

CHAPTER 15

SEMANTIC EXTENSION

Words that undergo Semantic Shift are no longer used in their original native sense but acquire a new sense in the new environment. However, as indicated by Heah(1989), in the case of Semantic Extension the native English words retain their original restricted meaning and also acquire new meanings and connotations in a new lexical view. Heah also uses the term 'semantic widening' for this phenomenon. Semantic Extensions refer to non-native words which are polysemous or figurative extensions of English words which have restricted meaning in the native context (Heah, 1989). In other words, English words which have restricted meaning in the native context, acquire new meanings and connotations in a new lexical view.

Baskaran (1987) uses the term 'Polysemic Variation' for what she describes as 'Standard English words and expressions that have retained both their original English meaning and acquired some extended non-native meanings as well.' An example she gives is in the multiple meanings of the word 'cut'. The native meaning of this word is 'to give or take a lesser amount of something' such as 'to reduce' while the non-native meanings are 'to overtake' and 'to do better than someone else.'

Examples of this in the present data are the idea of 'thoughts rolling' and someone 'shooting' their material at the audience during a talk.

Anthony's uses the term 'Semantic Underdifferentiation' to refer to common adjectives which are used to refer to multiple contexts which may not present in native English.

Platt and Weber(1980) refer to this phenomenon as 'Meaning Changes' whereby they say 'Standard English words are used with their original English meaning as well as an extended semantic range of meaning not originally found in Standard English.'

The present researcher is of the opinion that while Anthony's 'Semantic Underdifferentiation' seems to reflect aspects of Language Transfer, as in the case of 'Semantic Transfer from Mother tongue, Baskaran's and Platt and Weber's definitions are closer in describing the data which she has collected under 'Semantic Extension'. In the following section, she will describe all the examples of Semantic Extension in her corpus.

15.1 Examples of Semantic Extension

15.1.1 aid

The verb form of 'aid' has the restricted sense of assisting people in need in the form of money, equipment or services. If you go to the aid of someone, you try to help them.(BBC English Dictionary). Thus the word is only used when there is a perceived need for assistance by an individual or a group.

In the data, 'aid' has been used in a general sense of 'help' as shown in the following sentence:

'Enhanced disclosure by public listed companies...will provide shareholders and investors with more information to aid in their decision-making.'

Here it is the 'information' which 'aids' the public in their decision-making, and not any other agent. Hence its meaning here has been semantically extended from its original sense of 'to give money, equipment or services to people in need' to just 'to help'.

15.1.2 at ease

The BBC English Dictionary defines 'at ease' as meaning 'feeling confident and comfortable'. An example of a sentence with this sense is: 'He was at ease with strangers'. However, in ME usage, this native meaning seems to have been semantically extended. In the following sentence 'at ease' means 'to be relaxed' rather than 'feel confident and comfortable':

'She was **at ease** as she need not do the running around.'

Perhaps this meaning has been derived from the context of military training when to be 'at ease' is to stand in a relaxed way as opposed to being 'at attention', when one stands stiffly, with one's hands at the sides. In the sentence above, in addition to 'at ease', 'running around' is another non-native expression which is often heard in ME.

15.1.3 award

The word is used for a prize or certificate that is given to a person for doing something well and to something to someone is to give it to them as a prize or reward, such as to a scholarship to a deserving student. However, in the data, 'award' occurs as follows:

'...toward the **award** of SG licences.'

In this sentence the word **award** 'means 'giving something to a selected or fortunate few'. This is a Semantic Extension of its native sense.

15.1.4 better

The word 'better' is a general word, which is usually used as a comparative form of 'good' or 'well'(BBC English Dictionary).However, it seems to acquire a different meaning in the following utterance heard at a Toastmasters' meeting:

'Deep in my heart I want you to be a **better** person.'

Here the speaker did not mean 'better' in the native sense of 'more moral or well-behaved' but the ME sense of 'more accomplished or materially successful in life'. This can be considered a Semantic Extension of the word 'better'. The following is another example of the above non-native usage of the word 'better' at a Toastmaster's meeting:

'I'll guarantee you you'll improve to be a **better** person than who you are today.'

15.1.5 black-and-white songs

In the following sentence, the expression 'black-and-white' is usually used for Tamil films made during an earlier period when 'technicolour' movies were not invented yet. In these films, as in modern Tamil films, the songs play an important role in advertising the film to the Tamil-speaking public. The expression 'black-and-white' has been semantically extended to refer to songs sung in such films as shown in the following statement:

'Don't sing **black-and-white songs**'

This expression seems to be an adjective which is purely a Semantic Extension of the concept of 'black and white' films.

15.1.6 blur

In native English 'blur' as a verb can have two semantic senses. The first one is to do with one's visual sense, namely to become less clear or sharp as in the sentence: 'The writing blurred and danced before his eyes.'

One's vision can become 'blurred' meaning one cannot see things clearly. The second sense refers to cognitive disability, namely the inability to distinguish between one thing and another as in the sentence 'She tends to blur the

distinction between her friends and her colleagues'(OALD, 2000).

However, the following sense of 'blur' heard at a Sai Baba seminar seems to be a Semantic Extension of the second sense of 'blur':

'When the inputs from the senses **blur** the mind with images and thoughts, the mind blocks the constant flow of divine energy from within.'

