

A FRAME SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF *FOREIGNER*, *EXPATRIATE*  
AND *IMMIGRANT* IN MALAYSIAN ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS

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## ABSTRACT

Synonyms are a common lexical phenomenon where a pair or group of words bear semantic similarities. In a Cognitive Linguistics perspective, however, meaning goes beyond what is denoted by dictionaries with the inclusion of both linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge to fully comprehend lexical meaning. Utilizing Fillmore and Barsalou's theories on frame semantics, this study will look at how 3 synonymous nouns that denote "one who does not belong to a country"; *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* are understood with the usage of Malaysian English newspapers. The study is carried out in three parts: A structural analysis, semantic analysis and finally the formation of the frames, made up of attributes to represent the background knowledge for each synonym, based on Barsalou's interpretation of the CAR frame. The study finds that although the synonyms denote "outsider", *expatriate* has a more positive connotation and is associated with more positive attributes whereas *foreigner* and *immigrant* have a more negative connotation and associated with negative attributes.

## ABSTRAK

Sinonim merupakan fenomena linguistik yang biasa di mana dua pasangan ataupun sekumpulan perkataan membawa maksud yang sama. Walau bagaimanapun, dalam perspektif linguistik kognitif, maksud perkataan melampaui batasan kamus. Untuk memahami maksud perkataan dengan sepenuhnya, pengetahuan linguistic serta pengetahuan am diperlukan. Dengan rujukan teori-teori frame Fillmore dan Barsalou, kajian ini melihat pemahaman sinonim yang membawa 'seorang yang tidak berasal dari negara ini, iaitu *foreigner*, *expatriate* dan *immigrant* dalam akhbar Bahasa Inggeris Malaysia. Kajian ini dibahagikan kepada tiga bahagian: Analisis struktur, analisis semantik dan pembentukan frame yang terdiri daripada pengetahuan latar belakang berasaskan interpretasi CAR frame Barsalou. Didapati bahawa walaupun sinonim-sinonim tersebut membawa maksud 'orang luar', *expatriate* mempunyai konotasi yang lebih positif dan dikaitkan dengan atribut positif manakala *foreigner* dan *immigrant* mempunyai konotasi yang lebih negatif dan dikaitkan dengan atribut negatif.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

In this dissertation, the following abbreviations are used:

DBKL= Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur

KLCC= Kuala Lumpur City Centre

SVO= Subject + Verb + Object

SVOC= Subject + Verb + Object + Complement

SVOA= Subject + Verb + Object + Adverbial

SVC= Subject + Verb + Complement

SVA= Subject + Verb + Adverbial

SAVO= Subject + Adverbial + Verb + Object

SAVC= Subject + Adverbial + Verb + Complement

SPAD= The Land Public Transport Commission

UPP= Anti-Smuggling Unit

EX= Example

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# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

Human migration is known as a movement of people from one place to another with the purpose of settling down, whether permanently or temporarily in the new location. This movement is often over long distances from the country of origin to another. Upon arrival at the new country, these people are referred to as “outsiders”, or more specifically, they can be referred to as *foreigners*, *expatriates* and *immigrants*. They differ from tourists, as the purpose of them coming to the country is different. Tourists visit for leisurely purposes whereas *foreigners*, *expatriates* and *immigrants* come to the country for reasons such as economic opportunities or better quality of life. The process of migration, however, is not just a linear process. With the movement of people of different cultures into the country, there are bound to be effects, whether negative or positive. In general, this would impact the destination country’s economy or social situation, whether in a positive or negative way.

Due to human migration, their entry and presence of *foreigners*, *expatriates* and *immigrants* in countries worldwide is also no longer an uncommon occurrence, including Malaysia. When we look at terms *foreigners*, *expatriates* and *immigrants*, most users of the language would know that these nouns denote “outsiders”. To define these nouns in a more accurate manner, we will look at several definitions acquired from several online dictionaries namely the Oxford (2016), Cambridge (2016) and Collins (2016) dictionary. All definitions acquired were in relation to the “outsider” as a human. The definitions of *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* according to the three online dictionaries are as follows

<b>Oxford Dictionary Online</b>	
<i>Foreigner</i>	A person born in or coming from a country other than one's own.
<i>Expatriate</i>	A person who lives outside their native country.
<i>Immigrant</i>	A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

Table 1.1 Oxford Dictionary Online definitions of the synonymous nouns

<b>Cambridge Dictionary Online</b>	
<i>Foreigner</i>	A person who comes from another country.
<i>Expatriate</i>	Someone who does not live in their own country.
<i>Immigrant</i>	Person from a foreign land.

Table 1.2 Cambridge Dictionary Online definitions of the synonymous nouns

<b>Collins Dictionary Online</b>	
<i>Foreigner</i>	a) A person from a foreign country; alien. b) An outsider or interloper.
<i>Expatriate</i>	a) A person who lives in a foreign country. b) An exile; expatriate person.
<i>Immigrant</i>	A person who comes to a country in order to settle here.

Table 1.3 Collins Dictionary Online definitions of the synonymous nouns

Based on all the definitions above, it can be summarised that *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* were people who came from other countries and are living in a foreign country due to this similarity in their 'semantic core'. In term of a Malaysian context, this group of people share the same 'semantic core' that is, "one who does not belong to the country". Due to this similarity, it can be said that *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* were synonymous to each other as they referred to people who had left their home country behind to move and live in a new one, be it temporarily or permanently. However, the dictionary meaning proves insufficient in defining these three synonyms as the denotative meaning does not provide much, or other information in terms of its usages or the different connotation that exist among each of them and this is what this study intends to do; identify the connotative differences between the synonyms while bridging the gap between cultural knowledge and experience with the understanding and usage of synonyms.



In general, synonyms are a common lexical phenomenon where a pair or a group of words bear similar semantic resemblance with each other. As a phenomenon that has a longstanding tradition in linguistics, the study of synonyms, or of lexical semantics in general, had traditionally been of formal linguistics. Evans, Bergan et al. (2007) states that “this modular view of the mind reinforces the idea that modern linguistics is justified in separating the study of language into distinct sub-disciplines, not only on the ground of practicality, but because the components of language are wholly distinct, and, in terms of organization, incommensurable” (p. 4).

Since the 1970s to the present day, cognitive linguistics has paved a new way for the study of word meaning. While it acknowledges that it may be useful to treat the different linguistic components as being distinct from each other, it studies the relationship between worldly experiences, conceptual system and the semantic structure encoded by language. Meaning, in this case for synonyms, go beyond what has been denoted in dictionaries and according to a cognitive linguistics view, it can also be a reflection of how people think, reason and imagine. Cruse (2001) defines synonyms as “lexical items whose senses are identical in respect of ‘central’ semantic traits but differ, if at all, only in respect of what we may describe as ‘minor’ or ‘peripheral’ traits” (p.267). In other words, despite the similarity in denotative meanings, synonyms are often not always interchangeable because they “express the same concept in different manners, for different contexts, and/or different perspectives” (Liu & Epino, 2012, p.198).

With frameworks that welcome the inclusion of world knowledge in linguistic studies, cognitive linguistics is committed in “investigating how the various aspects of linguistic knowledge emerge from a common set of human cognitive abilities upon which they draw, rather than assuming that they are produced in encapsulated modules of the mind” (Evans, Bergan et al., 2007, p. 4). Thus, meaning is seen as a manifestation of the conceptual structure, that is, a collection or embodiment of the encyclopaedic knowledge

that is established within a schematized network of structures. As Evans and Green (2006) puts it, “to study language from this perspective is to study the patterns of conceptualization” (p. 5).

This study will be an attempt to examine the synonyms that denote “one who does not belong in the country”; *expatriate*, *foreigner* and *immigrant* in local English newspapers through a cognitive linguistics perspective. More specifically, it will rely on Fillmore’s frame semantics to study the similarities and differences between the synonyms as well as discover and create the frames that consist of background knowledge for each of the synonyms.

## **1.2 Background of Study**

### **1.2.1 Presence of Foreign Workers in Malaysia**

The presence of outsiders in Malaysia is not an uncommon occurrence as most of them have entered the country due to employment reasons. During the 1980’s, there was a shortage of unskilled labourers in the manufacturing sector which led to an influx of foreign workers (Devadason, 2013, p. 424) into the country. This placed Malaysia on the map as the Asian country with significant reliance on foreign workers (Pillai, 1999, as quoted by Abdul-Rahman, et al., 2012). At present, foreign workers are still commonly hired especially in sectors such as manufacturing, construction and plantation (Abdul-Rahman, et al., 2012). However, they are now open to work in other sectors where local labor is unavailable. Devadason (2013) states that these foreign workers consist of expatriates (skilled technocrats, professional and managerial workers) and contract workers (unskilled or semi-skilled workers). According to Amnesty International, Malaysia recorded 2.2 million foreign workers in the country in 2010, excluding those who were unregistered illegal workers. Most of these foreign workers came from regions nearby such as Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines, whereby these countries have been given legal entry permission to export these workers into

Malaysia. The influx of these foreign workers have been attributed to several factors. Aside from meeting the labour demands of the sectors, the reliance on foreign workers were also due to the reason of low wages and the reluctance of local Malaysians in performing tasks which were deemed “dirty, demeaning and dangerous (3-D) jobs” (Devadason, 2013, p. 424). However, instead of raising the wages and improving working conditions, employers would still choose to hire foreign labour, mainly because they accepted lower wages which kept the overall operational costs low. Despite the short term benefits of having foreign workers in Malaysia, namely to boost the development in the country, there are also long term consequences of that would seem to be detrimental to the society.

Results from a survey carried out by Abdul-Rahman, et al. (2012) among local respondents who were working in the construction industry which consisted of project managers, supervisors, quantity surveyors, contract managers, engineers and executive directors showed both the positive and negative impact of having foreign labourers in the country. Among some of the positive feedback include being a preference for the employers to hire, due to low wages as well as being accepted by other local workers despite having a poor image. The negative points, on the other hand, include an increase of criminal activity or social issues, the entry of illegal workers into Malaysia, and an overdependence on foreign workers. Aside from that Mohamad, et al. (2012) also stressed that the continuous influx of foreign workers would “incur stress on public amenities and services, such as health and education facilities” (p. 534).

The above discussed foreign workers as a general whole, without any distinction given to the *foreigners*, *immigrants* or *expatriates*. However, it did shed light on the general situation and preconceived perception that Malaysians had of outsiders who are currently in Malaysia, which is the subject matter of this study. Thus it would be interesting to see if this general positive or negative impact would reflect in the frames of

the synonyms, or would there be a difference. As the study is concerned with the connotative differences that each of this synonym carry, the corpus selected for the study should reflect real-life usage examples of the synonyms used. In line with the cognitive linguistics approach, the development of the semantics have begun focusing on the analysis on language used in real life situations, utilizing empirical data and on models which entail issues of mental representation, conceptualisation, experiences and perception (Storjohann, 2010). In the context of this study, the Malaysian local English newspapers, that is *The Star*, *New Straits Times*, *The Sun* and *Malay Mail* will be utilized.

### **1.2.2 Effects of Mass Media**

In this section, non-linguistic areas, such as media studies were included as they played a role in shaping thoughts and perceptions of a community in regards to certain issues. Mass media are seen as effective and powerful tools for disseminating news to a large audience because “they discursively construct reality through framing, and in doing so, can potentially shape public opinion and behaviours” (Entman, 2007) (as quoted by Li & Lu, p.220, 2009). The framing here Furthermore, media is also viewed as vehicles for “social control” (Viswanath and Demers, 1999) (as quoted by Azlan, Rahim, et al, p.117, 2012) through the control of content and relevant information made available to the society. Therefore, news media is deemed powerful in this sense as through topic selection and specific reconstruction of events, they can identify, define and articulate reality based on how they see it.

In publishing news articles for newspapers, news framing is a process that highlights certain aspects of an issue over others, granting understanding of issues by activating knowledge, cultural values and morals which creates the context for understanding (Vreese, 2005). The linguistic process that is involved in news framing is known as lexical choice, a common process that we undergo everyday, whether consciously or subconsciously, in writing and speaking. This act can also be seen used

in the corpus of this study as the choice of words play a vital function in this process as it construct context for understanding to occur. The role of words can also reveal a journalist or newspaper publishers' biasness. This is specifically known as media bias, a biasness that occurs in the choice of reporting or covering news. Thus, depending on the choice of word and context it appears in, we will be able to get a connotative sense of the word meaning. However, in the context of synonymy, this process becomes slightly complicated. Synonyms are said to have an infinite possibility of dimensions. Each of these dimension contains variation in style, connotation, or even truth conditions (Cruse, 2001). Evans & Green (2006) state that according to cognitive linguistics, while words do have their coded meaning or concepts, the nature of the meaning is "protean"; meaning will shift according to context.

### **1.2.3 Encyclopaedic Knowledge**

As a linguistic approach that holds an encyclopaedic view of language, context is thus important in determining the lexical meaning (cognitive linguistic studies focus on usage-based approaches). It is said to be constructed "on line" when the contextual information has been made known (Evans, Bergan et al., 2007, p. 12). That is to say words are not pre-assembled but its concepts formed from encyclopaedic knowledge and dependent on the context. Thus, lexical items function as the point of access to our encyclopaedic knowledge (Langacker, 1987). It taps into specific part of this vast network of embodied knowledge and helps in the construal of lexical meaning when used in context. One of the most influential theories that encapsulate encyclopaedic semantics is Fillmore's model of frame semantics. This theory, which plays central role in this study, argues that concepts, or units of meanings do not float randomly in the mind but are organized accordingly with its associated experiences. Fillmore (1982, p. 126) gives the example of the relation between *man/boy* and *woman/girl*. It was found that the term *girl* is used for female humans of a significantly higher age compared to *boy* for male humans. He

concluded that “*man, boy, woman and girl* evoked frames that include not just biological sexual distinction but also differences in attitudes and behaviour towards the sexes that would explain the traditional asymmetry in the use of *boy/girl* and the most recent change in the use of *woman...*” (Croft & Cruse, 2004, p. 9). Thus, for this study, while all the synonyms in question have the same central meaning, that is “one who does not belong in the country”, it would be interesting to note how its meaning will be evoked from our worldly assumptions, thoughts, feelings and experiences from our encyclopaedic knowledge in the context of the local English newspapers.

