

What is Semantics ?

1.0 What is Semantics ?

Semantics is defined as a part of linguistics that deals with meaning.

- a. Word meaning
- b. Sentence meaning

It studies the relation between **form** and **meaning**. This is of a very crucial interest.

Broadly speaking, the linguists task is to characterize what the speaker / hearer has to know in order to be able to produce and comprehend linguistic strings.

Speakers have some internalized knowledge such as :

- a. They understand what people mean
- b. They are able to say what they mean

In this sense, semantics is part of grammar. One of the central issues with semantics is the distinction between :

Literal Meaning	Figurative Meaning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Concepts are taken at a face valuee.g. if we say : « <i>Fall began within the turning of leaves.</i> »We would mean the season began to change when the leaves turned to colors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes the use of similes and metaphors to represent meaning and convey greater emotions.• E.g. « <i>I am as hungry as a bear .</i> »• Would be a simile and a comparison to show a great need for sustenance.

So, semantics is the study of relationships between words and how we construct meaning, it sheds light on how we experience the world and how we understand others and ourselves.

Semantics is the study of meaning expressed by elements of any language characterizable as a symbolic system:

- How do we get from certain physical brute facts to meaning.
- // // // // // // // // physics to semantics.

Semantics is the study of meaning, creating common meanings helps everyone understand each other.

E.g * let's say for instance I have a dog and you have one **but** our original image of what might this dog look may be different. In this case, we can use language to come to a common understanding of what they targets and we can help different people to understand each other despite their experiences or points of view.

- **Common meanings helps machines.**

It helps a computer accurately interpret what people mean because they share specific definitions. Common meaning enables different kinds of systems like Basis of application to interface more productively and effectively because they have a common reference point of the system means.