Here the sense is semantically related to the native sense of 'inability to distinguish between one thing and another' as the speaker is talking about a metaphysical concept in Hinduism, which is referred to as 'Maya'. 'Maya' is basically the term used for the delusive images or impressions of the physical world which blocks the development of spiritual knowledge and realization of spiritual truth.

Yen(1990) has explained 'blurred' in similar terms. She has categorized its usage as an 'English-origin word as a result of Semantic Change.' She explains 'blurred' as 'at a loss' or 'confused' as used in the following sentences:

'I went into the meeting late. Of course I was **blurred** when they asked me what I think of the decision made.'

'I was **blurred** when they told me the decision to close the department was final.'

In addition to this, there is another Semantic Extension of the second native meaning of 'blur' which is used in both Singapore English as well as Malaysian English. This is the use of 'blur' as meaning 'slow-witted' or 'stupid'(Shelley, 1995). Shelley attributes the non-native use of 'blur' to the Singapore slang used by the recruits of the Singapore National Service and he gives three possible meanings to it: 'dazed', 'dense' and 'dizzy'.

In ME a stupid person is often described colloquially as a '**blur case**'

However, this usage is limited to colloquial or mesolectal ME, unlike the earlier ME sense of 'confused' which is used in acrolectal ME as well.

15.1.7 budget

A 'budget' has a restricted meaning in native usage. It is a plan showing how much money a person or organization has available and how it should be spent. An example of this sense is in the following sentence: 'Work out a weekly budget' (BBC English Dictionary). However, in the data, the word has been semantically extended to acquire the general sense of 'funds' or 'money' as shown in the expression: 'I need more **budget**.'

15.1.8 build up

According to the BBC English Dictionary, the build-up of something is a gradual increase in it as for example, the 'build-up of traffic on approach roads to the capital'. It is used as a noun. However in ME the word 'build up' is used as a verb to mean 'develop' or 'expand', as in the following sentence recorded from a Business news article in the present researcher's corpus:

'The hotel is managed by a young company pursuing opportunities in key Asian cities to **build up** its hotel portfolio.'

Besides the expression 'build up' the word 'young' may also be an example of Semantic Extension.

15.1.9 call

During a Toastmasters' meeting, the following sentence was uttered by someone who is an accountant by profession:

'There is a **call** to consider and incorporate these suggestions. There is also a **call** to bring back fresh blood.'

The speaker meant 'a need' rather than a call such as a telephone call. This

non-native usage of 'call' appears to be a Semantic Extension of the more literal sense. In addition, there seems to be another example of non-native usage in the second sentence, namely the usage of 'fresh blood' rather than the more native usage, 'new blood'(see 'Collocational Variation').

Another example of non-native usage of 'call' was noted in the following sentence recorded from a Masters thesis:

'Windows(title of book) **calls** Christians to a fresh sensitivity to God's voice.'

Here the writer meant that by reading the book entitled 'Windows', Christians could become more sensitive to listening to the voice of God. The usage of 'call' here is figurative rather than literal, and hence it is not related to any of the conventional native definitions of 'call' such as 'to order somebody to come.' It is closer to the meaning of 'sensitize' rather than that of 'call'.

The native definition of 'sensitize' is 'to make somebody more aware of something, especially a problem or something bad' as in the sentence: 'People are becoming more sensitized to the dangers threatening the environment.'

However, as observed earlier, in the ME data the connotation is positive rather than negative. As such this usage of 'call' can be considered to be an example of Semantic Extension.'

15.1.10 cap

In native usage, the word 'cap' can be figuratively used to mean 'limiting the amount to be spent' as in the sentence: 'Some councils have had their spending levels capped by the government'(BBC English Dictionary).

From this figurative sense, is derived the sense of 'put a cap on development' in the following sentence taken from a business news article:

'The government has **put a cap** on new development in the city.'

15.1.11 catch

In a Toastmasters' meeting, there are different people playing different roles which are crucial for the successful organization of a meeting. One of the role-players is known as an 'Ah Counter', whose duty is to record every 'pause-filler' or hesitation device such as 'er', 'ah' and so on. All role-players are usually called upon to explain their roles at the start of every meeting. An 'Ah Counter' made the following comment during a Toastmaster's meeting:

'My role is to **catch** all the pause-fillers.'

The word 'catch' in the above sentence seems to be a Semantic Extension of the sense of finding or discovering somebody doing something wrong as in the sentence: 'I caught her smoking in the bathroom'(OALD,2000). The implication here is that the 'pause-fillers' are a sign of lack of fluency in presentational skills.

15.1.12 catered

According to the BBC English Dictionary, the word 'cater' generally means providing people with the things they need. The specific meaning is to provide food and drink in a particular place or on a special occasion. Both the general as well as the specific meanings are literal in nature.

However, in the data, the word 'catered' occurs with a figurative meaning in a leaflet for a project called 'Parents' Appreciation Week':

'The competition will be **catered** to garner participation from all ages.'

Here the catering seems to be done by 'competition' rather than by any human agent. This can be considered to be a Semantic Extension of the two

native senses of the word 'cater', mentioned above.

