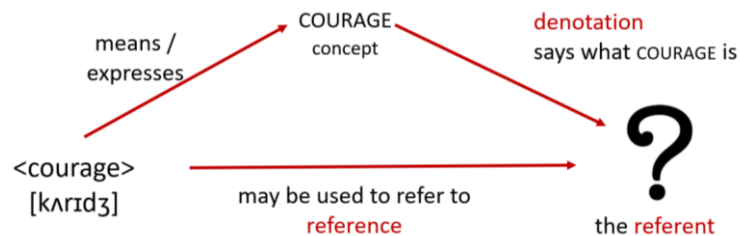


Handout 5

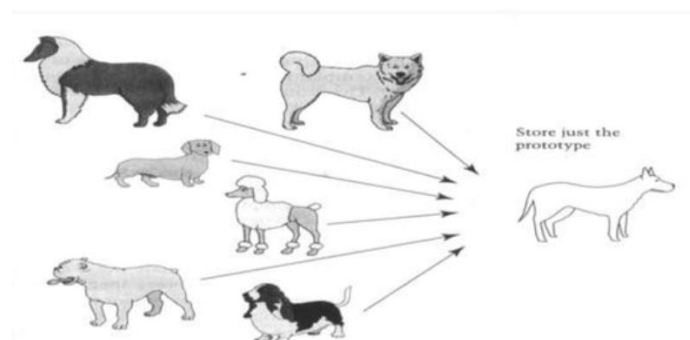
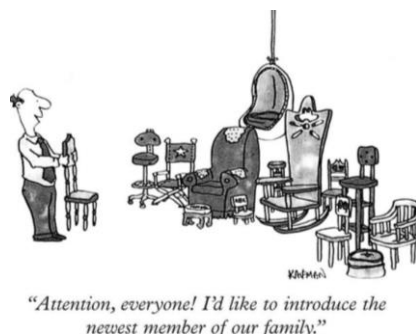
Aitchison 2012, pp. 53-89

- 1 Discuss potential problems with the “fixed meaning” assumption.
- 2 How can a word have “fuzzy” meanings?
- 3 Discuss the role of symbol, concept, and referent in relation to the following graph.

the meaning of box is the **relation** between the linguistic **expression** (<box> / [bɒks]) and a **mental category** that is used to **classify** the **entity** for which it can be used.



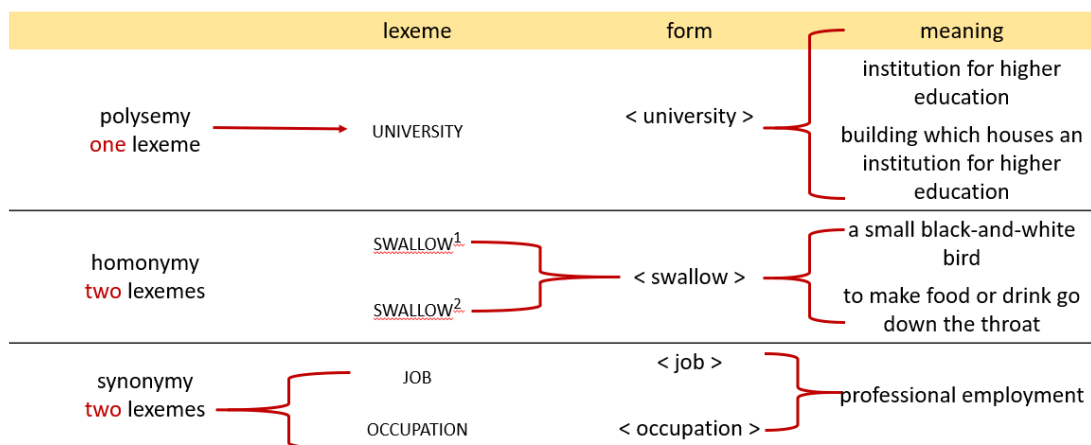
- 4 Explain to each other the graph on p. 55.
- 5 When defining the meaning of <cat> / [kæt], what are scope and limits of the following approaches?
 - snapshot approach (mental image)
 - checklist approach (criterial attributes)
 - family resemblance ()
- 6 According to the argument on p. 58, would you call the Pope a bachelor; and is a tomato fruit or vegetable?
- 7 Discuss Figure 5.2 on page 61.
- 8 Try to explain to each other the difference between the Aristotelian criterial attributes approach and the Wittgensteinian family resemblance.
- 9 Discuss the following two pictures with regard to family resemblance and prototype theory.



10 Are the following examples instances of prototypical lying?

- Mary, 7 years old: $5 + 7 = 14$.
- S. W.: *You are the sunshine of my life.*
- Heraclitus: *Fire is the base for all things in the world.*
- Mr Wagner, after a horrible final exam, to the students: *You are terrific academics!*
- A bookstore owner tells a customer that a certain book will arrive in the shop on January 1st. The publisher has assured her of it. However, the book does not arrive until January 8th.
- Trump said he had up to 1.5 million people in attendance for his inauguration, making it “the largest audience ever to witness an inauguration, period”.

11 Discuss the potential of the prototype theory regarding the following graph?



12 Prototypically rank the following odd and even numbers.

- 17 – 23 – 447 – 1 – 3 – 13
- 18 – 136 – 4 – 6 – 1000

13 Why do children often find it hard to accept the following ‘facts’?

- a spider is not an insect
- a whale is not a fish
- a bat is not a bird

14 Do you think we know what furniture means because we have seen thousands of exemplars in our lives or we have built an abstract representation in a prototypical fashion?

15 What is your prototypical representation of the following two concepts?

- Britain
- USA