### **1.3 Statement of Problem**

Synonyms are often perceived to be identical in meaning and can therefore be used interchangeably. Furthermore, definitions from dictionaries (section 1.1) may denote the meaning of the synonyms but do not provide further explanations to distinguish the finer shades of the connotative differences between them.

Storjohann (2010) states that synonyms have predominantly been defined as bearing similarity in meaning which has made the study of its relationship as rather uninteresting. Thus, there was a lack of comprehensive studies that addressed how synonyms are conceptualized and constructed in actual use. As Cruse (2004, p. 57) as quoted by Storjohann, 2010, p. 69) states, “much research remains to be done in the field of synonymy”. There is also lack of studies conducted which addresses how synonyms are conceptualized and constructed in actual use (Storjohann, 2010, p. 69). This study will therefore be a contribution to fill in the gap of usage-based synonymous studies through a frame-based approach.

### **1.4 Research Objectives and Questions**

Cognitive linguistic analysis often consists of structural (i.e. form-based) and semantic (i.e. meaning-based) sub-analysis. Given this principle, this study has three components. The first component is a detailed description of the data extracted from local newspapers

which will be shown in various figures in this thesis. The second one is to identify semantic properties that contribute to the construction of synonymous words. These properties are discovered from the contextual information surrounding the nouns. The third component is to explain the first and second results by applying the tools provided by the frame semantic approach.

The objectives of the study are:

- (1) To study the structural properties of synonymous nouns in local English newspapers
- (2) To identify the semantic properties of the synonymous nouns reflected in local English newspapers
- (3) To apply the frame-based approach to the study of synonymous nouns

The research questions of this study are:

- (1) What are the structural properties of the synonymous nouns in local English newspapers?
- (2) What are the semantic properties of the synonymous nouns that are reflected in the local English newspapers?
- (3) How does the frame-based approach in cognitive linguistics account for the synonymous nouns?

### **1.5 Significance of Study**

This study is able to further add knowledge to the complex linguistic phenomenon of synonym formation. It is also an attempt to study the semantic properties of the synonymous nouns set through a frame semantic approach in newspapers which has not been attempted before.

## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Overview of Synonyms

Although synonyms are an uncommon linguistic phenomenon, difficulties still occur when it comes to giving it an exact and precise definition. This is due to the different approaches and definitions that have occurred due to the different types of synonyms available. However, in this study, a cognitive linguistic perspective will be utilised. As a whole, Cruse (2001) states that the synonyms can generally be defined as “lexical items whose senses are identical in respect of ‘central’ semantic traits, but differ, if any at all only in respect of what we may provisionally describe as ‘minor’ or ‘peripheral’ traits (p. 267). These synonyms can be classified into several types. Cruse (2001) explains the need for a classification, as there were some lexical items which were considered to be more synonymous than others and this raised possibility that there could be some form of a synonymy scale among them. The scale of synonymy is also seen to be continuous (Cruse, 2001, p. 488). According to this scale, there were three degrees of synonymy. This would range from absolutely identical lexical items, cognitive synonyms and near-synonyms.

Absolute synonym are said to be exactly identical to each other. However, this form of synonymy is one of the most uncommon ones where there was possibility that it did not exist. By looking at several contextual relations, a single discrepancy would be proof that their synonymous relations are, in fact, not absolute. Cruse (2001) states “...since it is inconceivable that two items should be equinormal in all contexts and differ in respect of some other contextual relation and since, for our purposes, what is not reflected in differential contextual semantic relations is not meaning, it follows that equinormality in all contexts is the same as identity of meaning” (p.268).



Near-synonyms, on the other hand, are lexical items that carry the same denotative meaning but differ in terms of the implications, attitudes and connotations the lexical item has and thus, is seen not to be exactly interchangeable in sentences. The senses of Near-synonyms are also said to “overlap to a great degree, but not completely” (Murphy, 2003, p. 155). These would include lexical pairs such as mist/fog, stream/brook or dive/plunge.

And finally, cognitive synonyms are a form of synonymy has two definitions in which both should be equally taken into account:

a. Cognitive synonyms can imply sentences with equivalent truth-conditions and propositions which are mutually entailing.

b. Cognitive synonyms are described as words with the same cognitive meaning or word sense (Cann et al., 2009, p. 9) Thus, cognitive synonymy is regarded as a sense relation. Moreover, this type of synonymy is concerned with sameness or identity, not similarity of meaning. This is a pragmatic or context-dependent understanding of synonymy.

Therefore, despite the similarity in meanings, synonyms are often not always interchangeable because they “express the same concept in different manners, for different contexts, and/or different perspectives” (Liu & Espino, 2012, p. 198). As Riemer (2012) noted, in lexical semantics, synonyms may have the same denotation but the difference lay in their connotative meanings. Denotative, connotative and logical-formal features have always been considered feasible theoretically but what these concepts lack is the principle and explanation behind the construction of synonymous contexts as well as lack of accommodation of sense-relational variability and flexibility. Storjohann (2010) noted that “Conventionally, lexical-semantic relations have not been examined on the basis of patterns that emerge from language use, and traditional classifications have not attempted to provide plausible explanations as to how synonymy is established in communicational situations” (p.71).

## 2.2 Structural and Formal Linguistic Approach to Synonymous Studies

Previously, a structural approach was initially taken in the study of lexical semantics. Weisgerber (1927, as quoted by Geeraerts, 2006), one of the pioneering linguists of structural semantics, states that the study of meaning should be synchronic, non-psychological and structural. Language was defined as an autonomous intralinguistic system of relations between words, organized on the basis of lexical fields (Lehrer, 1974). Thus, word meanings are seen as relational with other words in the system. Structural semanticists employ three distinct structural relations among semantic relations that as the basic methodologies of lexical semantics namely semantic field analysis, unanalyzed lexical relations such as antonymy, synonymy and hyponymy and finally, syntagmatic lexical relations.

Thus, language was seen as an “external object” and had clear structures. This view of language allowed word concepts to be broken down into several semantic features. For example, STALLION and MARE. STALLION can be broken down to [EQUINE, MALE] while MARE is [EQUINE, FEMALE] (Cruse, 2004). Truth conditions were also accounted for in order for the meanings to exist in the real world. However, Fillmore argued that a wide range of linguistic phenomena could not be captured by structural semantics, also known as semantic features and/or truth-conditional semantics.

With much criticism to structural semantics soon emerged the generativist, also known as formalist view of lexical semantics. Taking a decompositional approach to language, it is a combination of “a basic structural semantic methodology, a mentalist philosophy of language and a formalized descriptive analysis” (Geeraerts, 2002, p. 4). Generativist description was introduced by Katz and Fodor in 1963 where it was set to describe lexical semantics as part of formal grammar so most studies within the generative lexical semantics scope dealt with “the development of a logical formalism to be used either for the deconstruction of word meaning along the lines of Katz and Fodor” (Paradis,

2013, p. 3). The purpose of this formalization was eventually useful for the computational field especially in corpus linguistics. This is evident from synonymous studies carried out across all languages whereby a corpus linguistic approach is often utilised.

### **2.3 Corpus-based Approach to Synonymous Studies**

Some synonymous studies include a study conducted on a pair of Mandarin near synonym adjectives carrying the meaning ‘to be convenient’ by Chief, Huang, Chen, Tsai and Chang (2000), despite the difference in language, the synonyms were noted to have different syntactical implications although similar in meaning. Both studies incorporated the usage of corpus data alongside analysis of syntactical and semantic of the synonyms.

Liu and Espino (2012), who have done a few studies on synonyms, took the study of synonyms a step further by forming profiles using the Behavioral Profile for a set of synonymous adverbs actually, genuinely, really, truly. Apart from the usual analysis of syntactical and semantics function and usage of corpus, a frequency test was carried out to ascertain the differences and similarities of the adverbs. Despite being defined as being synonymous in dictionaries, through this study, ‘actually’ differs significantly from ‘really’ and ‘truly’ in meaning and function. ‘Actually’ is presented as intensifier together with ‘really’. In actuality fact, ‘actually’ is predominantly used as a disjunct and rarely used as an adjective intensifier and emphazier unlike ‘really’. If used as an intensifier, ‘actually’ is used as an intensifier of verbs and adjectives and seldom occurs with adjectives and verbs of emotion, attitudes, desire and cognition.

Aside from that, the incorporation of non-linguistic theories were also seen in the study entitled Near Synonyms as Co-extensive Categories: ‘high’ and ‘tall’ revisited’ by John R. Taylor (2002). It explores the near synonym pair ‘high’ and ‘tall’ and argues that words offer different construals of verticality according to MacLaury’s Domain of Colour with belief that perfect or full synonyms are a rarity in English language. However, this

notion is still a debatable issue among linguists as there are some who say that the non-existence of synonym is just a methodological assumption.

The objective of the study is to study the analogies between the distribution of 'high' and 'tall' based on the phenomenon of the 'co-extensive' colour terms and thus utilizes the framework of MacLaury's Domain of Colour. Colours have sometimes been used as ground for development and validation of semantic theories. This particular theory involves the individual testing of subjects in 3 conditions, (i) Naming (ii) Mapping (iii) Focus selection. Overall, the findings of the study showed that 'high' is more often used compared to 'tall'. 'High' can be used to describe a wider range of entities compared to 'tall' which is more often used for humans. Based on the questionnaire results, the users of a language are prepared to use 'tall' to other ranges of entities if requested to do so. Based on co-extension, 'high' can be considered the dominant term whereas 'tall' is the recessive term, despite the problems that were aforementioned.

As a whole, corpus-based studies on language focused on collocations and co-occurrences of surrounding parts of speech to differentiate or find similarities between the synonyms. This approach successfully opened up questions as to how language and meaning is categorized or modelled in the mind, since there is a level of complexity in the case of synonyms where they do are not exactly synonymous. The discovery, thus, disapproves the generativist belief that language can be studied as a separate entity from other cognitive processes as traditionally, the view of lexical semantics from prestructuralist to the generativist era held a traditional dictionary view whereas cognitive linguistics held an encyclopaedic view to language.

#### **2.4 Distinction between Dictionary View and Encyclopaedic View of Language**

In the study of semantics, a dictionary view divides the comprehension of meaning into two categories; a dictionary component and an encyclopaedic component. The dictionary component consists of the meaning or definition of a word, which plays an important role

in lexical semantics whereas the encyclopaedic component includes external knowledge aside from linguistic one, including world knowledge, through experiences in which we derive this knowledge from. These two components are two totally separated bodies; lexical meaning stands on its own and is not influenced by the experiences of the world. Much like dictionaries, this view also believed that words can be defined structurally such as a dictionary in our minds. In other words, this distinguishes semantics and pragmatics as word meanings and context are thought of to be distinct and looked at separately.

The dictionary view also views the knowledge of word meaning as detached from other world knowledge be it cultural, social or physical. While the knowledge of language is stored in the mental lexicon, other knowledge is seen to exist out of the language component.

The separation of knowledge or word meaning and external knowledge is deemed to be rather problematic. Firstly, the separation of the knowledge of semantics and world knowledge distinguishes the connotation and denotation of words. Evans and Green (2006) gave the example of bucket and pail which share the same denotation; cylindrical vessels that carry water. However, the synonyms may have different connotations for different speakers and cultures. For certain speakers, a pail can be made of material such as metal or wood but not plastic and it may refer to a different, perhaps smaller size as compared to bucket. Bucket also exists in a different linguistic distribution. We say bucket and spade as a pair but hardly pail and spade. Therefore, cognitive linguists argue that the exclusion of certain information to the denotation of the word while including other types of information is rather arbitrary as there is no solid basis as to how this division is made.

Secondly, yet another problem with this view of language is the background knowledge. The dictionary view assumes that words, although related to other words through semantic relations such as synonymy, can still be independent of context. Arguments from linguists such as Fillmore (1982) and Langacker (1987) have provided

ample evidence that language is never understood independently but rather within frames or domains of experience.

Next, another problem that is identified with the dictionary view of lexical is the difference between sense and reference. In this view, a word is limited to its sense which is a stark contrast to cognitive linguistics where it holds a usage-based approach that words become meaningful through usage. This is rather different from the dictionary view which places primary importance on word sense.

Apart from that, the differentiation of semantics and pragmatics as cognitive linguists have argued, is that this division has resulted in “a rather artificial boundary between the two types of meaning” (Evans & Green, 2006, p. 212). Meaning of words often arise with the aid of contextual information and certain linguistic occurrences cannot be comprehended through the isolation of either semantics or pragmatics. Saeed (2003) gave the deictic expressions bring, take, today and tomorrow as examples. Isolated, these expressions do carry meaning. However, their meaning cannot be fully determined without context. Similarly, a note that says ‘be back in an hour’ would be highly unhelpful if it is void from the context of location, from what time is the hour counted from and other related information to fully comprehend the meaning of the message. Thus, cognitive linguists have concluded that linguistic and world knowledge cannot be separated and thus exist under a continuum.

Due to the loopholes found in the dictionary view of meaning, cognitive linguists therefore rejected it in favour of an encyclopaedic view of word meaning. While the dictionary view dictates a model of knowledge system that is structured around linguistic meaning, an encyclopaedic view represents a system of knowledge that is structured around the conceptual knowledge that underlies linguistic meaning. This is an important factor that should be noted for this study. Therefore, the encyclopaedic view takes into account a wider range of phenomenon aside from a purely linguistic one.

Similar to the dictionary view, the encyclopaedic view also has a set of characteristics that is associated with this model of knowledge system. Firstly, there is no distinction between semantics and pragmatics. Both of this knowledge, according to cognitive linguists are considered to be semantics knowledge and cannot be distinguished from other types of knowledge, both linguistic and non-linguistic. There is, thus, only encyclopaedic knowledge. This view of language exists due to the usage-based perspective of cognitive linguistics whereby words develop meaning through the context of usage.