15.1.13 come out with

In Standard British English the words 'come out with' can be used literally, as for example, coming out of a building with one's hands on the head. It can also have a specific semantic sense, as when 'come out' is used to refer to the official launch of a book as shown in the following sentence taken from the BBC Dictionary: 'When Ehren's book came out there was a storm of protest from anthropologists.'

In Malaysian English 'come out with' is used idiomatically to mean 'to create' or 'to conceptualize'.

This is shown in the following sentence taken from the data:

'Through this feature they can plan their golfing times, **come out with** events or get bagofclubs.com (name of a company) to organize events and tee times for them.'

15.1.14 competitive with

In native English something that is 'competitive' involves people or firms competing with each other. Goods that are competitive are cheaper than similar goods(BBC English Dictionary). However, in the following sentence, the word has been used for 'pricing' which is an unusual collocation:

'On pricing, he would only say that it would be **competitive with** conventional bonds.'

Here the writer has semantically extended the usage of 'competitive' from conventional collocations such as 'goods' to an unconventional collocation, namely 'pricing' of something that is similar to 'conventional bonds'. The native equivalent would probably be 'cheaper than'.

15.1.15 customers/comprise of

In Standard English a customer is someone who buys goods or services from a salesperson or a shop. However in my data, the term 'customers' has been semantically extended to mean 'other companies purchasing goods or services' from a particular company. An example of this meaning is shown in the following sentence:

'The **customers** of the acquired companies comprise of multinational companies.'

Here, the expression 'comprise of' is also another example of ME.

15.1.16 diluted

In native British English, the word 'diluted' has two possible meanings. The first meaning is literal: When you dilute a liquid, you add water or another liquid to it in order to make it weaker. The second meaning is figurative or metaphorical: 'To dilute someone's power, idea or role is to make it weaker or less effective' (BBC English Dictionary). This meaning seems to be semantically extended in the following sentence in the data:

'It doesn't look good for UEM's minority shareholders who will see their shares **diluted**.'

The meaning intended by the writer of the article is probably 'reduction in value.' Hence this is a Semantic Extension of the native figurative meaning of 'diluted'.

15.1.17 direct seller

In native usage, a 'seller' is 'a person who sells something' or 'a product that has been sold in the amount or way mentioned' as in the sentence: 'This particular model is one of our biggest sellers'(OALD,2000). A Semantic

Extension of this meaning of 'seller' is 'direct seller' who is a salesperson who sells a product directly to the members of the public.

A further Semantic Extension of this sense is seen in the following usage of 'direct seller': 'AVON is a **direct seller** of beauty products.'

In reality, AVON is a multi-national company which employs dealers as direct sellers of its products. The term 'direct seller' has been further semantically extended here to mean the company as well.

15.1.18 discount

There are two native meanings of 'discount', Firstly it could be 'a reduction of prices of goods or services to be purchased by potential consumers. Secondly, if you discount something, you reject or ignore it (BBC English Dictionary). This does not seem related to the meaning intended here. In the following sentence taken from the Business section of the Sun newspaper, the word 'discount' seems to have been semantically extended to mean the reduction of share prices:

'Some analysts agreed that the price of RM6.30 was at a very steep **discount** compared with UEM's net tangible asset of RM10 per share.'

'Discount' is a Semantic Extension here as the writer has mentioned the actual worth of each share and indicated that there has been a deliberate attempt by the management of UEM to keep share prices down to a greatly reduced level.

15.1.19 down

The word 'down' seems to have been used in multiple senses in Malaysian English, all of which have negative connotation. In the following sentence uttered by a young ME user, the word 'down' seems to mean 'poor':

'Our results were very **down** last year.'

She was referring to her school academic results, in the above sentence.

Another sentence containing the word 'down' was read in the Interactive Journal of a student who is also an in-service teacher:

'I feel **down** a bit when communicating with friends who are able to speak fluently and have a lot of ideas.'

The student who wrote it was a Sabahan who said that he was not very fluent in English. The word 'down' is used non-natively as the native sense meant here is probably 'disadvantaged'. The word 'down' here is used in a negative figurative sense.

15.1.20 driven

The word 'drive' can be used literally as well as idiomatically. In one of its literal senses it can mean 'to supply the power that makes it work' as in the following context from the BBC English Dictionary: 'Steam can be used to drive generators'. From this literal Standard English sense, there seems to be a semantic extension in the following sentence in the data:

'The growth will mainly be **driven** by the inclusion of visa credit cards to its product portfolio.'

15.1.21 environment

According to the BBC English Dictionary, 'environment' means either 'everything around you that affects your daily life' or 'the natural world of land, sea, air and animals'. However, there has been a Semantic Extension in the use of this word as shown in the following sentence:

'The establishment of this unit will strongly support KLSE's existing efforts towards a more informed investing **environment**.'

The word 'environment' here is used idiomatically to mean 'climate' as when referring to a 'situation which changes people's attitude or opinions'(BBC Dictionary, 1993). In the above context, it could also mean 'public' due to the two words preceding 'environment', namely 'informed investing'.

