

# Wetenschapsfilosofie Engels W7 Cheat Sheet by Soraya (Soraya) via cheatography.com/19522/cs/2680/

#### Cognitive Linguistics

Overarching term for a large field (like functionalism) → Cognitive linguists believe that the storage and retrieval of linguistic data is not significantly different from the storage and retrieval of other knowledge.

- Cognitive linguists deny that the mind has any module for language-acquisition that is unique and autonomous.
- → Human linguistic ability is innate **but** it is separate from the rest of cognition.
- Cognitive linguists understand grammar in terms of conceptualization
- → linguistic phenomena (phonemes, morphemes, etc.) are conceptual in nature
- Cognitive linguists claim that knowledge of language arises out of language use
- No clear demarcation between lexicon and grammar
- Grammar can be described with symbolic assemblies in a similar way to those describing lexicon

## Ronald Langacker (1942-)

Cognitive grammar is a cognitive approach to language developed by Ronald Langacker, which considers the basic units of language to be symbols or conventional pairings of a semantic structure with a phonological label.

Grammar consists of constraints on how these units can be combined to generate larger phrases which are also a pairing of semantics and phonology. The semantic aspects are modeled as image schemas rather than propositions, and because of the tight binding with the label, each can invoke the other

## Cognitive Grammar

- "Language is shaped and constrained by the functions it serves" (Langacker)
- semiological function: allowing conceptualizations to be symbolized by means of sound and gestures

#### Cognitive Grammar (cont)

- interactive function: involves communication, manipulation, expressiveness, and social communion

#### "Grammar is symbolic in nature"

Symbol: the pairing between a semantic structure and a phonological structure, such that one is able to evoke the other

Cognitive Grammar: concerned with how symbols combine to form complex expressions

▶ language is a gradation between lexicon and grammar, which in other frameworks tend to be viewed as separate

## Principles of CG (P.I.N.)

# INTEGRATION / NATURALNESS / PATIENCE

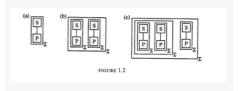
- Principle of integration → importance of considering information from multiple sources
- Principle of naturalness → consideration of semiological and interactive functions b2b biological, cognitive, and sociocultural grounding
- $\bullet$  Principle of patience  $\rightarrow$  do not jump ahead of the theory

#### Structures

Semantic structure: conceptualizations exploited for linguistic purposes → signified Phonological structure: sounds, gestures, orthographic representations → signifier Symbolic structure: not distinct from semantic and phonological structure rather incorporates them → sign

SEMANTIC STRUCTURE +
PHONOLOGICAL STRUCTURE =
SYMBOLIC STRUCTURE

#### Symbolic assemblies



**Symbolic assemblies:** structures of greater symbolic complexity

→ Morphemes have zero symbolic complexity

#### Lexicon

Cognitive linguist's **lexicon**: the set of **fixed expressions** in a language (not words)

- → fixed expressions are conventionally established
- → no strict boundary between lexicon and nonlexical expressions
- → lexicon is to some extent shared among speakers of a language but to some extent also individual

# Basic lexical phenomena

**Association:** association between a semantic and phonological structure in a symbolic relationship

Automatization: "through repetition or rehearsal, a complex structure is thoroughly mastered, to the point that using it is virtually automatic and requires little conscious monitoring"

Unit status: when an expression is so often used it becomes entrenched, e.g., the alphabet or the Pledge of Allegiance
Schematization: the process of extracting the commonality inherent in multiple experiences to arrive at a conception representing a higher level of abstraction

→ ring 'circular piece of jewelry worn on finger' → 'circular adornment worn on the body' → 'circular object' → 'circular entity'

Categorization: the interpretation of experience with respect to previously existing structures

**Category:** a set of elements judged equivalent for some purpose

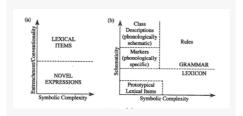


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## Grammar as Symbolic Assemblies



- The difference between lexicon and grammar is level of schematicity,
- i.e., abstractness
- Grammatical markers
- Grammatical classes
- Grammatical rules

## Content Requirement

# the only elements ascribable to a linguistic system are:

- (i) semantic, phonological, and symbolic structures that actually occur as parts of expressions;
- (ii) schematizations of permitted structures;
- (iii) categorizing relationships between permitted structures.

#### example w/ phonological structures

- (i) specific elements are sufficiently frequent to become entrenched as units
- (ii) segments and syllables can be schematized (natural classes, schematic templates of syllable structure, etc.)
- (iii) categorizing relationships between schemas and their instantiations



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