Next, the encyclopaedic view of language is also structured. According to Evans and Green (2006), “the view that there is only encyclopaedic knowledge does not entail that the knowledge we have connected to any given word is a disorganized chaos” (p. 216). Encyclopaedic knowledge is viewed as a system of structured knowledge which is connected as a network whereby not all knowledge linked to the word has an equal standing. For example, the word banana includes information regarding its colour, texture, smell, taste, shape, how it is harvested, whether we like it or not and so forth. Certain information would be more central compared to others to the meaning of the word.

Langacker (1987) states that the centrality of information is related to how salient aspects of encyclopaedic knowledge are when associated to the meaning of the word. He divided the meaning into four types namely conventional, generic, intrinsic and characteristic knowledge. The centrality of the knowledge of a word is established depending on the context the word is used in and also how common the particular knowledge is in relation to the four types of knowledge stated.

Thirdly, the encyclopaedic view holds a distinction between encyclopaedic meaning and contextual meaning. The meaning of word is seen to occur through the context of usage and the selection of the suitable meaning is dependent on this. The word safe could mean ‘not likely to cause harm’ in the context of a child playing with a soft

toy or 'unlikely to come to harm' in context of a location that poses no threat to visitors. This notion is similar to the phenomenon of frame dependent meaning whereby the discourse provides guidance to the encyclopaedic information that is prompted by the word. Therefore, "fully specified pre-assembled knowledge do not exist, but are selected and formed from encyclopaedic knowledge" (Evans & Green, 2006, p. 221).

Yet another characteristic of the encyclopaedic view is that lexical are viewed as points of access to encyclopaedic knowledge. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, words are not pre-packaged knowledge but instead, are keys to unlocking the vast encyclopaedic knowledge in our minds.

The final characteristic is the most vital; encyclopaedic knowledge is dynamic. While the central meaning of a word is stable, the encyclopaedic knowledge states that a word acts as the point of access and is always changing and expanding. For example, we know of football generally as a ball that is used in a game which revolves around two teams trying to score points by kicking the ball into the opponent's goal. As we continue watching football, we soon learn about the different terms such as foul and offside, the different leagues, players and football teams which contribute new information apart from the central meaning of football.

Thus, language in general is seen as a vital part of cognition and therefore cannot be studied without reference to the human cognition process. Paradis (2013) claims that it is a "socio-cognitive framework in which lexical items are inextricably associated with language users' bodily, perceptual and cognitive experiences of cultural and historical phenomena" (p. 3). The usage or meaning of words is limited to the subjectivity of the act of social communication. Storjohann (2010), on the other hand, states that the construction of meaning is equivalent to categorization, conceptualization and knowledge representation. Lexical meaning is seen as dynamic and dependent on encyclopedic knowledge.



The framework of cognitive linguistics highlights a direct connection of lexical items or expressions to a conceptual structure. Language is seen as a vital part of human comprehension or cognition and the role of lexemes are seen to evoke conceptual patterns in cognition. Hence, “there are no stable word meanings, rather meanings of words are dynamic, context- sensitive and construed on-line” (Paradis, 2013, p. 4).

### **2.5 Storjohann’s Cognitive Linguistic Approach in Studying Synonyms**

When it came to studying synonyms in terms of cognitive linguistics, the study of language took on a usage-based approach whereby how meaning is constructed became the main question (Storjohann, 2010). This is due to view that language is seen as dynamic as it is context-dependent. She also states that so far, there has been no comprehensive studies done in corpus linguistics that aim to address how synonyms are conceptualized and constructed in actual discourse or language use, neither were there studies done that entailed issues of world knowledge embodiment and representation in the mind. Thus Storjohann took the liberty of examining a wide number of German synonyms in language use through a corpus of texts from German newspapers through cognitive principles. The article studied the cognitive aspects through pragmatics methods from the contextual environment of the corpus texts. The study was not focused on looking for the similarities and differences in denotative or connotative meaning, neither was it done to analyze the syntactic structure of the synonyms. Based on a series of experiments, it was found that syntactic criteria were often ignored when it came to the judgment of (Storjohann, 2010, p. 72). Storjohann’s study main objective is to study how meaning is constructed in a context of language in real usage. Synonyms are seen as “conceptual relation that represents experience, in which similarity of concepts are conventionally encoded and externalized by linguistic patterns” (Storjohann, 2010, p. 72). Applying traditional methods of synonymous studies such as cause-effect conceptualization, conceptualization conditionality, conceptualization implication, contextual construction on his data,

Storjohann's study found that these methods were inadequate in real-life data application. She concludes that synonyms operate on a conceptual level where synonyms are not just lexical relations between two or more items that share semantic features but are connected to the same concepts in the mind. It also appeared that speakers of the language make judgements based on different underlying conceptual mechanisms and that the synonyms that were analysed operate on a conceptual level. To construe the meaning of the lexical items, speakers of the language had to rely on both their linguistic and non-linguistic information and knowledge with restriction to the communicative and linguistic aspects. Storjohann's general overview indicates that linguistic patterns can do more than just show us the structural patterns in which synonyms exist in. It also reveals information to piece together how its meaning can be derived cognitively.

## **2.6 Fillmore's Theory of Frames**

As mentioned in the earlier part of the chapter, this study will look at synonyms from a cognitive linguistics perspective whereby language is viewed as encyclopaedic. And thus, Storjohann's study has indicated that synonyms operate on a higher conceptual level that transcends beyond linguistic form. Meaning or the semantic structure is understood through a key or access to a whole inventory of knowledge that has been structured in the mind. Generally, words cannot be understood as independent entities as they are all connected on a bigger network of knowledge. This knowledge is gained through experiences from social interaction and the world around us. In line with this approach, two prominent theories that have emerged are Frame Semantics by Charles Fillmore and the Theory of Domains by Robert Langacker.

This study will discuss largely on frame semantics as it is an important basis to this research. Moreover, these two theories form the basis of encyclopaedic semantics. Evans & Green (2006) states that "Langacker argues that basic domains, knowledge structures derived from pre-conceptual sensory-perceptual experience, form the basis of

more complex abstract domains which correspond to the semantic frames proposed by Fillmore” (p. 207). Thus, these two types of structure make up encyclopaedic knowledge. Having discussed the encyclopaedic view of language and how it impacts the study of synonymy and lexical semantics in general, further explanation in regards to Charles Fillmore’s frame semantics will be discussed. Fillmore’s work on frame semantics, in particular, has been rather influential which begun in descriptive linguistics and later on extended to the categorization of knowledge structure, bridging the gap of the study of language and the cognition process. Prior to the discovery of frame semantics, Fillmore first began exploring the concept behind the co-occurrence of phrases and sentences due to transformational syntax. Thus, he studied the distributional patterns of individual verbs (Cienki, 2010). Soon, the study of syntax was extended to semantics. Fillmore (1961) quote, “I began to believe that certain kinds of groupings of verbs and classifications of clause types could be stated more meaningfully if the structures with which verbs were initially associated were described in terms of the semantic roles of their associated arguments” (p. 68).

Fillmore then delved into Transformational Generative Grammar and introduced ‘case frames’ which “specified roles of the nominals which could occur with a given verb” (Fillmore, 1968, as quoted by Cienki, 2010, p. 171). His well-known research is the ‘RISK frame’ where all lexical denoting the possibility of an unwelcome outcome were analyzed and described through deep valence description. However, he soon realized that the theory of semantic roles were insufficient in providing details for the description of semantics. “...it came more and more to seem that another independent level of role structure was needed for the semantic description of verbs in particular limited domains (Fillmore 1982, p. 115). Instead of focusing on truth conditions which was popular at that point in time, Fillmore believed that there was a bigger cognitive structure that was possible to provide a new dimension of semantic rule notions.

His first attempt at this form of cognitive structure description was a paper entitled verb of judging published in 1971 (Cienki, 2010). He looked at verbs such as accuse, blame and criticize and claims that these verbs highlights a person who judges the behavior or worth of an individual or situation ('the Judge'), a person's behaviour that is being judged ('the Defendant') and situation that is judged ('the Situation'). In terms of the verbs that were studied, the verb accuse positions the Judge, who presupposes the severity of the situation, as the accuser who claims that the Defendant is responsible for a Situation. The verb criticize, on the other hand, indicates that the Judge who presupposes the Defendant's responsibility for the Situation, argues that the Situation was also to be blamed. In a nutshell, the study showed that a domain of vocabulary "whose elements somehow presuppose a schematization of human judgment and behavior involving notions of worth, responsibility, judgment, etc" (Fillmore 1982, p. 116) existed in the users' minds instead of only stand-alone individual words. This domain serves as background knowledge to users to the different Situations or as he called it then, the relevant scene, which is known as domain today.

In the scenes-and-frames paradigm that Fillmore proposed, he states that scene (which is now commonly known as domain), in general, does not only refer to visual scenes but also "familiar kinds of interpersonal transactions, standard scenarios defined by the culture, institutional structures, enactive experiences, body image" (Fillmore, 1975 p. 124). On the other hand, Fillmore defined frame as a system or collection of not only words but expands to include linguistic categories or grammatical rules that could be prototypically associated in instances of scenes. The relationship between frames and scenes is not independent but rather, frame is often linked to scene in one form of way or another.

A classic example would be the RESTAURANT scene (Schank and Abelson, 1977). Aside from being a food and beverage service outlet, it is also associated with

other concepts such as CUSTOMER, EATING, WAITER, ORDERING, MENU and so forth.

In another renowned example the TRANSACTION scene, Fillmore indicates that a large group of English verbs are associated or interrelated with one another as they evoke the same scene in different ways. Verbs including SELL, SPEND, BUY and COST entails the understanding of the roles (buyer and seller) and items (money and goods) in the sense of the act of selling, buying, costing and spending and thus, meaning is construed. Fillmore (1987) argues that “nobody can really understand the meaning of the words in that domain who does not understand the social situations or the structures of experience which they presuppose” (p. 31). Similarly for other lexical items, hunger, for instance, cannot be understood without reference to the physiology of living things or writing, which cannot be understood without reference to language and education.

To further illustrate the idea of frames and scenes, the English word write and Japanese word *kaku* are often seen as synonymous but judging from the scene of the respective cultures these words exist in, both words vary. While the English word write only refers to a form of language that is written, the Japanese *kaku* is not specifically for written language only but also includes drawing. Therefore, the frame for the question “What did you write?” would be limited to statements regarding ‘a linguistic communication scene’, whereas in Japanese the frame for the question regarding *kaku* would offer a wider range of probabilities.

This particular frame also highlights the fact that words denoting the same state or action may have different construction of frames that varies from culture to culture. According to Croft & Cruse (2004), “many word concepts cannot be understood apart from the intentions of the participants or the social and cultural institutions and behavior in which the action, state or thing is situated” (p. 11). Thus, the construction of frame is set in the limitations of culture.

These examples discussed indicate that the semantic relations are not linguistically associated through hyponymy or antonymy but, rather, through regular human experiences. Therefore, a concept is often related to other concepts and cannot exist isolated. Croft and Cruse (2004) also stressed that “concepts do not simply float around randomly in the mind” (p.7) as lexical knowledge is believed to be represented and organized in people’s minds as concepts which in turn form systems of experience that is necessary for us to fully comprehend the world that is around us (Paradis, 2013). These systems of knowledge are specifically referred to as domains by Langacker or frames by Fillmore. The term frame and domain often compete for usage (Croft & Cruse, 2004) but as this study focuses on frame semantics, only the term frame will be used throughout. In general, frame refers to “any coherent body of knowledge presupposed by a word concept” (Croft & Cruse, 2004, p. 17). Evans and Green (2006) also refer to it as “a schematization of experience, which is represented at the conceptual level and held in long-term memory, and which relates elements and entities associated with a particularly culturally-embedded scene, situation or event from human experience” (p. 211). These frames can be dynamic whereby additional or new knowledge can be added in from time to time.

Fillmore also states that words and grammatical constructions are relativised to frames so the meaning related to a word cannot be comprehended independently of the frame that it is associated with. To explain this, Fillmore adapted the term figure and ground from Gestalt psychology to differentiate a lexical item and the background frame of which it is understood. The particular meaning of a word is represented by the frame which is a part of the bigger frame represented by ground, relative to how the figure is understood. Frames, in general, is then seen as a complex knowledge system that lets us understand a group of related words and determine their behaviour grammatically in sentences.

In Fillmore's own interpretation, frames is seen as a vital foundation to rethink the goals of semantic rather than just another way of organizing concepts in the mind (Croft & Cruse, 2004). Seeing the frame approach as a model of the semantics of understanding, Fillmore states the difference between the theories of T-semantics (truth semantics) and U-semantics (theories on language understanding) in a 1985 paper that "both the notion of truth and the uses of negation needed for a formal T-semantics are secondary to the understanding of those notions that arise from a study of U-semantics" (Fillmore, 1985, p. 223), highlighting the primary importance of frame semantics which embraces an encyclopedic view of meaning in language.

Fillmore (1985) further criticized the weakness of truth semantics, stating that "truth-conditional semantics cannot capture many aspects of our understanding" (p. 230-31). Selecting the example of the distinction between dad or father, Fillmore states that the words highlight the speaker's different relationship with the father. Likewise, the waste frame differs in terms of usage from the spend frame whereas the term noon is understood in the frame of time. Aside from that, Fillmore explained that the truth-conditional model cannot account for lexical frames that were relevant during a period of time but due to the world changes and years passing, has evolved in meaning.

Soon after, work in frame semantics was also seen to develop towards the incorporation of external world knowledge into the analysis of semantics. According to Fillmore, "while the task of linguistic semantics must be to explain how text meanings are developed, the knowledge which is called on for achieving this task is not limited to linguistic knowledge" (Fillmore, 1986, p. 52). For example, in a frame analysis, woman, girl, boy and man evoke not only biological frames but also the different attitude, habits and behaviour of the gender that would account for the common usage of male and female terms in the community.