15.1.22 exposed

There are three native senses for the word 'expose'. Firstly, to 'expose' something means to uncover it and make it visible as in the sentence: 'The roots are exposed at low tide.' Secondly, to expose someone means to reveal the truth about them, especially when it involves dishonest or shocking behaviour. Thirdly, if you are exposed to something dangerous, you are put in a situation where it may harm you.

In the data, 'exposed' is used in a non-native sense - 'advertisements' as well as 'society' can be 'exposed' to 'harsh criticism'.

This is shown in the following sentence:

'Continual failure to do so will only result in not only the advertisement but also the society to be **exposed** to harsh criticisms by others who have gone forward in their concept of an ideal beauty.'

Besides the word 'exposed' another example of Semantic Extension in the above sentence, which will be discussed later, is the idiomatic expression 'gone forward.'

15.1.23 fill

In native use, 'if something you with an emotion, or if an emotion you, you experience this emotion strongly,' as in the sentence 'His son's lies filled him with anger.'(BBC English Dictionary).

In the data, this abstract sense of the word 'fill' was further extended

semantically in the following non-native way:

'Love should **fill** all thoughts, words and deeds.'

Since the idea of love filling 'thoughts, words and deeds' is a figurative usage of the above sense I have classified this word under 'Semantic Extension.' A more native version of the above sentence would probably be: 'Love should influence all thoughts, words and deeds.'

15.1.24 gaps

In native English, the word 'gap' has a literal as well as a figurative meaning. In a literal sense, a 'gap' is a space between two things or a hole in something solid. In a figurative sense, a gap is something missing from a situation which prevents it from being satisfactory and complete, as for example in the sentence: 'This book fills a major gap.'

The following sense of 'gap' appears to be a Semantic Extension of the figurative meaning of 'gap' mentioned above:

'We had some **gaps**. Even the blood donation was not properly announced.'

The word 'gaps' in this sentence means 'shortcomings' in some project undertaken. This usage is non-native because it has been used in the active voice - 'We had some gaps'. In native usage 'gaps' usually occurs in the passive voice, for example - 'There were some gaps in the project.'

15.1.25 get up

According to the BBC English Dictionary, 'get up' is a phrasal verb that can have two possible native meanings: one literal and the other figurative. The literal meaning is to rise to a standing position from a sitting or lying position. In a figurative sense, what someone gets up to is what they do, especially

when it is something that you do not approve of. Neither of these two native senses are meant in the following use of 'get up' found in the data:

'I **get up** my energy.'

In this non-native sense, 'get up' is not used as a phrasal verb. It is a Semantic Extension of the literal meaning mentioned above. The speaker probably meant:

'I call upon my inner reserves of energy.'

15.1.26 geared up

In native use, if someone is 'geared up' to do something, they are prepared and able to do it. This follows from the meaning of 'gear' which means the equipment and special clothes needed for a particular activity. The example of it in a sentence is: 'Hotels like this are not geared up cater for parties'(BBC English Dictionary).

However, the following use of 'geared up' could be non-native:

'Full participation was **geared up**.'

The usage here is a Semantic Extension of its native sense because the agent is not a person, a group or an organization but the participation itself.

15.1.27 grow

'Grow' has a literal sense as well as a figurative one. If something grows, it increases in size, amount or degree. In a literal sense one grows plants, grows one's hair or grows a beard. In a figurative sense, one idea can grow out of another idea.

Also tension can grow as in the sentence: 'As tension grew in Moscow, the Secretary-General of the United Nations issued an urgent appeal for restraint.'

In none of the above native senses is there an agent that aids in the 'growth'.

However, in Malaysian English usage, there seems to be an 'agent' which promotes the growth, as shown in the following example taken from a written source - the Business section of the Sun newspaper:

'A business plan competition called Venture 2001, designed to nurture and grow Malaysian entrepreneurs....'

Another example of this ME usage was heard in spoken discourse. The following comment was made by the president of a Toastmasters' club:

'We need to **grow** our members.'

In both the above examples, 'grow' seems to have undergone a Semantic Extension of the native sense of something growing on its own in size, amount or degree. However, unlike the native usage where there is no 'agent' that promotes the growth, this non-native usage usually involves a definite 'agent' (Also see 'marry' under 'Semantic Extension').

15.1.28 hard-core poor

The word 'hard-core' when used as an adjective means 'having a belief or way of behaving that will not change' as in the example 'hard-core party members' (OALD,2000). It is also used for pornography namely, 'hardcore pornography' meaning 'showing or describing sexual activity in a detailed or violent way' (OALD,2000).

However, the following usage of 'hard-core' in a Sai Baba leaflet seems to be a Semantic Extension of the first sense:

'Tens of thousands of **hard-core poor** have benefited from this service.'

The 'service' mentioned above is the free medical service given by two 'super-specialty' hospitals in India. The sense of 'something that will not

change' is in the above non-native usage of 'hard-core poor', namely 'exremely poor'.

15.1.29 heating up

In native English 'heating up' is usually used literally as in using a heater to heat up a room or building in cold weather (BBC English Dictionary).

However, in the data, 'heating up' was used in the figurative sense of 'getting more stiff' as can be seen in the following sentence:

'Competition for post-pay subscribers is **heating up**.'

