

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

ENG 236: *Semantics and Pragmatics* — Spring Semester 2004: MON & THU 1.30 – 3.00pm  
English Program, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures — University of Cyprus  
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**MID-TERM EXAM**

**EXAM QUESTIONS [ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS; MAX POINTS INDICATED]**

1. In your own words, provide definitions for the following terms in *either* A or B:

A	B
a. expression meaning	a. homonymy
b. utterance meaning	b. polysemy
c. descriptive meaning	c. hyponomy
d. social meaning	d. opposition
e. expressive meaning	e. antonymy
f. context of utterance	f. heteronymy

[12]
2. Most sentences of any natural language can be used in different CoU's to communicate different information, although their meaning remains the same. How is that possible?

[8]
3. Try to determine word by word the descriptive, social, and/or expressive meaning of all the expressions in the following dialogue.

A: *Hey, Aphrodite. Did you attend that stupid lecture yesterday?*  
B: *Unfortunately. I'm sorry, honey.*

[10]
4. Discuss the difference between polysemy and the variation of meaning due to metaphorical shit, metonymical shift, and differentiation.

[12]
5. For the following sentences, which one is the proper negation, A or B? Check the truth conditions of A and B: which one is essentially true if the positive sentence is false?

a. <i>All the students are smart.</i>	A <i>Not all the students are smart.</i>
b. <i>It's always snowing here.</i>	B <i>All the students are not smart.</i>
c. <i>He's still here.</i>	A <i>It's never snowing here.</i>
d. <i>Somebody kissed me.</i>	B <i>It's not always snowing here.</i>
	A <i>He's not yet here.</i>
	B <i>He isn't here anymore.</i>
	A <i>Nobody kissed me.</i>
	B <i>Somebody did not kiss me.</i>

[8]
6. Which of the following statements are true, which ones are false?
  - a. It is logically impossible that A entails not-A.
  - b. A and not-A are always logically contrary.
  - c. If A is logically true, then not-A is logically false.
  - d. If A entails not-B, then B entails not-A.
  - e. If A is contingent, then not-A is either logically true or logically false.

[15]

7. What are meaning relations? How do they differ from logical relations? [6]
8. If A is the hyponym of B, what does this mean for the way in which (a) the meanings, and (b) the denotations, of A and B are related to each other? [8]
9. Determine the meaning relations that hold between the following pairs of words; it may be necessary to distinguish different meaning variants. [12]
- a. *top-down, bottom-up*
  - b. *chair, wardrobe*
  - c. *before, after*
  - d. *same, different*
  - e. *turn on, turn off*
  - f. *more, less*
10. The adjective *cool* has several antonyms. Try to determine the pairs of opposites and the meaning *cool* has in each case. [9]

[Q1-5: 50, Q6-10: 50] TOTAL: [100]

**BONUS [ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS OF EITHER A OR B FOR EXTRA POINTS!]**

- A.**
- a. Which possible parts of meaning are not captured by the logical method, and why are they not?
  - b. Discuss the limits of the logical method for the investigation of descriptive meaning.
  - c. Discuss the ways in which the logical method is useful for the investigation of word meaning.
- B.**
- a. What is the difference between homonymy and polysemy?
  - b. Explain the difference between hyponymy and meronymy.
  - c. Which special feature distinguishes taxonomies from arbitrary hierarchies based on hyponymy?