A frame based approach is deemed beneficial and important in various lexical semantic analysis. Fillmore demonstrated the usage in describing the differences in a social or community frame of usage of a word. In a LEGAL frame, the concept surrounding MURDER and INNOCENT differ from concepts used outside the frame. In the LEGAL frame, MURDER is profiled in a frame that contrasts with MANSLAUGHTER. However, outside a LEGAL frame, MURDER is profiled in a domain that lacks a contrasting concept. INNOCENT, on the other hand, is profiled in a frame whereby it is a result of trial or judgment. In a frame outside of LEGAL, INNOCENT is profiled against a frame whereby the person is deemed INNOCENT or GUILTY based on whether he committed the crime or not. Thus, Croft & Cruse (2004) noted that frame semantics can be expanded to describe “differences that appear to be defined on social rather than conceptual grounds” (p. 18). Communities or social groups are often bound together by the common activities shared together. Therefore, this common ground forms the frames of the concepts represented by the terms used in the community.

The differentiation between profile and frame which is the core of frame semantics is a useful tool especially in analyzing various semantically odd phenomenon. It allows lexical contrasts with semantic asymmetries that cannot be characterized through features to be analyzed clearly. This can be seen between the contrast of tall vs short and high vs low. To describe a height of a human, tall vs short is often used whereas for buildings, tall vs low is used instead. Likewise, high vs low is used for trees. With the varying usages of terms, it would be highly impossible to propose a unified feature definition of tall vs high or short vs low in the different contexts. However, through a frame perspective, one can distinguish the context of usage through the description of human frame, building frame which can highlight the words that are used for vertical extent or distance in the particular frame.



Similarly, this analysis tool is vital for concepts which seem to denote the same thing in the world but are profiled against different frames. In LAND and GROUND, both words seem to denote the same thing. However, at a closer look, they are profiled against different frames. LAND describes a dry earth surface in contrast of SEA whereas GROUND describes the dry surface in contrast to AIR (Fillmore, 1982, p.121). Thus the frame of these words allows one to make different inferences. A bird that spends its life on GROUND is not able to fly where a bird that spends its life on LAND does not go into water.

Another similar example is Langacker's example of CAVIAR and ROE in which both denote fish eggs. However, ROE is profiled against a frame of the reproductive cycle of a fish whereas CAVIAR, profiled against a form of food (Langacker, 1987, p. 164-65). This form of framing also exists commonly in evaluative characteristics. For instance, the characteristic STINGY profiles in contrast with GENEROUS whereas THRIFTY, which denotes the act of saving as well, is profiled opposite of WASTEFUL (Fillmore, 1982, p. 125). The difference is "the orientation of the associated evaluative scale: the evaluation of STINGY-GENEROUS is the opposite of THRIFTY-WASTEFUL. Thus, users of the language may choose to frame a person as either THRIFTY or STINGY depending on how the user of the language comprehends and conceptualizes the experience surrounding the words and how they want it to be conveyed.

These basic examples do shed light on its application on synonyms, the main focus of this study. Similar to the examples in the preceding paragraphs, synonyms denote the same thing but do so in different frames; be it subtly or through bigger differences. Therefore, *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* may denote one who does not belong to the country but closer inspection may see that they profile different aspects altogether. For this particular study, we will be studying and profiling the frames of the three synonyms mentioned within the boundaries of newspapers.

Discussion, so far, has also shown that frame based approaches have begun showing importance in addressing ambiguous cases involving lexicals. Yet another lexical situation where a frame based approach is useful is in situation where concepts that are represented through words can also be used to refer to other extrinsic concepts aside from its original one. For example, the word 'scar' not only refers to a healing mark or wound on one's skin but it can extend to mean a healing state of an emotion wound; a widow whose husband has passed away and the situation has taken a toll on her emotionally.

Fillmore's work on frame semantics has been cohesively integrated into various advances in the field of Cognitive Linguistics. He was particularly influenced by the continuous work on prototypes and thus attempted to build a linkage between frames and prototypes. He states that the frame in which a word is comprehended against requires a schematized prototype in which a part of the world is like. Drawing from the example of ORPHAN, it is clearly understood that the lexical defines a child whose parents have passed on. However, ORPHAN does not have a 'built-in' of age specification of a child in this category because that comprehension is part of the prototype background. This then arose the need of a prototype that would eventually become the ideal model of the frame.

However, this study will not attempt to form the ideal model of the frame but rather it would attempt to find out the attributes of the frame that were required to evoke the meaning of each synonym.

## **2.7 Past Frame Semantic-Based Studies**

While the benefits of using a frame semantic approach has been explained, we will now look at the application of frame semantics into the study on lexical items that have been attempted over the years. Moore (2013) applied frame semantics into his study of metaphorical expressions. His study concerned temporal metaphors: Moving Ego (IE We

are approaching the end of the year) and Moving Time (IE The end of the year is approaching). Ego is a term used to represent the person, or imagined person, who is experiencing the time or space. Moore saw that the understanding of these metaphors as something that went beyond just a simple mapping between the domains of space and time. While frame semantics has been an implicit part of most conceptual metaphor studies, Moore explicitly states that temporal metaphors cannot function without the existence of frames. Moore's focus on experiential basis, which is defined as "an experience which a source-frame concept correlates with a concept that plays a role in the target frame" (Moore, 2013, p. 90). These basis also places constraints to the range of metaphors a language can have. The idea of the frames of knowledge being constrained based on our experiences was similar to Ibanez and Aransaez's study on the categorization of knowledge in the mind where necessary criteria should be made available, although not always necessary, for understanding to take place.

According to Ibanez and Aransaez (1997-1998), the main problem with cognitive linguistics is that it still "lacks a unified framework for analysis of knowledge organization" (p. 258). With that, Ibanez and Aransaez tried to unify framework based on Lakoff's Idealized Cognitive Model (ICM) and Langacker's proposal on the criteria of centrality and network organization. The classical view of categorization has always been clear-cut characteristics and conditions with two degree of memberships; member or non-member. However, time has proven and shown that categories are "not homogeneous and their boundaries are fuzzy" (Ibanez & Aransaez, 1997-1998, p. 259). Moreover, the degree of membership of the category varies. Categories indeed do have attributes, which, as Ibanez and Aransaez (1997-1998) describes it are "not all-or-nothing properties of things but rather dimensions along which different entities are regarded as similar" (p. 259). Thus, categorization is made based on these attributes. However, another problem with this view of categorization is this; although they have fuzzy boundaries, these

categories cannot be free of restrictions. If so, the category would grow too big and lose its purpose, containing all possible entities as they must be some form of constraint that acts as category boundaries.

Ibanez and Arasaez (1997-1998) states that a solution to this can be found in “recognizing the existence of essential attributes (not necessary and sufficient conditions) for categories (p.259). This view, thus, does not restrict the number of attributes that will make up a category but at the same time places certain restrictions on them so that certain conditions are still necessary for the comprehension of certain lexical.

With much concern in the categorization of knowledge and how it is accessed, Atkins (1995) attempted to create a physical form of a frame semantic dictionary. He recognized the limitation of the denotative meaning and overall structure of a regular English dictionary. With the creation of a frame semantic diary, its role was to define the fine nuances that made each lexical unique as well as provide information which let users understand why certain words are used in the context they already exist in. In this frame semantic dictionary, the components of the dictionary would include the schemas and their interrelationships, elements of the frame such as the syntactical and semantical neighbours of the frame, the co-inhabitants, which included the parts of speech, complements, inflectional forms, pronunciation variations and more (Atkins, 1995). However, Atkins (2015) said that it would be “a major task to analyze and record the semantic relationships linking the thousands of frames that constitute the lexico-semantic resources of the language” (p. 32). Nevertheless, the usage of the frame semantic dictionary would also be limited as the meaning and usage of words are also culture based. While the possibility of creating a frame semantics dictionary would be rather slim, it is still a good attempt at a categorization method of all the knowledge, be it linguistic or non-linguistic that we have in our minds.

While frame semantics has shown many categorization possibilities thus far, Liu et al. (2005) showed how a frame based approach was useful in describing Mandarin polysemous near-synonyms. The three near-synonymous verbs were *biaoshi*, *biaoda* and *biaolu* each had different senses due to their polysemous nature. In general, the meaning of a lexical unit is defined within one frame. In the case of polysemous frames, the different senses are associated to the different frames. To create the frames for each of the polysemous near-synonymy, Liu et al. (2005) conducted a syntactical analysis to study the patterns of the verbs. This was done based on the assumption that the syntactic behavior of a verb was determined by its meaning. With the information acquired, its frame membership and distributional frequency were studied and formed. Finally, the relationship among three frames is discussed through metonymical and metaphorical process where mapping is done between the frames to see how the different word senses occur. The frames for the near-synonymy are identified as Statement, Encoding and Evidence frames. Cross-frame membership or ‘polysemous range’ and verb distribution were taken to be crucial factors for distinguishing the verbs distribution of grammatical forms is also important in defining the verbs. Differences in terms of the context it existed in as well as usage differences were noted for each of the frame, which gave a clearer picture of the differences that existed between the near-synonyms.

Yamaguchi & Yeo (2015) also conducted a frame-semantic study where co-occurring parts of speech and contextual analysis on *foreign* and *foreigner* in local English newspapers. The tokens that were derived from the newspaper were first categorized into attributes and the co-occurring parts of speech were analysed to see how the connotative meaning for each word is derived. The study found that although they are morphologically related, *foreigner* was often found frequently occurring in negative contexts in tokens that were related to ‘running illegal businesses’, ‘bringing diseases into Malaysia’ and so forth) while *foreign* was positive/neutral in connotation and often used

as a modifier for things or people from a country apart from Malaysia. This study reveals a conclusion that is similar to Storjohann's (2010); words are constructed beyond the word level and reveal the knowledge, thought, perception of the users' minds.

University of Malaya

## CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Theoretical Framework

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

In cognitive linguistics, a frame approach to language would draw up two possibilities which are (1) how users of the language use cognitive frames to make sense of the experience, knowledge, assumption and more they encounter regardless of the involvement of language or (2) Frame Semantics, a study of how we interpret and relate linguistic forms, which could be words, grammatical structures, phrases and more) to a larger body of knowledge that exist in the mind. In relation to this study, (2) would be the main priority. Throughout the years of cognitive linguistics development, the concept of frame shared association with various terms that were introduced such as the idealized cognitive model, or schema. However, despite the terms given, all these concepts still led to the same concept which can be defined as “any of the many organized packages of knowledge, beliefs and patterns of practice that shape and allow humans to make sense of their experiences” (Fillmore & Baker, 2009, p. 314). Frames are considered vital here as it plays the main role in how we form reasons, perceive and comprehend experiences, deduce assumptions or even response to what is considered to be acceptable or normal in the society or culture that we are exposed to. If one is not exposed to a specific culture then one will not be able to invoke the frames as there is no association to the cultural values.

In the sense of fully understanding the meaning of a lexical item, Fillmore and Baker (2009) claim that “the full meaning of a text is “vastly undetermined” by its linguistic form alone” (p. 316). That is to say that no matter how detailed a dictionary defines a word, users of the language will still not be able to comprehend the meaning if they do not have prior exposure or experience towards it. To give a brief and simple

overview of how frames are incorporated into the comprehension of lexical items, take for example the following sentence:

(3.1) She was invited to his birthday party.

To comprehend the sentence, one must be familiar with the party frame. In the sentence, the verb 'invited' invokes an action which includes a host or guests whereas the noun 'party' invokes knowledge of a social gathering which involves having a host and guests who have come together for an occasion. Through these clues in the sentences, the user of the language would be able to invoke the party frame, where the Subject, will be a guest to a friend or relative's birthday party. This association is, in general, what Frame Semantics is about, a relationship between how we comprehend word meaning profiled against background knowledge which is made up of conventions, assumptions or beliefs that we have been accustomed to. In other words, "the meaning dimension is expressed in terms of the cognitive structures (frames) that shape speakers' understanding of linguistic expressions (Fillmore & Baker, 2009, p. 317).

Frame Semantics can be divided into two types of studies. One part involves analysing linguistic codes of existing or familiar experiences whereas the second part looks at how new experiences encode, or give meaning to new lexical items. This study is concerned with looking at one part as the concept of 'people who do not belong to a country' is no longer an unfamiliar occurrence.

While the concern of the study is to study the differences of word meaning and how they are understood in the context of the Malaysian culture and society, the theoretical framework utilized for the study is Charles Fillmore's theory of Frame Semantics, additionally supported by Lawrence Barsalou's theory of Frame Semantics, particularly Barsalou's frame-based presentation of nouns such as CAR (see Figure 3.1).



### 3.1.2 Fillmore's Theory of Frame Semantics

In his own interpretation and specific definition of frames, Fillmore (1982/2006) states that frame semantics is a “system of concepts related in such a way that to understand any one of them is to understand the whole structure in which it fits” (p. 373). Simply put, it refers to any form or group of knowledge that presupposes a word concept. Thus, in language use, a user would apply the frame to the situation and apply words associated with the frames to that situation. As mentioned in briefly previously, the background knowledge can consist of the users' experience, beliefs, culture or practice of the world. This theory's focus is on the continuity of language and experience and claims that for lexical to have meaning, it must exist within frames. Thus, frames are also seen to be dynamic whereby new knowledge can be added into the growing body.

A vital part of Fillmore's theory revolves around the 'profile and frame' organization. In terms of the lexical item, the pairing of the lexical and its meaning would evoke a frame, which would then profile some component or aspect of the frame. This means that when we understand word meanings, we must “simultaneously recognize the relevance of the background information within which that word plays an interpretative role” (Fillmore, 2003) (as quoted by Fillmore & Baker, 2009, p. 318). At times, the background knowledge that has been assigned to these frames have been such a norm or in other words, overlearned so conscious effort is required to identify them. For example, to 'Tuesday' is a common term and is generally known as being one of the days of the week. To understand 'Tuesday' we must first understand the concept of time and the general understanding that there are seven days in a week. Furthermore, the understanding of this concept extends to differentiating between 'weekdays' and 'weekends'. Each of these components make up the Tuesday frame and shows that the knowledge does not exist in isolation but are connected to give Tuesday its meaning.