This seems to be a Semantic Extension of the native sense of the expression as well as a Non-native Metaphor(see 'Non-native Metaphor').

In native English the term 'high-flying' is used to describe people who are very ambitious and likely to be successful in their career(BBC Dictionary, 1993). This concept seems to have been semantically extended to describe non-human subjects such as a 'sector' in the economy.

This was found in the following sentence taken from a Business news article:

'Standard Chartered Bank's treasury economist said the government would likely signal a stimulatory fiscal stance to mitigate the impact of an impending slowdown in the **high-flying** flying technological sector.'

This sentence also contains another example of Semantic Extension which will be discussed under 'slowdown'.

15.1.30 hungry

The following statement was made by a DTM or Distinguished Toastmaster, namely a Toastmaster who has achieved the highest level of certification in the movement:

'People in this part of the world are **hungry** to improve themselves, to better themselves.'

The above usage of 'hungry' seems to be a Semantic Extension of the meaning 'having or showing a strong desire for something' as in 'power-hungry' or 'hungry for affection' (OALD,2000).

15.1.31 hurt

The word 'hurt' in native usage either refers to the sensation of physical pain or to cause physical pain to yourself or to others or the feeling of being unhappy or upset as in the sentence: 'I didn't want to hurt his feelings' (OALD, 2000). It could also mean 'to have a bad effect on somebody or something' as in the sentence: 'Many people on low incomes will be hurt by the government's plans.'

In American English it means 'to be in a difficult position because you need something important, especially money' (OALD,2000).

The following usage of the word 'hurt' recorded from a Business news article may be a Semantic Extension of the American English meaning:

'...concern that a slower US economy may hurt profit growth.'

The word 'hurt' is used here in a figurative sense to mean 'to adversely affect'.

This is a Semantic Extension of the native sense of 'hurt' which is more literal.

15.1.32 ingrained

Another example is seen in the following sentence:

'The convention should consider as to what new inputs are required to be added into the course content so that the complete message of Educare is ingrained in the Bal Vikas course.'

In a native sense 'ingrained' has a restricted sense of 'habits and beliefs which are difficult to change' (BBC English Dictionary). It is thus an abstract idea to do with the individual personality. In the above usage, the word 'ingrained' has been semantically extended to mean 'incorporated into a

course.' This is non-native usage of the word.

15.1.33 member

Yen(1990) has categorized the non-native lexical item 'member' as one of 'English-origin words as a result of Semantic change' and it occurred in the following sentence:

'I don't think I'll go for the show tonight if I've no **member** to go with me.'

There is a similar example in the current data, when a student refers to a particular situation during an Oral Interaction Test:

'Maybe she forgot just like our **member** mentioned just now.'

In both instances, 'member' does not mean a member of a particular group but means 'one of our friends'. This has been categorized as an example of Semantic Extension.

15.1.34 negative

In native use 'negative' is used to describe statements that mean 'no', as in the statement: 'We expected to receive a negative answer.'(BBC English Dictionary) The local non-native sense of 'negative' seems to be a semantic extension of this native sense.

While in the native sense it merely refers to something that is not positive, such as a refusal to a request, in the non-native sense it refers to the possibility of monetary loss as seen in the following statements taken from Business news articles:

'Although this sounded **negative** for gaining counters, it is still not clear....'

'On balance it would appear that the deal is **negative**.'

(See 'positive') The meaning here seems to be either 'unfavourable' or 'unprofitable'. This seems to be a Semantic Extension of the native sense of

`negative'.

15.1.35 never

Another word which is often used in a non-native sense in ME is `never'. According to the BBC Dictionary, `never' means `at no time in the past or future' or `not in any circumstance at all.' However in Malaysian English `never' is often semantically extended to cover a range of semantic functions such as Standard English `no', `did not', `don't' and `won't' (Killingley, 1965).

Likewise in the present data it is used to mean `have not' in the following sentence, taken from a Business news article:

`Asked about reports that part of the deal will be negotiated, Khalid said, "We never heard from IBRA officials on that."'

In the above example, the usage of `never' has crept into Acrolectal ME as a Business news article would be expected to use Acrolectal ME rather than Mesolectal ME.

In Singapore English `never' only occurs in Mesolectal Singapore English. Shelley(1995) refers to the Singapore English usage of the expression `never happen' as a `much used abbreviation used either in the context of predicting the future or making sudden promises.'

He gives the following examples of conversations having these functions:

Conversation 1

(Function:Predicting the future)

"When you grow up and marry a rich man with a Mercedes-Benz..."
"Never happen lah!"

Conversation 2

(Function: Making sudden promises)

"Darling, if you go to Patpong when you are in Bangkok, I'll keel you!"
"Never happen lah!"

He also quotes Tongue (1974) who had given the following example of the usage of 'never' in Singapore English:

"You took my pen?"
"Never!"

Thus in Singapore English non-native usage of 'never' occurs only in Mesolectal Singapore English while in the Malaysian English sample, it has been used in both Acrolectal and Mesolectal Malaysian English. Business news articles could be considered to be of Acrolectal level.

