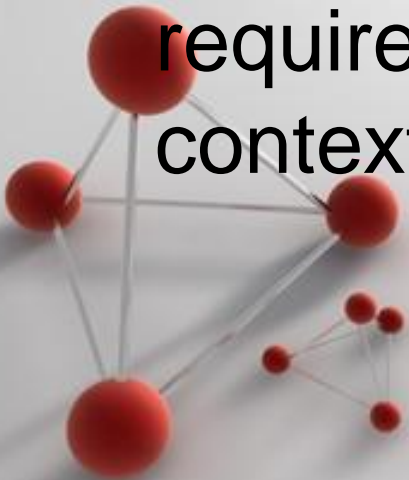
to hope

to want

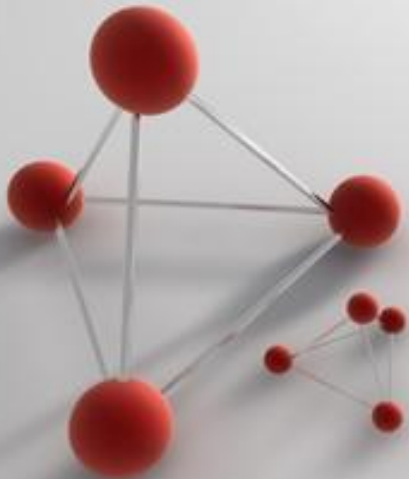
to expect

to look forward to

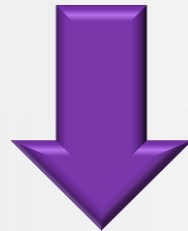
- Another example comes from Russian Language. Russian has one word, ***ruka***, for what in English is covered by the concepts of arm and hand and also a single word, ***noga***, for leg and foot.
- Translation from English to Russian requires disambiguation using co-text and context (the situation)



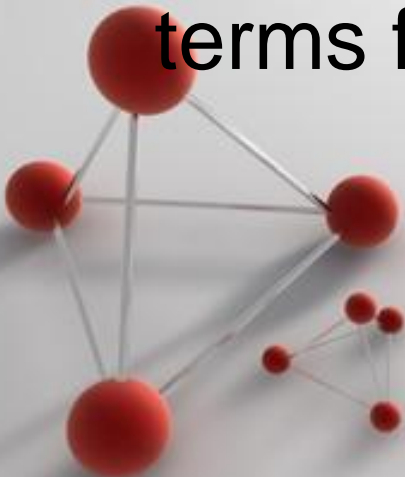
HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURING AND COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS



The problem is more one locating an equivalent on the same level in the LT



One language has a wider range of specific terms for a given semantic field operating at various levels



Example



move

- Generic term

walk

- Lower level
- More specific forms of *move*

stroll

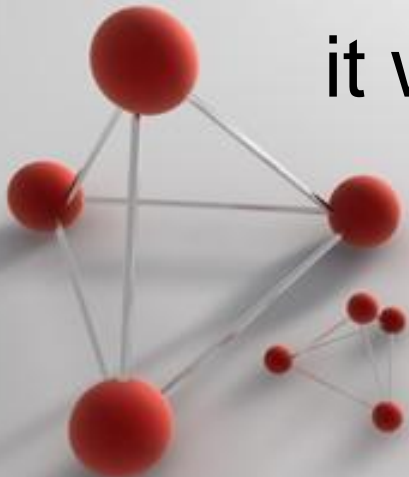
- Lower level
- More specific forms of *walk*

Componential analysis

A technique of semantic analysis that examines the basic meaning components of a word and allows contrast with other terms in the same semantic field

e.g: *bachelor*

it would be *+human, +male, -married*

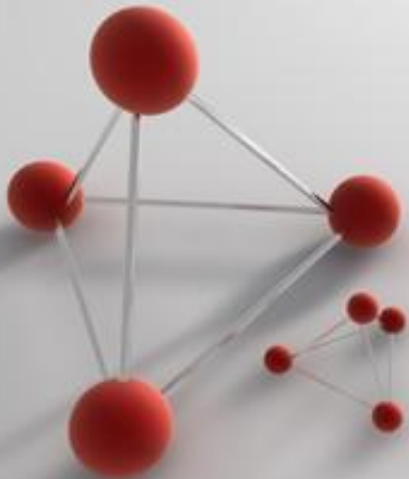


Connotative Meaning

Emotional response evoked in the hearer.

e.g: *gunai*, → woman, mother

This is much more difficult area to investigate objectively.



Scales of connotative meaning