### 3.1.3 Barsalou's Theory of Frame Semantics

In terms of Barsalou's theory of frame semantics, he also shared views that were similar to Fillmore's in terms of the definition of the theory. Barsalou (1992a, 1992b, as quoted by Evans & Green, 2006) describes frames as "complex conceptual structures that are used to represent all types of categories, including categories for animates, objects, locations, physical events, mental events and so forth" (p.223). He viewed frames as the basic mode of knowledge interpretation. When exposed to continuous human experiences, these modes of knowledge will change and expand. Barsalou's concern, however was these knowledge was organized or arranged into a systematic body or network of information. Background knowledge was after all not seen as random snippets of knowledge that have simply been put together but a body of knowledge which is structured whereby lexical items would be seen as point of accesses to activate parts of the knowledge that was required to give the word its meaning. In regards to the organization of knowledge, we will discuss Barsalou's CAR frame and the components that are found in the frame.

Two components play the main role in Barsalou's theory of frames; attribute-value and structural invariants. Barsalou (1992a:30) (as quoted by Evans and Green, 2006) defines attribute as "a concept that describes an aspect of at least some category members" (p.223-224). In other words, a frame is made up of attributes. With reference to the CAR frame in Figure 3.1, the immediate attributes of the frame CAR would be attributes such as DRIVER, FUEL, ENGINE, TRANSMISSION and WHEELS. They are then related to value in a superordinate-subordinate relationship. Thus, for FUEL, for example, the values that are subordinate to it would be PETROL and DIESEL, the types of fuel that a car possibly uses. Thus, values are often more specific than attributes and can be further described and specified to form a more concrete visualisation. It is also important to note that a concept only becomes an attribute when it is considered in a larger whole or in its

background knowledge. If PETROL or DIESEL is considered without the CAR frame, then it would only remain as a concept.

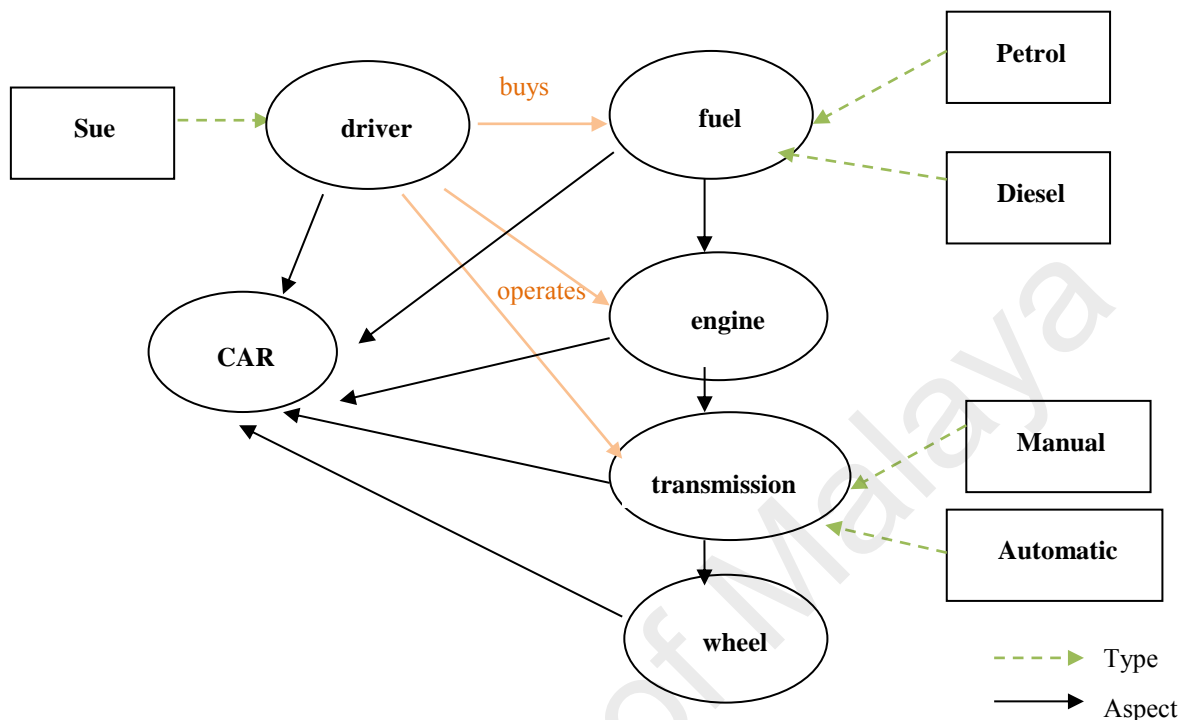


Figure 3.1 A partial frame for Barsalou's CAR frame

Yet another point to note would be the structural invariants component. As Barsalou puts it, attributes within a frame do not exist independently but are correlational. Simply put, the attributes within a frame are often related to one another consistently. In the example of the CAR frame, the DRIVER is responsible for the FUEL and is able to control the speed of the ENGINE. Thus, a relation co-occurs irrespective of the values that are involved. Structural invariants are rather important as it helps speakers visualise ideas that are not spoken outright in a sentence or phrase.

### 3.1.4 Summary

Based on the two theories discussed in regards to frame semantics, it can be assumed that the construction of frame is very much based on the norms, occurrences, culture and social-conventions users of the language are exposed to in society. The understanding of Barsalou's concept of frames is similar to that of Filmore's as described in the previous examples; any mention of the value or attributes within a frame would invoke the frame

in its entirety as frames are concept bound, culturally specific whole, each with its own internal structure as seen in the image above. While frames are seen as the basic of knowledge understanding, it is thus logical to conclude that the construction of frames, that is the contribution of relevant attributes or values is, dependent on the occurrences, culture and what is considered a norm of the society around the user.

### **3.2. Research Design**

The study will mainly utilise a qualitative research design. An analysis will be carried out with the use of local English newspapers as the corpus for study to study its structure, semantic component and finally how frames will be constructed based on the analysis carried out on the corpus data. However, a small portion of the study will utilize a quantitative research design, as it is a clearer solution to showcase numerical form of data.

### **3.3. Data**

The corpus for the study is obtained through the online archive of the local English newspapers in Malaysia. The newspaper archives selected for the study are from 4 major English newspapers in Malaysia namely *The Star*, *New Straits Times*, *The Sun* and *Malay Mail*. As mentioned in Section 1.2.2 of the dissertation, news media is a powerful tool as it helps shape the perception of the community in regards to certain issues. Therefore, it plays a vital role in the dissertation as the choice of data

### **3.4. Procedure**

A total of sixty five articles were collected for each synonym. The selection of the data were carried out systematically. Firstly, the online archives of *The Star* was accessed and the synonyms were searched through the search bar of the online archives.

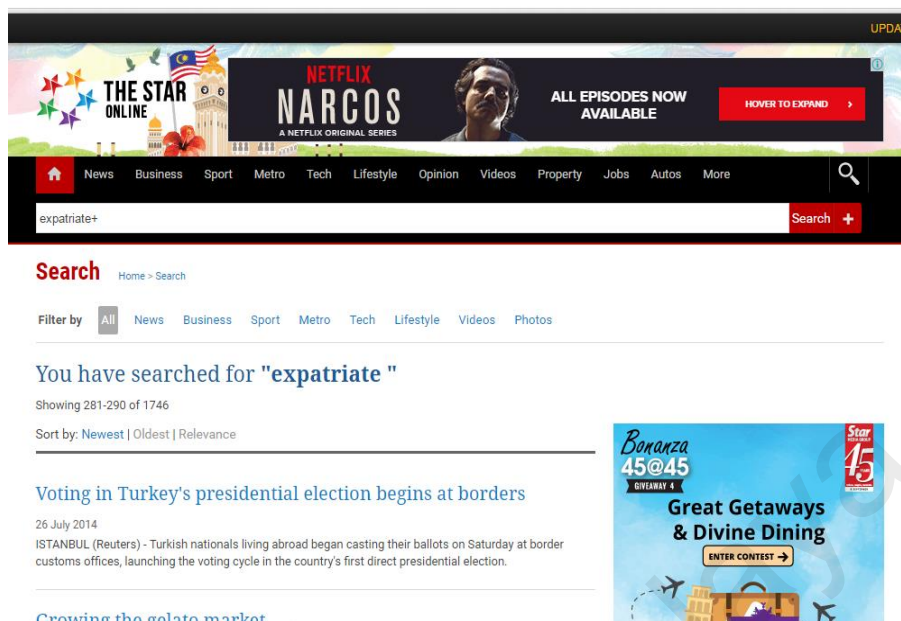


Figure 3.2 A screenshot of the online archive of *The Star*.

The first ten sections which consisted of articles regarding the synonyms were accessed and as the study focuses on understanding the background knowledge in defining the synonyms through a local perspective, only articles that were in regards to local matters were selected for the study.

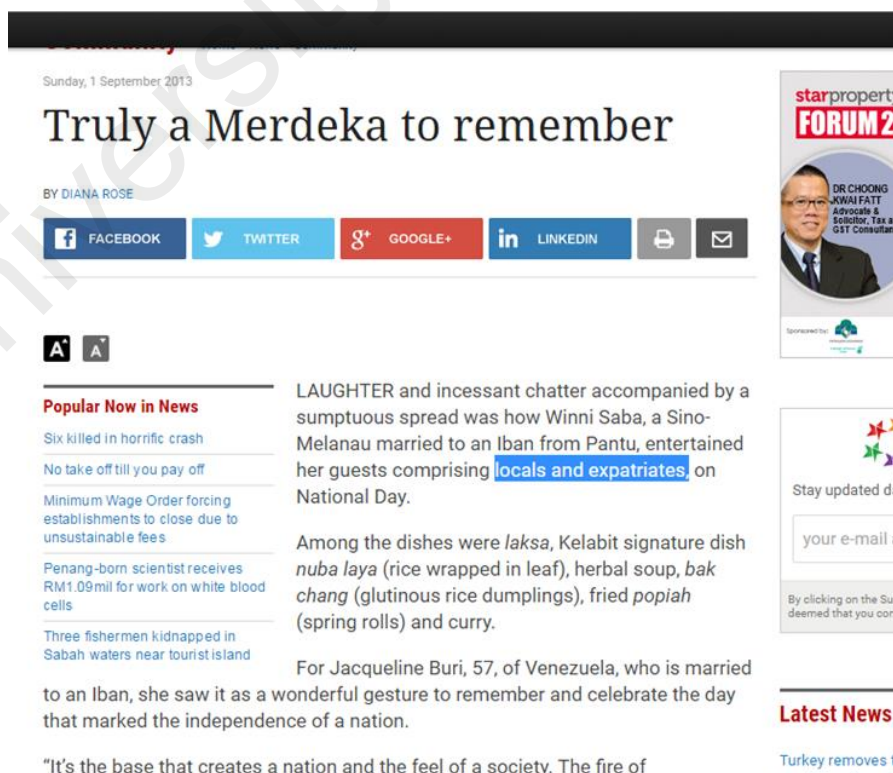


Figure 3.3 Article regarding local occurrences and contain the synonyms are extracted from *The Star* archive.

After these articles were filtered, the next newspaper archive was then accessed, which is *New Straits Times*. The similar process was carried out, whereby the first ten sections of the articles regarding the synonyms involved in local matters were selected.



Figure 3.4 A screenshot of the online archive of *New Straits Times*



Figure 3.5 Article regarding the local occurrences and contain the synonyms are extracted from *New Straits Times* archive.

This would continue on with the archives of *The Sun* and *Malay Mail* respectively until sixty five articles were collected. However, if the sufficient number of articles has already been achieved within the first or second newspaper archive, the remaining local English

newspaper archives will not be accessed. At time of data collection, all articles were in between the year 2010-2014.

In all the articles collected, the tokens that contained the synonymous nouns concerned in the study were extracted and tabulated with the use of Microsoft Excel. Headlines were excluded as they are often shortened and simplified. This study intends to analyse the synonymous nouns in its surrounding context, aside from analysing its structure. After identifying the tokens and studying the context that they existed in, the synonyms were then classified and summarised according to the categories of characteristics that were identified through the analysis of the tokens.

1	
2	<b>Immigrant</b>
3	<i>1) Immigrants come or stay in Malaysia through illegal means</i>
4	<b>3,978 illegal immigrants deported back home since Jan 21 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>
5	Forty-eight employers have been arrested to date during the ongoing <i>Ops Bersepadu 6P</i> campaign aimed at nabbing <b>illegal immigrants</b> , according to Immigration director-general Datuk Aloyah Mamat (pic).
6	She said that so far, a total of 18,775 <b>foreigners</b> had been checked in 603 integrated operations that were conducted nationwide.
7	Out of this number, she added, 4,640 <b>illegal immigrants</b> were picked up since Jan 21.
8	The highest number of <b>illegal immigrants</b> arrested during the campaign were Indonesians, with 1,800 of them arrested so far.
9	This number was followed by 642 Myan-mar nationals, 508 Bangladeshis, 502 Filipinos, 288 Nepalese, 239 Indian nationals, 209 Pakistanis and the remaining 452 from various countries.
10	"A total of 3,978 <b>illegal immigrants</b> arrested have since been deported back to their home countries," Aloyah told reporters during an operation at the Taman Pelangi flats here yesterday.
11	The <i>Ops 6P Bersepadu</i> conducted at the Taman Pelangi flats from 11.30pm on Saturday until 2.30am yesterday resulted in the arrests of 45 <b>illegal immigrants</b> , comprising 26 Indonesians, three Bangladeshis, 10 Myanmar nationals, two Indian nationals, one Vietnam-ese national, and three Nepalese out of 428 foreigners who were checked.
12	The <b>illegal immigrants</b> were found to have committed various offences such as not possessing valid travel documents, overstaying and possessing fake documents.
13	
14	<b>Selangor Customs nab 41 Indonesian immigrants near Sungai Langat estuary 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>
15	Forty-one Indonesian <b>illegal immigrants</b> were nabbed by the Selangor Customs marine unit following a routine patrol near the estuary of Sungai Langat, Sepang, on Sunday.
16	The <b>illegal immigrants</b> , aged between 20 and 50 years old, did not possess valid travel documents. They comprised 31 males and 10 women.
17	"Initial investigations revealed that they were on their way back to Indonesia to avoid getting caught in operations conducted by the Malaysian authorities," he said.
18	Badaruddin added that the offenders were being remanded for a week.
19	The case is being investigated under Section 26A of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007 for concealing or harbouring smuggled migrants and migrant smugglers, and Section 5(1) of the Immigration Act 1959/1963 for not having valid passes and permits.
20	

Figure 3.6 Example of categorisation of *Immigrant* into one of its characteristics on Microsoft Excel.