15.1.36 off

In native English when one says, 'Something is off' one means that an event is no longer going to happen or has been cancelled as in the sentence: 'The wedding is off.' In this usage the use of 'off' is limited to events such as weddings. The non-native usage of 'off' in the following sentence is a Semantic Extension of this usage:

'...the proposed disposal is off.'

Here the word 'off' is not the cancellation of an event but the changing of perhaps a corporate decision on the disposal of some shares.

15.1.37 overtake

In native usage, 'overtake' has a literal usage as well as an idiomatic one. The literal meaning is 'to go past a moving vehicle or a person ahead of you because you are going faster than they are' (OALD, 2000). Figuratively, if an event overtakes you, it happens unexpectedly or suddenly, before you are

ready for it, as in the context: '... all the changes that have overtaken Shetland lately.'(BBC English Dictionary).

The figurative sense has a negative connotation as in the sentence: 'The climbers were **overtaken** by bad weather' (OALD,2000):

This figurative sense of 'overtake' seems to be semantically related to the following usage of 'overtake':

'...when I allowed my anger to **overtake** common sense'.

Here it is a bad mood which 'overtakes' common sense. This idiomatic usage is a Semantic Extension of the idiomatic sense.

15.1.38 overturn

In native usage 'overturn', has a literal as well as a figurative meaning. Literally, if something overturns, it turns upside down or on its side. Figuratively, if someone with more authority than you overturns your decision, they change it. Another figurative sense of 'overturn' is to overthrow a government or system (BBC English Dictionary).

The use of 'overturn' in the following Business news article does not have any of the above native meanings:

'But clearly it was not enough to **overturn** the cautious mood currently permeating stock markets.'

However, the idea of upsetting the prevailing mood seems to be semantically related to the second figurative meaning, namely that of changing the status quo of a certain system or government.

15.1.39 portray as

The following sentence was seen in the Interactive Journal of an undergraduate:

'Sometimes we like to portray as what the Westerners do.'

In native usage, the word 'portray' means 'to act a particular role in a film or play'(OALD,2000). The above usage may be considered a Semantic Extension of this native sense. In the above context, the writer meant 'follow' or 'imitate' and not 'portray as'.

15.1.40 positive

In the BBC English Dictionary it is stated that 'a positive development or achievement is considered to be good or useful'. The local non-native sense of 'positive' seems to be a Semantic Extension of this native sense.

While in the native sense it merely refers to something that is 'a positive development or achievement', in the non-native sense it refers to the possibility of monetary gain or profitability. This is seen in the following statement:

'Berjaya Sports Toto also ended in **positive** territory adding 5 sen to RM5.20 on heavy volume.'

15.1.41 powered

According to the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (2000), 'powered' as a verb can have two possible meanings. The first meaning is 'to supply a machine or vehicle with the energy that makes it work' as in the sentence: 'The aircraft is **powered** by a jet engine'. The second meaning is 'to move or move something quickly and with great power as in the sentence: 'She **powered** her way into the lead'.

However, on a radio programme the following usage of 'powered' was heard:

'You are listening to 'Drive-Home Request' **powered** by HSBC Credit Card.'

The speaker probably meant 'sponsored' in the above context. This meaning is a Semantic Extension of the first of the two native senses of the verb

`powered' mentioned above.

15.1.42 proprietary

This term is used for goods made and sold by a particular company and protected by a registered trademark as in the case of a `proprietary brand'. The term is related to the ownership or the fact of owning something usually of some value (OALD, 2000). In the data it occurs as `proprietary works of art'. Here it has been semantically extended to the field of art. It means the ownership of works of art by the artist or creator.

15.1.43 put

ME speakers tend to use `put' as a general verb where native speakers would use more specific verbs. In yet another sentence heard at a Toastmaster's Speechcraft session, a speaker used `put' instead of `assigned':
`I was **put** to teach students who are secondary school students.'

(In the above sentence, the expression `who are secondary school students' is an example of a Redundant Expression, as a native speaker would have merely said: `... to teach secondary school students').

It was noted on several occasions that ME speakers have a tendency to substitute many native verbs with `put'. In the following sentences `put' has been used by ME speakers where native speakers would have used other verbs which have been given in brackets:

`I believe they are still not able to **put** even a smile to their neighbour.' (give)

`Do you want me to **put** hot water for you?' (prepare)

`That means he has to **put** his mind under control.' (place)

All these examples of `put' could be considered to be Semantic Extensions of the native usage of `put'.

15.1.44 recharged

The native sense of the word 'recharge' is limited to the literal level of 'recharging a battery, namely to fill it with electricity again after it has been used, by connecting it to a special piece of electrical equipment.'

The non-native version, which was recorded from a Business news article, seems to be a Semantic Extension of this sense:

'KLSE executive chairman said this will **recharge** further growth in the securities industry.'

Here the meaning seems to be figurative rather than literal. The meaning intended here could be 'provide a catalyst to'.

15.1.45 roll out/15.1.46 rolling

In the native sense, 'roll up' is a phrasal verb which has the literal sense of 'folding or wrapping something such as a carpet or mat into a cylindrical shape.'(BBC English Dictionary). The opposite of this would be to 'roll out' the carpet or mat. Both these senses are literal.

The non-native sense seems to be a Semantic Extension of this sense:

'Most other countries will only **roll out** their 3Gs towards the middle of 2002.'