95	
96	<i>2) Foreigners are often portrayed as the participant, victim or suspect of unsavoury/illegal activities</i>
97	<b>12 agarwood thieves held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>
98	Twelve people, including 10 foreigners, have been caught for the theft of <i>gaharu</i> (agarwood) in Gerik, about 200km from here.
99	Perak Forestry Department director Datuk Roslan Ariffin said the 12 men, aged between 25 and 35, were caught between Feb 20 and 22 for possessing several gunny sacks of <i>gaharu</i> , worth between RM400,000 and RM2mil.
100	"On Feb 20, the Anti-Smuggling Unit (UPP) launched an operation at the Sungai Lebey Bandariang R&R where they found four foreigners carrying four gunny sacks at about 1pm.
101	"Upon inspection, we found them to be carrying about 90kg of <i>gaharu</i> . They were arrested immediately and handed over to us," he told a press conference here yesterday
102	"On Feb 22, the UPP was patrolling along the Gerik-Jeli East West Highway when they chanced upon a four-wheel-drive vehicle driven by a foreigner heading towards Gerik at about 4.30pm."
103	The <i>gaharu</i> can be processed to become joss sticks and perfume," he said, adding that there was a trend of foreigners coming into the country to illegally harvest these woods.
104	
105	<b>Nude body wrapped in bedsheet found by roadside 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>
106	The nude body of a man believed to be a foreigner was found wrapped in a bedsheet by the roadside of Jalan Perusahaan 2 Bukit Minyak, on Wednesday.
107	Seberang Perai Tengah Police chief ACP Azman Abd Lah said the body, wrapped in a light purple bedsheet was found on the five-foot way by a man passing the area at 8.45am.
108	"The head and legs were tied, giving the appearance that the body had been shrouded for burial," he said when contacted.
109	Azman said no travel documents were found on the body, which was sent to the Seberang Jaya Hospital.
110	
111	<b>Attempts to steal sacks of oil palm brans in Kuantan thwarted 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>
112	Marine police thwarted attempts to siphon about 70 tonnes of oil palm brans with the arrests of five men including three foreigners
113	Acting on a tip-off, a police party together with officers from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board detained the suspects during separate raids in Geber and Semambu in the wee hours of the morning recently
114	ACP Azmi said three foreigners were detained for packing the oil palm brans into sacks.

Figure 3.7 Example of categorisation of *Foreigner* into one of its characteristics on Microsoft Excel.

After the categorisation process, the synonyms were first analysed structurally and segregated into parts of speech according to Quirk's Contemporary English. This was to determine if there were any differences or similarities in terms of structure and if this contributed to identifying the differences between the synonyms. A semantic analysis was then carried out. In this part of the analysis, context plays a vital role in the study as it is the surrounding information, or co-occurring words alongside the synonyms that aids in providing clues and influences us on the interpretation of a particular attribute (see Chapter 2, Section 2.7). In this case the parts of sentences such as Noun Phrases, Verb Phrases, Adjectives, Adverbial Phrases, Complement Phrases as well as usage of active and passive construction were analysed to see if how the connotation arises from them.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>		
2	Two Malaysian women who hired illegal foreigners and a Myanmar pub owner	were among those detained	by the Immigration Department	here on Saturday.		
3	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Complement</b>		
4	The latest operation conducted in the city centre	found	195 who were without valid documents,	out of 500 foreigners screened.		
5	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>		
6	Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who lead the operations,	urged business owners not to hire	foreigners to run their premises	especially those with social visit passes.		
7	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>			
8	"Malaysians	should be running	their own businesses and not leasing the licenses to foreigners.			
9	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Complement</b>		
10	We	should not be encouraging	foreigners	to open businesses"		
11	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>		
12	Illegal foreigners who are working at business premises	will be	the next target of enforcement officers	under the second phase of the Ops 6P Bersepadu		
13	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Infinitive Verb</b>	<b>Conj</b>	<b>Subject</b>
14	I	will personally visit	these places	to ensure	that	the business rights of Malaysians
15	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>				

Figure 3.8 Example of semantic analysis using Microsoft Excel

The final step after analysing the synonyms in its environment is to form frames for each of the synonyms based on Barsalou's theory on frames. These frames are a representation of the background knowledge that surrounds each synonym.

## CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Overview of Positive/Neutral and Negative Connotations of Tokens

Out of the 65 articles, the number of tokens which contain the synonymous nouns are extracted and the quantity are as follows:

<b>Foreigner</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Expatriate</b>
154 tokens	172 tokens	130 tokens

Table 4.1 Number of tokens for each synonymous nouns in 65 articles.

In Table 4.2, the number of articles which were extracted from the online archives of *The Star*, *New Straits Times*, *The Sun* and *Malay Mail* respectively, are as follows:

	<b>Foreigner</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Expatriate</b>
<b>The Star</b>	35	29	31
<b>New Straits Times</b>	30	19	22
<b>The Sun</b>	-	14	11
<b>Malay Mail</b>	-	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>

Table 4.2 Number of articles found in the online archives of local English newspapers.

The tokens of *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* were categorised and summarised according to what would be called characteristics that were identified from the contextual information provided by the contextual information provided in the articles. This allows a better understanding of the overall data and will lend a part in the formation of the frames, which will be discussed in the later part of this section. Table 4.3 provides the overview of the three synonymous nouns summarised into several characteristics which were identified from the contextual information provided in the articles.

	<b>Expatriate</b>	<b>Foreigner</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>
<b>Characteristics</b>	(i) Loves Malaysia and its culture (Ex.4.130)  (ii) Living or want to live in Malaysia (Ex.4.120)  (iii) Desired by Malaysia in terms of career (Ex.4.127)  (iv) Community-minded (Ex.4.137)  (v) Big spending power (Ex.4.128)  (vi) Tourists in Malaysia (Ex.4.138)  (vii) Victims of crime or accidents (Ex.4.139)	(i) Working illegally or unwelcomed to work in Malaysia (Ex. 4.106)  (ii) Involved in crime, as perpetrator or victim (Ex.4.5)  (iii) Negatively affects Malaysia's healthcare (Ex. 4.115)  (iv) Illegal entry into Malaysia (Ex.4.3)  (v) Misusing marriage (Ex.4.104)  (vi) Investing in property (Ex. 4.98)  (vii) Participants in Malaysian festivities (Ex.4.111)  (viii) Professionals from other countries (Ex.4.99)	i) Illegal entry or stay in Malaysia (Ex. 4.155)  ii) Working illegally or unwelcomed to work in Malaysia (Ex. 4.151)  iii) Contribute to health problems (Ex. 4.153)  iv) Involved in crime, as perpetrator or victim (Ex. 4.150)

Table 4.3 Overview of the characteristics of the three synonymous nouns identified from the tokens.

Based on the table above, *expatriate* consist of seven characteristics, *foreigner* eight and *immigrant* four. The characteristics can be divided into positive/neutral and negative attributes. Positive/neutral attributes are grouped together as the tokens do not provide clear and enough distinction of either a more positive or more neutral connotation. *Expatriate* has the most positive attributes while both *foreigner* and *immigrant* are associated with more negative attributes.

The overall number of negative and positive/neutral connotation of tokens can be seen in Table 4.4.

	<b>Foreigner</b>	<b>Immigrant</b>	<b>Expatriate</b>
<b>Positive/Neutral</b>	27.27% (42 tokens)	13.37% (23 tokens)	83% (108 tokens)
<b>Negative</b>	72.72% (112 tokens)	86.62% (139 tokens)	17% (22 tokens)
<b>Total</b>	154 tokens	172 tokens	130 tokens

Table 4.4 Overall frequency occurrence of negative and positive/neutral tokens of *foreigner*, *immigrant* and *expatriate* in the 65 news articles found in local newspapers.

Overall, *foreigner* and *immigrant* appeared to have more tokens that are negative in connotation while *expatriate* has a high percentage of positive/neutral ones. In the next part of our discussion, we will further look into the similarities and differences in these synonyms through a structural and semantic analysis. The structural analysis' purpose is mainly to analyse if there are any differences in terms of structure between the three synonyms and to study whether they impact their connotation. For the parts of speech in each section, I refer to Quirk's Contemporary English that segregates sentences into parts of speech: Subject, Verb, Object and Complement. The semantic analysis, on the other hand, is to analyse how the positive/neutral or negative connotations of the three synonyms arise semantically.

Through this analysis, we will study how, or whether these linguistic components contribute to the negative or positive/neutral senses of the synonyms.

## 4.2 Structural Analysis of *Foreigner*

### 4.2.1 Basic Structures and Their Extensions

The tokens containing the synonym *foreigner* was found to have several typical combinations. The basic structural combinations found are as follow: (i) Subject + Verb + Object + Complement/Adverbial (SVOC/SVOA), (ii) Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC), (iii) Subject + Verb + Adverbial (SVA), (iv) Subject + Adverbial + Verb + Object/Complement (SAVO/SAVC), (v) Complex Sentences Structural Combination.

The basic structural combination can be expanded with the addition of other parts of sentences to this basic combination.

Tokens that fulfilled any of the basic combinations as the above were considered to be part of the category, although certain tokens had additional parts of sentence to the basic combination.

#### 4.2.2 SVOC/SVOA Structural Combination Examples

Below are some examples of the sentences with the basic combination of SVOC/SVOA.

It is also noted that the most tokens of *foreigners* consisted of this combination. Firstly, these are some of the examples of tokens with the SVOC structure:

##### Example 4.1

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
We	should not (actually) label	the foreign buyers	as foreigners.

##### Example 4.2

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Foreigners	are taking	about 30% to 40% of the country's entire allocation	for medical treatment meant for Malaysians.

##### Example 4.3

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The latest operation conducted in the city centre	found	195 who were without valid documents,	out of 500 foreigners screened.

##### Example 4.4

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD)	is coming down hard on	errant cabbies,	including foreigners.

**Example 4.5**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
Marine police	thwarted	attempts	to siphon about 70 tonnes of oil palm brans	with the arrests of five men including three foreigners.

On the other hand, examples of tokens with SVOA structural combination are as below:

**Example 4.6**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial	Adverbial
The police	have detained	77 foreigners	at a hotel project site	in Jalan Teluk Kumbar, Bayan Lepas here.

**Example 4.7**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial	Adverbial
Police	picked up	47 foreigners and three Malaysians	during a massive raid	on internet love scam syndicate in Kepong today.

**Example 4.8**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A majority of foreigners	buy	high-end residential properties	in the state capital and Iskandar Malaysia flagship zones.

**4.2.3 SVC Structural Combination Examples**

These are some of the examples of the tokens with the SVC structural combination.

**Example 4.9**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
Illegal foreigners who are working at business premises	will be	the next target of enforcement officers	under the second phase of the Ops 6P Bersepadu.

**Example 4.10**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
The seizure of the drug worth RM1.48mil from the two foreigners	was	the biggest	in the state last year.

**Example 4.11**

Subject	Verb	Complement
The security guard who shot dead a bank officer	is believed to be	a foreigner.

**Example 4.12**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Complement
Of the total 1,300 prisoners in Sabah,	some 1,020	are	foreigners.

**4.2.4 SVA Structural Combination Examples**

The examples of tokens with this combination are as follow:

**Example 4.13**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Conj	Verb
Some of the foreigners	even tried to hide	behind chicken coops	but	were arrested.

**Example 4.14**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial
More than 350 foreigners without valid documentation	were nabbed	in an operation at KLCC last Sunday.

**Example 4.15**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial	Adverbial
Foreigners	were normally found	in the driver's seat	after midnight	when the licensed drivers were resting.

**Example 4.16**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial
Aside from international airports,	checks against these foreigners	had been stepped up	at all land and sea entry points.

**4.2.5 SAVO/SAVC Structural Combination Examples****Example 4.17**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Adverbial
These foreigners,	he alleged,	were involved in running	food stalls	at outlets managed by local councils.

**Example 4.18**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
Twelve people,	including 10 foreigners,	have been caught	for the theft of gaharu (agarwood)	in Gerik, about 200km from here.

**Example 4.19**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Complement
The ministry	however,	will not renew	those permits or issue new ones	for foreigners wanting to work at these restaurants.



**Example 4.20**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Complement
The foreigner stabbed to death last night	near Bukit Aman federal police headquarters	was identified	as a 39-year-old Bangladeshi Muzammel Hokque.

**4.2.6 Complex Sentences Structural Combinations**

Below are some complex sentences structural combination examples:

**Example 4.21**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
On Feb 20,	the Anti-Smuggling Unit (UPP)	launched	an operation	at the Sungai Lebey Bandariang R&R
Conj	Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
where	they	found	four foreigners carrying four gunny sacks	at about 1pm.

**Example 4.22**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Conj	Subject	Verb
An estimated 60 to 70 per cent of the house buyers in Iskandar Malaysia	were	foreigners,	and	this	might lead to
Complement	Conj	Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
a future	where	Johoreans	were left feeling like	strangers	in their own land.

**Example 4.23**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Conj	Subject	Verb
The foreigner	was just passing	through the area	but	the people	jumped to
Object	Conj	Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Complement
conclusions	that	he	was going	in	to vote.

**Example 4.24**

Subject	Verb	Conj	Subject	Verb	Conj
Hundreds of foreigners	have been questioned	and	the areas where they live	scoured	as
Subject	Verb				
the search for missing boy William Yau Zhen Zhong	widened.				

**4.2.7 Summary**

As a whole, the most common structural combination of these tokens is the structural combination SVOC/SVOA (Section 4.2.2) whereas three types structural combination (ii) Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC) (Section 4.2.3), (iii) Subject + Verb + Adverbial/Complement (SVA) (Section 4.2.4), (iv) Subject + Adverbial + Verb + Object/Complement (SAVO/SAVC) (Section 4.2.5), (v) Complex Sentences Structural Combination (Section 4.2.6) were present in the tokens, but did not appear as frequently.