It is not clear what the '3Gs' are, but the concept seems to be abstract or figurative. As is the case with 'roll out' the native sense of 'rolling' is also different from the ME usage. The traditional meaning is the movement of a round or cylindrical object such as 'a ball rolling down the slope'.

From this sense is derived the notion of thoughts 'rolling' from one's mind as shown in the following sentence:

'Her thoughts were **rolling**.'

This non-native form was used on more than one occasion at Toastmasters' meetings.

15.1.47 rough

In native English a 'rough' calculation or estimate would mean something that is 'not exact or not including all the details' (OALD,2000). In the present corpus, this meaning of the word 'rough' has been semantically extended in the following way:

'Workshop I have been conducting for the past two **rough** years.'

15.1.48 see

In native English 'see' has many meanings. There is the literal usage of 'see' as the act of perceiving through one's sense of sight. A figurative sense is 'to have an opinion' as in the sentence: 'Try to see things from her point of view'(OALD, 2000).

An extension of this figurative sense was observed in the following sentences:

'MIP **sees** structure plans as an integrated land use management tool.'(views)

'The first phase **sees** business ideas submitted by eager participants.'(evaluates)

Here the meaning is neither 'perceive through the sense of sight' nor 'have an opinion'. It is more like 'regards' or 'considers' in a context where the subject which does the 'seeing' is non-human. As such, in the above sentences, the word 'see' can be regarded as Semantic Extensions of the native figurative sense of 'have an opinion'.

15.1.49 shooting

In the following sentence uttered by a contestant at a speech contest, the

usage of 'shooting' appears non-native:

'I was just **shooting** my material one after the other and they did not understand.'

The speaker meant that he was using transparencies on the overhead projector so quickly during a presentation that the audience could not understand some of the things which he was saying. This could be a Semantic Extension of 'shoot' as saying something aloud, as in the American expression:

'You want to tell me something? OK, shoot!'

15.1.50 side with

There is a native sense of 'side' which means 'one of the opinions, attitudes or positions held by somebody in an argument or a business arrangement as in the sentence: 'We heard both sides of the argument'(OALD,2000). In this sense, 'side' is used as a noun. In Malaysian English it is often used as a verb as shown in the following sentence:

'Jane may have a problem where the principal may **side with** Mrs. Sally.'

The speaker meant that the principal may support the position or opinions held by Mrs. Sally rather than those held by Jane. This usage of 'side with' is a Semantic Extension of the native sense of 'be on the same side of'.

15.1.51 started out

In native usage 'to start out' is to begin a journey. It can also be used for the beginning of a career which began in a particular way that changed later. However in the data, 'started out' is used for an engineering firm:

'It **started out** as an engineering firm.'

This may be considered a Semantic Extension of the native sense of the

expression.

15.1.52 talk

In a native sense, the noun form of 'talk' means 'formal discussions'(BBC English Dictionary) while the ME sense seems to mean 'rumours' or 'speculations'.

'This confirms **talk** in the property market.'

This seems to be a Semantic Extension of the native sense.

15.1.53 vendors

According to the BBC Dictionary the word 'vendor' has two meanings. Firstly it is someone who sells things such as newspapers, cigarettes or hamburgers from a cart or stall. Secondly, it is a legal term for a person who is selling a house or a piece of land which he or she owns.

However, in the data there seems to be a semantic extension as the word 'vendor' is used for the retailers or marketing agents of a company, as in the sentence:

'The **vendors** of the three companies have guaranteed profit.'

15.1.54 widely

In a native sense, 'widely' means 'by a lot of people, in or to many places' as in the phrase: 'a widely held belief'. It can also mean 'to a large degree' as in the sentence: 'Standards vary widely'(OALD,2000).

The following usage of 'widely' in the data is a Semantic Extension of the second native meaning of 'widely' stated above:

'The government is **widely** expected to adopt a beauty-contest approach.'

15.1.55 witness

The word 'witness' is a formal word with limited meaning in native usage. According to OALD(2000) an eye-witness 'is a person who sees something for themselves and is able to describe it to other people.' However there seems to be a Semantic Extension of the word in the following sentence heard at a Toastmaster's meeting:

'...an attempt to **witness** by themselves a need to preserve the turtles.'

Here the word 'witness' is inappropriate as 'see' would have been sufficient.

15.1.56 young

In a native sense, the word 'young' can be used for people, animals and plants(BBC English Dictionary). However, in my data it has been semantically extended to mean 'new' as shown in the expression 'a **young** company'.

In many of the examples of semantic extension in the data, words and expressions which are only used in a literal sense in native English are used in a figurative sense in ME.

15.1.57 younger cousin

At a talk for teachers conducted by the Toastmasters, the expression 'my **younger cousin**' was used by a young speaker. This appears to be a Semantic Extension of the native expressions 'younger brother' or 'younger sister'.

15.1.58 zoom in

The figurative concept of 'zoom in' is actually derived from the field of photography. In photography it means 'to show the object which is being photographed from a distance at a closer range with the use of a zoom lens'(OALD, 2000).