**4.3 Structural Analysis of *Immigrant*****4.3.1 Basic Structures and Their Extensions**

Next, we will look at the structural combinations of the tokens containing the synonym *immigrant*. It is noted that the structural combinations of these tokens were similar to those found in *foreigner*. Thus, the structural combination categories, as discussed in section 4.2 of this chapter are as follows: (i) Subject + Verb + Object + Complement/Adverbial (SVOC/SVOA) (Section 4.3.2), (ii) Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC) (Section 4.3.3), (iii) Subject + Verb + Adverbial (SVA) (Section 4.3.4), (iv) Subject + Adverbial + Verb + Object/Complement (SAVO/SAVC) (Section 4.3.5), (v) Complex Sentences Structural Combination (4.3.6). The basic structural combination can be expanded with the addition of other parts of sentences to this basic combination. We will look at examples of these structural combinations that contain the token *immigrant*.

### 4.3.2 SVOC/SVOA Structural Combination Examples

Below are some examples of tokens that carry the SVOC Structural Combination. Similar to *foreigner*, this was also the most common structural combination found for the synonym *immigrant*.

#### Example 4.25

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The illegal immigrants	were found to have committed	various offences	such as not possessing valid travel documents, overstaying and possessing fake documents.

#### Example 4.26

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
Forty-one Indonesian illegal immigrants	were nabbed	by the Selangor Customs marine unit	following a routine patrol	near the estuary of Sungai Langat, Sepang, on Sunday.

#### Example 4.27

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The Home Ministry	will launch	a large-scale operation	to flush out illegal immigrants	on January 21.

#### Example 4.28

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The government	will not use	public funds	to deport the illegal immigrants.

#### Example 4.29

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
A group of illegal immigrants having a good time drinking, gambling and indulging in sexual activities	had	their actions	brought to an abrupt halt	when immigration officers raided a flat in Skudai here.

On the other hand, examples of tokens with the SVOA structural combination are as follows:

**Example 4.30**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A baby girl is among 39 illegal immigrants	detained	by the Penang Immigration Department	during several raids in the state.

**Example 4.31**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
The state marine police	have nabbed	a total of 158 illegal immigrants and two skippers	thus far this year.

**Example 4.32**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Indonesians with permanent resident (PR) status	are working with human trafficking syndicates to smuggle	illegal immigrants	into Malaysia.

**Example 4.33**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
The state Immigration Department	nabbed	nine illegal immigrants	following a raid at a laundry outlet here.

**Example 4.34**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial	Adverbial
A total of 25 employers and 2,170 illegal immigrants	were arrested	by enforcement agencies	in 330 operations nationwide	from May to June.

**4.3.3 SVC Structural Combination Examples**

Next, we will look at examples of tokens that consist of this structural combination:

**Example 4.35**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
A total of 1,565 immigrants	were detained	for various immigration offences	on the first day of the crackdown against illegals.

**Example 4.36**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
Attempts by three illegal immigrants to elude a raid by hiding under kongsi houses and in a hole under a chicken coop in Damansara Perdana,	proved	futile	when there were ferreted out and nabbed last night.

**Example 4.37**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Complement
For the first six months of this year,	134 foreigners and illegal immigrants	were arrested	for murder.

**Example 4.38**

Subject	Verb	Complement
illegal immigrants who carry these diseases	must leave	the country

**4.3.4 SVA Structural Combination Examples**

Below are some examples of tokens with this structural combination:

**Example 4.39**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial	Adverbial
Forty-eight employers	have been arrested	to date	during the ongoing Ops Bersepadu 6P campaign aimed at nabbing illegal immigrants,	according to Immigration director-general Datuk Aloyah Mamat (pic).

**Example 4.40**

Adverbial	Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial
Out of this number,	she added,	4,640 illegal immigrants	were picked up	since January 21.

**Example 4.41**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial
The illegal immigrants	were arrested	at their kongsi (workers' quarter)	behind a factory at Stapanol here.

**Example 4.42**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Complement
The immigrants	were later sent to	the Pekan Nenas immigration depot	for further investigations under the Immigration Act 1959/63.

**4.3.5 SAVO Structural Combination Examples**

Examples of this form of structural combination are as follows:

**Example 4.43**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
The illegal immigrants arrested,	during the campaign,	did not have	their work permits.

**Example 4.44**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
The illegal immigrants,	aged between 20 and 50 years old,	did not possess	valid travel documents.

**Example 4.45**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Adverbial
The main motive for their involvement	besides the lucrative money,	was to help	illegal immigrants	from their country of origin.

**Example 4.46**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
The first phase of the operation,	which runs until the end of 2013,	aims to nab	around 400,000 illegal immigrants and about 45,000 employers of such foreigners.

**4.3.6 Complex Sentences Structural Combinations**

Examples of complex sentence structural combination of *immigrants* are as follows:

**Example 4.47**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Conj</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>
Subsequent checks	revealed	that	all the immigrants	either did not have
<b>Object</b>				
proper permits, had overstayed their permits or had suspected fake documents.				

**Example 4.48**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Conj</b>
Marine police	caught	an Indonesian illegal immigrant	who landed at a mangrove forest in Pontian,	while
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>		
seven others	were nabbed	near a river in Kota Tinggi for trying to flee the country.		

**Example 4.49**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Conj</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>
Masri	did not deny	that	Johor's coasts	were
<b>Object</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>		
the main gateway	for the trafficking of illegal immigrants	due to close proximity with several Indonesian islands.		

**Example 4.50**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>
An illegal immigrant from the Philippines	swore	he	was	a Malaysian citizen
<b>Conj</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>
when	National Registration Department and Immigration enforcement officers	raided	a flat	at Taman Emas, here on Thursday night.

### **4.3.7 Summary**

Similar to the findings of *foreigner*, as briefly discussed in section 4.2.7, the tokens of *immigrant* were also found to have SVOC/SVOA as the most common combination (Section 4.3.2) among the structural combinations present.

## **4.4 Structural Analysis of *Expatriate***

### **4.4.1 Basic Structures and their Extensions**

The structural combinations of the tokens containing *expatriate* were also found to be similar to *immigrant* and *foreigner*. This section of structural analysis would thus reflect the structural categorisation as seen previously in section 4.2 and 4.2 of this paper.

However, a slight difference is noted where there were tokens that held the basic structure SVO. Thus, the structural categorisation for *expatriate* are as follows: (i) Subject + Verb + Object + Complement/Adverbial (SVO/SVOC/SVOA)(Section 4.4.2), (ii) Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC) (Section 4.4.3), (iii) Subject + Verb + Adverbial (SVA) (Section 4.4.4), (iv) Subject + Adverbial + Verb + Object/Complement (SAVO/SAVC) (Section 4.4.5), (v) Complex Sentences Structural Combination (Section 4.4.6).

Unlike the previous two synonyms, it was also noted that there were also variations to *expatriate* such as *expat* or its plural form *expats*. These were also considered when looking for examples as they still carry the same meaning and thus, are included into the examples as well. In the next section, we will look at some of these examples that fall under each category.

### **4.4.2 SVO/SVOC/SVOA Structural Combination**

Tokens that consisted of the basic structural combination of SVO were found for *expatriate* as follows:



**Example 4.51**

Subject	Verb	Object
Capturing human emotions and expressions on camera	is what drives	South Korean expatriate Jung Sang-Hwan.

**Example 4.52**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object
The more quality expatriates we get,	the better it	will be	for our economy.

**Example 4.53**

Subject	Verb	Object
These expatriates	bought	RM1.5 billion worth of properties.

**Example 4.54**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object
From local theatres and the arts to food and beverage outlets, sports and entertainment to recreational parks and forest reserves	– these	appeal to	an expat setting up his family here.

**Example 4.55**

Subject	Verb	Object
The surprising thing is only a quarter of the ice hockey team	are	expatriates.

Examples of tokens with SVOC combination are as below:

**Example 4.56**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Japanese expatriate, Sonosuke Ishiwata,	loves	all things Malaysian	— from the food and culture to the people and places.

**Example 4.57**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
Jung	also met	his wife,	a South Korean expatriate,	in Malaysia.

**Example 4.58**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
French expatriate, Marceline Lemarie,	has	a close connection with food,	just like a Malaysian.

**Example 4.59**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Expatriates	could have	a sense of permanency for 10 years,	instead of annual visa renewals for them and their spouses.

**Example 4.60**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
There	are also	about 10,000 professional expatriates employed	in information technology, manufacturing and banking.

Examples of tokens with the SVOA structural combination, on the other hand, are as below:

**Example 4.61**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Swiss expatriates and their local counterparts	got	a better picture of doing business in Malaysia	after attending a talk here recently.

**Example 4.62**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Representatives of these expatriates together with local community leaders and SUPP politicians	held	a press conference	at Miri SUPP headquarters here yesterday to salute that milestone decision.

**Example 4.63**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
We	have never heard of	expatriate kidnapping	happening in Malaysia before.

**Example 4.64**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A 46-year-old Australian expatriate's house	was hit	by a Molotov cocktail	in Ara Damansara yesterday.

**Example 4.65**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial	Adverbial
The 18-month old son of a British expatriate who was kidnapped from his Bangsar home yesterday,	was found	by a passer-by	at the roadside	in Taman Tasik Titiwangsa today.

**4.4.3 SVC Structural Combination Examples**

The examples of tokens with the SVC structural combination are as follow:

**Example 4.66**

Subject	Verb	Complement
Most of the crimes committed against expats	were	purse snatchings.

**Example 4.67**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
A population boom	will also spur	growth	in the expat market.

**Example 4.68**

Subject	Verb	Complement
The driver of the Nissan Skyline that exploded after crashing yesterday into a pillar near the Kampung Pandan roundabout here, killing its six occupants,	was	a British expatriate.

**Example 4.69**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial	Adverbial
He	was	upbeat	about the strong interest shown	by expatriates who had applied for the residence pass-talent.

**4.4.4 SVA Structural Combination Examples**

Examples of the tokens with this structural combination are as follows:

**Example 4.70**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Object
From January until August this year,	among the expatriates	who settled down	in Malaysia	included 558 Japanese, 475 Chinese nationals and Bangladeshis (325).

**Example 4.71**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial
An expert in Brazilian dances and a fitness instructor,	expat Lilica Vargas,	has been living	in Malaysia	since 2009.

**Example 4.72**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial
The expatriate	resides	in the city	under the “Malaysia, My Second Home” programme.

**Example 4.73**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Complement
While most people spend their weekends pursuing leisurely activities,	British expatriate Chris Storer,	would go to	the outskirts of Kemaman	to look out for injured wildlife.

#### 4.4.5 SAVO Structural Combination Examples

Tokens with this structural combination are as follows:

##### Example 4.74

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
Bob Matthews,	unlike most of his expatriate counterparts,	enjoyed eating	durians	at the festival.

##### Example 4.75

Adverbial	Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Adverbial
At the age of 25,	Fumio Sakurai,	like many expatriates,	left	his Tokyo hometown	to venture into lands unknown to expand his world view.

##### Example 4.76

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
Expatriates who are in Malaysia	always	try to extend	their time in Malaysia.

##### Example 4.77

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Complement
The department,	scheduled to begin by March,	will offer	immigrati on services	to expatriates and their dependants.

#### 4.4.6 Complex Sentences Structural Combinations

Examples of tokens with this structural combination are as follow:

##### Example 4.78

Subject	Verb	Conj	Subject	Verb	Object
Some	need not even apply	as	we	offer	RP-T
<b>Complement</b>					
to eminent expatriates.					

**Example 4.79**

Subject	Verb	Object	Conj	Subject	Verb	Object
The country	had worked hard to attract	top expatriate talent and long-term investors,	and	the multiple entry visa	would make	it
<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>					
easier	for investors and fund managers to visit Malaysia.					

**Example 4.80**

Subject	Verb	Object	Conj	Subject	Verb
More than 2,000 expatriates	were roped in via	the Residence Pass Talent (RPT) programme	and	2,000 Malaysians	had applied
<b>Adverbial</b>					
under the Returning Expert Programme (REP).					

**Example 4.81**

Subject	Verb	Conj	Subject	Verb	Object
We the expatriates	hope	that	the Sarawak government	will also look into gazetting	other special areas
<b>Adverbial</b>					
across the state as nature reserves.					

**4.4.7 Summary**

Similar to the findings of *foreigner* and *immigrant* as discussed in section 4.2.6 and 4.3.6 respectively, the tokens of *expatriate* were also found to have structural combination

SVOC/SVOA (4.4.2) as the most common combination found among the rest of the structural combinations present.

#### **4.5 Structural Similarities Between *Foreigner*, *Immigrant* and *Expatriate* Explained**

In a study of synonymous verbs Fisher et al. (1991, p.331) introduced an assumption that “the closer any two verbs (are) in their semantic structure, the greater the overlap should be in their licensed syntactic structures” (p.20). This assumption can also be adapted to the synonymous nouns in the study.

According to this assumption, in other words, due to this interrelatedness in terms of the meaning it denotes, the synonyms will share similar networks of constructions. In the context of this study, the similarities in structural combinations shows that *foreigner*, *immigrant* and *expatriate* do share similarities on a semantic level. Therefore, the similarity in terms of structure may be due to the denotative meaning that it carries.

Divyak (2006) also pointed out that grammatical constructions alone are insufficient in uncovering the finer details in a lexical analysis. Thus, we will move on to the second part of the study which is the semantic analysis of the synonyms.

#### **4.6 Semantic Analysis of *Foreigner***

##### **4.6.1 Basic Semantic Structure that Invoke Positive/Neutral or Negative**

###### **Connotation**

The positive/neutral and negative aspects of the synonyms can be contrasted more prominently through a semantic analysis. In terms of *foreigner*, the positive/neutral or negative connotations arise from: (i) Active Construction (Section 4.6.2), (ii) Passive Construction (Section 4.6.3), (iii) Verb Phrase (Section 4.6.2.1, 4.6.2.2, 4.6.3.1), (iv) Subject (Section 4.6.2.2, 4.6.3.2), (v) Complement/Adverbial (Section 4.6.2.3, 4.6.3.3).