A Semantic Extension of the native sense of this expression was heard at a conference when a paper presenter made the following comment:

'What we have done in the various advertisements that we actually **zoom in....**'

The subject of her presentation was the various ways in which men's magazines project the desired image of men. The expression 'zoom in' here means 'focus on'. This expression conveys the idea of having to go through a large number of advertisements and finally focussing only on a few which help the researchers to develop their hypothesis.

15.2 Types of Semantic Extension

Just as in the case of Semantic Shift, the researcher has divided the data into 'Denotative Semantic Extension' and 'Connotative Semantic Extension'. The following is a list of some samples of the analyzed words and their different meanings in the native and non-native contexts under 'Denotative Semantic Extension'

15.2.1 Denotative Semantic Extension

Word A: **at ease**

Native Meaning: feeling confident and comfortable

Non-native Meaning: to be relaxed

Context of use: 'She was **at ease** as she need not do the running around.'

Word B: **catch**

Native Meaning: to find or discover somebody doing something wrong

Non-native Meaning: to record (every 'pause-filler')

Context of use: 'My role is to **catch** all the pause-fillers.'

Word C: **customers**

Native Meaning: People who buy goods or services from a salesperson or a shop

Non-native Meaning: other companies purchasing goods or services from a particular company

Context of use: 'The **customers** of the acquired companies comprise of multinational companies.'

Word D: hard core

Native Meaning: having a belief or way of behaving that will not change/adjective used for pornography that shows or describes sexual activity in a detailed or violent way

Non-native Meaning: extremely (poor)

Context of use: 'Tens of thousands of **hard-core poor** benefited from this service.'

Word E: hurt

Native Meaning: physical or emotional pain

Non-native meaning: to be in a difficult position because you need something important especially money

Context of use: '...concern that a slower US economy may **hurt** profit growth.'

15.2.2 Connotative Semantic Extension

The following are examples of Connotative Semantic Extension:

Word A: side (verb)

Native Meaning(noun): 'one of the opinions, attitudes or positions held by somebody in an argument or a business arrangement

Non-native Meaning: to support the position or opinions held by someone

Context of Use: 'Jane may have a problem where the principal may **side with** Mrs. Sally.'

Word B: member

Native Meaning: one of a group

Non-native Meaning: one of our friends

Context of use: 'Maybe she forgot just like our **member** mentioned just now.'

Word C: powered

Native Meaning: supplied a machine or vehicle with the energy that makes it work

Non-native Meaning: sponsored

Context of use: 'You are listening to 'Drive-Home Request' **powered** by HSBC Credit Card.'

From the above, it can be seen Denotative Semantic Extension involves extensions in the meaning while in the case of Connotative Semantic Extension there are both extensions in the meaning as well as the acquisition of a negative or positive connotation or the loss of such connotative nuances of meaning. Thus 'member' and 'powered' have acquired positive connotation in their non-native usage when compared to their more neutral native senses.

All the non-native words under Semantic Extension have been equally subdivided into Denotative and Connotative Semantic Extension in Table 15.1 on the next page. The researcher has also identified the exact nature of the Connotative Semantic Extension according to the context of use. It is clear that there are more non-native words of Denotative than Connotative Semantic Extension in the corpus: there are 40 Denotative Semantic Extension words compared to 18 Connotative ones. It is also clear that the most common type of Connotative conversion is from neutral to positive which comprises 50% of the Connotative Semantic Extension words.

15.3 Conclusion of Semantic Extension

Semantic Extension refers to non-native words which are polysemous or figurative extensions of English words which have restricted meaning in the native context (Heah, 1989). Besides adding new polysemous or figurative meanings to a native word, Semantic Extension can also change the connotative sense of certain native words such as 'member' which has a neutral sense in native usage but a positive connotation in ME.

There are altogether 58 examples of Semantic Extension in the data, indicating that Semantic Extension is a common type of non-native variation in ME.

Table 15.1

Types of Semantic Extension

Denotative Semantic Extension	Connotative Semantic Extension
Aid	Better(positive to neutral sense)
At ease	Budget(neutral to positive connotation)
Award	Call (neutral to positive connotation)
Black-and-white songs	Discount (positive to negative)
Blur	Driven (neutral to positive connotation)
Build up	Gaps (neutral to negative connotation)
Cap	Get up (neutral to positive connotation)
Catch	Heating up (negative to positive)
Catered	Hungry (negative to positive)
Come out with	Member (neutral to positive)
Competitive with	Overturn(from negative to neutral)
Customers	Powered(neutral to positive)
Diluted	Recharged(neutral to positive)
Direct seller	Rolling(negative to positive)
Down	Rough(negative to neutral)
Environment	Side with(neutral to positive)
Exposed	Talk(neutral to negative)
Fill	Witness(neutral to positive)
Geared up	
Grow	Neutral to positive: 9
Hard-core poor	Neutral to negative: 2
High-flying	Positive to neutral: 1
Hurt	Negative to neutral: 2
Ingrained	Negative to positive:3
Negative	Positive to negative: 1
Never	(total = 18)
Off	
Overtake	
Portray as	
Positive	
Proprietary	
Put	
See	
Shooting	
Started out	
Vendors	
Widely	
Young	
Younger cousin	
Zoom in	
(Total = 40)	