With reference to the characteristics listed in Table 4.3, we will discuss how these connotations arise through a combination of the above. First, we will start off this portion of analysis with the active construction.

#### 4.6.2 Active Construction

##### 4.6.2.1 Verb Phrase

In the case of active construction, the Subject often causes or performs an action on the Object. We will, firstly, look at examples of such tokens and how *foreigners* are impacted by the Subject when they are in the Object position. The following examples of tokens co-relate to the characteristic “Working illegally or unwelcomed to work in Malaysia” indicated in Table 4.3.

##### Example 4.82

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Conj	Verb	Object
The ministry	however	<b>will not renew</b>	those permits	or	issue	new ones
Complement	Adverbial					
for <b>foreigners</b> wanting to work	at these restaurants.					

##### Example 4.83

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who lead the operations,	<b>urged (business owners) not to hire</b>	<b>foreigners</b>	to run their premises	especially those with social visit passes.

##### Example 4.84

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
We	<b>should not be encouraging</b>	<b>foreigners</b>	to open businesses.



**Example 4.85**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Taxi operators	<b>cannot rent out</b>	their vehicles	to <b>foreigners.</b>

In the examples above, the tokens are related to the employment of *foreigners*. Actions carried out by the subjects in these examples are of negative implication. This is indicated by the ‘not’ that accompanies the verbs (hire, encouraging, rent), a sign of refusal or negation of action towards the *foreigners* in question. Contrastive to the negative nature of the tokens, positive/neutral connotations classified under this characteristic of employment were also found, although not often. An example of this can be seen as follows:

**Example 4.86**

Subject	Verb	Direct Object	Complement
Employers who disagree with the cost of RM110 for the i-Kad for foreign workers	<b>should not be hiring</b>	<b>foreigners</b>	to work for them.

The token indicates neutrality of the situation whereas the Subject matter is in regards to employers who are not willing to pay for the i-Kad which will be used by *foreigners* who are being employed to work.

**4.6.2.2 Subject Matter and Verb Phrase**

In some tokens related to this characteristic, the Subject and connotation of the Verb alone indicate the negative implication on *foreigner* as shown by the following example:

**Example 4.87**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
<b>DBKL</b>	<b>suspects</b>	<b>foreigners</b>	rent licences at exorbitant rates
<b>Adverbial</b>			from local traders.

**Example 4.88**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
<b>The Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD)</b>	<b>is coming down hard on</b>	errant cabbies,	including <b>foreigners</b> .

Next, we will discuss some other examples of the active construction that involve the characteristics “Involved in Crime as Perpetrator or Victim” and “Illegal Entry into Malaysia”. These two characteristics will be discussed together because of the similarity in the nature, or illegality of their respective actions (Crime and illegal immigration issues). A combination of the Subject and Verb primarily bring out the negative connotation of the characteristic as seen in the following tokens whereas at times the Subject or Verb alone can invoke the negative connotation:

**Example 4.89**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
<b>The Immigration Department</b>	<b>has detained</b>	another <b>39 foreigners</b>	in its crackdown on illegal immigrants here.

**Example 4.90**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial	Complement	Adverbial
<b>The department</b>	<b>was determined to stop</b>	<b>foreigners</b>	from circumventing the system,	to carry out illicit activities	in the country.

**Example 4.91**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
<b>Police</b>	<b>arrested</b>	<b>11 foreigners,</b>	including two who were here on student visas, for allegedly working illegally as guest relation officers	at an entertainment outlet here in Sunway Mentari.

**Example 4.92**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
<b>Police</b>	<b>crippled</b>	a robbery gang	following the arrests of 13 suspects, including <b>four foreigners</b> ,	on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

In certain tokens, the Subject itself is enough to give the token its negative connotation as seen from the example below:

**Example 4.93**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
<b>Police</b>	have identified	several syndicate members	who are actively involved in trafficking <b>foreigners</b>	in Penang for the past few months.

When *foreigner* appears as the Subject of the token, the verb itself can indicate as to whether the token gives a positive/neutral or negative connotation about them:

**Example 4.94**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
These <b>61 foreigners</b>	<b>had bribed</b>	enforcement officers,	such as those from the police, Immigration Department, Road Transport Department and Public Land Transport Commission (SPAD).

**Example 4.95**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Some <b>9,757 foreigners</b>	<b>are serving</b>	sentences	in Malaysian prisons up to the first six months of this year.

In the two tokens above, it can be seen that the *foreigners*' actions indicate a sense of wrongdoing; one highlights bribery while the other token indicates a crime or illegal action being committed which has caused the jail sentence. The above two tokens are in contrast with the following tokens:

**Example 4.96**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Foreigners	owned	only two per cent of total properties transacted	last year in Malaysia.

**Example 4.97**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A majority of foreigners	buy	high-end residential properties	in the state capital and Iskandar Malaysia flagship zones.

Both tokens coincide with the characteristic “Investing in Property”. With verbs such as owned or buy as seen above, this gives the Subject a positive/neutral tone as it merely highlights them of having capability to own property in Malaysia.

In the following token that coincides with “Professionals from other Countries” on the other hand, the Subject itself has established the fact that these *foreigners* were hired as professional football players to represent the Terengganu football club:

**Example 4.98**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial	Adverbial
The foreigners in Terengganu football club T-Team FC	are worried	for their safety	after Saturday's incident	during their FA Cup second round match.

### 4.6.2.3 Complement/Adverbial Phrase

In some cases of active construction, on the other hand, the Complement or Adverbial phrase of the sentence aids in giving the negative or positive/neutral notion to the tokens. The general function of the Complement or Adverbial phrase is to give additional contextual information, as demonstrated in the following examples:

#### Example 4.99

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A manhunt	is on	for a <b>foreigner</b>	<b>following the murder of his stepfather-in-law this morning here.</b>

In the instance of the token above, the Adverbial phrase has aided in giving the additional contextual information that the *foreigner* may be a suspect of his stepfather-in-law's murder, giving the token a negative connotation under the characteristic "Involved in Crime as Perpetrator or Victim". Likewise for the token in Example 4.100, the Adverbial Phrase also provides additional contextual information that reveals the identity of the foreigners, who are identified as 'culprits' in the sentence. The word 'culprit' itself has a negative connotation, as it refers to one who is responsible for committing a crime:

#### Example 4.100

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The state government	will soon initiate	action	against the culprits,	some of whom are believed to be <b>foreigners</b> .

As for additional information provided by the Complement phrase, some examples are as follows:

#### Example 4.101

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The Terengganu police	are in the midst of tracking down	a <b>foreigner</b>	<b>who robbed and raped a cybercafe worker</b>	last month in Padang Hiliran here.

**Example 4.102**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The security forces	hauled up	a group of armed <b>foreigners</b> clad in military fatigues	<b>for encroaching into Lahad Datu waters</b>	in Sabah, on Wednesday.

In the token above, the additional contextual information provided through the Complement phrase tells us the type of crime that *foreigner* has committed.

As for the examples shown in the tokens below, both coincide with the characteristic “Misusing Marriage”. In both examples, the Complement phrase provide more information in regards to the action of the *foreigner* in cheating locals into marriage:

**Example 4.103**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
A <b>foreigner</b> who wanted to become a permanent resident in the country	began giving	his wife	<b>the cold shoulder</b>	as soon as he had achieved his goal.

**Example 4.104**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
He	knew of	a number of cases	<b>involving single mothers being duped by foreigners into marriage.</b>

In cases where *foreigners* appear in the Subject position, the accompanying Adverbial or Complement adds to, in the case of the following examples, the negative connotation of the tokens:

**Example 4.105**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
These <b>foreigners</b>	are involved	in vice	<b>including prostitution and drugs.</b>

**Example 4.106**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A growing number of <b>foreigners</b>	are driving	taxis	<b>illegally in Malaysia.</b>

**Example 4.107**

Subject	Adverbial	Adverbial	Verb	Complement
The group of <b>foreigners</b> that allegedly stole a multimillion-ringgit diamond ring	from a jewellery store	in Bukit Bintang	could be	<b>part of an international crime syndicate.</b>

**Example 4.108**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
Some <b>9,757 foreigners</b>	are serving	<b>sentences</b>	<b>in Malaysian prisons up to the first six months of this year.</b>

**Example 4.109**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
<b>Foreigners</b> coming into Malaysia for economic reasons,	<b>including vice,</b>	had adopted	various methods.

In contrast with the negative characteristics, there are instances in which *foreigner* has a positive/neutral connotation. This is in relation to two characteristics which are “Participants in Malaysian Festivities” and “Professionals from Other Countries” (see Table 4.3 p. 45). In the following statement, the Adverbial phrase gives clue that it was during the Chinese New Year that the foreigners came out to the city to enjoy their holidays:

#### Example 4.110

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
As city folks headed for their hometowns for the Chinese New Year,	the capital	saw	an influx of foreigners	<b>on the first day of the festive season.</b>

### 4.6.3 Passive Construction

#### 4.6.3.1 Verb Phrase

In terms of tokens with passive construction, the Subject is affected by the action denoted by the Verb. Below are some examples of tokens with the passive construction where *foreigner* is directly impacted by the action denoted by the Verb:

#### Example 4.111

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
Two Malaysian women who hired <b>illegal foreigners</b> and a Myanmar pub owner	<b>were among those detained</b>	by the Immigration Department	here on Saturday.

#### Example 4.112

Subject	Verb	Adverbial
More than 350 <b>foreigners</b> without valid documentation	<b>were nabbed</b>	in an operation at KLCC last Sunday.

#### Example 4.113

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Adverbial
Fifteen people,	including four <b>foreigners</b> ,	were apprehended	<b>during a operation against illegal online gambling here.</b>

All the tokens above fall under the characteristics “Involved in Crime as Perpetrator or Victim” or “Illegal Entry into Malaysia”. The Verbs here play an important role in determining the negative connotation of *foreigner* as they carry the meaning “getting caught”, usually by a figure of authority, although it is not directly mentioned in the examples, with exception of the first example.



### 4.6.3.2 Oblique Phrase

In passive constructions whereby *foreigner* is not in the Subject position, they may be the Cause of the Subject as seen in the following example:

#### Example 4.114

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Thirteen per cent of tuberculosis cases	are caused	by foreigners,	mostly in Sabah.

The token coincides with the characteristic “Negatively Affects Malaysia’s Healthcare” (see Table 4.3, p. 44) as a percentage of tuberculosis cases are brought in by *foreigners*. Otherwise, in the example below, negative connotation is also portrayed as the *foreigner* is arrested in relation to the Subject matter. Indirectly, this also indicates that the *foreigner* has caused or created the syndicate.

#### Example 4.115

Subject	Verb	Adverbial
A syndicate which specialises in falsifying work permits for Indian nationals seeking jobs in Malaysia	has been crippled	with the arrest of a <b>foreigner</b> believed to be its mastermind

## 4.7 Semantic Analysis of *Expatriate*

### 4.7.1 Basic Semantic Structure that Invoke Positive/Neutral or Negative

#### Connotation

For *expatriate* the positive/neutral or negative connotation arise from four components. They are: (i) Adjective Phrase (Section 4.7.1.2), (ii) Verb Phrase (Section 4.7.1.3), (iii) Complement/Adverbial Phrase (Section 4.7.1.4), (iv) Passive Construction (Section 4.7.2). As mentioned in Section 4.4.1 of the chapter, there were variations to *expatriate* such as *expat* or its plural form *expats*. These were also considered when looking for examples as they still carry the same meaning and thus, are included into the examples as well.

#### 4.7.1.2 Adjective Phrase

The Adjectives that coincide with *expatriate* can be further classified into two categories namely attribute-driven or nationality-driven. The examples of nationality driven tokens are as follows: (i) German expatriate Anna Kaster, (ii) The 31-year-old British expatriate, (iii) A 39-year-old Australian expatriate (iv) Japanese expatriate Sonosuke Ishiwata, and (iv) Swiss expatriates. These Adjectives are rather neutral in nature as their function is to describe the country of origin of these *expatriates*:

In terms of attribute-driven Adjectives, some example of Adjective phrases are as follow: (i) Eminent expatriates, (ii) Highly skilled expatriates, (iii) Quality expatriates, and (iv) Expatriates of standard.

The Adjectives above shed a more positive light on *expatriate* whereby they are viewed to be talented and professional. These Adjective phrases were linked to tokens that fall under the characteristic “Desired by Malaysia in Terms of Career” (see Table 4.3 p. 45).

With reference to the characteristics of *expatriate* in Table 4.3, we will now discuss further on how these Adjective phrases and Verb phrases come into play in these example of tokens. While we have seen the nature of the Adjective phrases that occur, we will now discuss the nature of the Verb phrases.

#### 4.7.1.3 Verb Phrase

Unlike the Verb phrases seen in section 4.6 of this study, the Verb phrases found in the tokens that had *expatriate* consisted more of those with positive/neutral connotation as compared with negative ones. We will start off by analysing tokens with *expatriate* in the Subject position:

**Example 4.116**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
<b>Japanese expatriate</b> , Sonosuke Ishiwata,	<b>loves</b>	all things Malaysian	— from the food and culture to the people and places.

**Example 4.117**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Despite being a crime victim more than once in the country's capital,	<b>German expatriate</b> Anna Kaster,	<b>still loves</b>	Malaysia	for its generous and loving people.

Both tokens (Example 4.116 and Example 4.117) indicate the characteristic (refer to Table 4.3 of chapter) “Loves Malaysia and its Culture” and the verb itself has played a role in establishing their feelings towards the country.

The Verb phrase also provides clue of the tokens in relation to the characteristic (refer to Table 4.3 of chapter) “Living or Want to Live in Malaysia”.

**Example 4.118**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Object
From January until August this year,	among the <b>expatriates</b>	<b>who settled down</b>	in Malaysia	included 558 Japanese, 475 Chinese nationals and Bangladeshis (325).

**Example 4.119**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial
An expert in Brazilian dances and a fitness instructor,	<b>expat</b> Lilica Vargas,	<b>has been living</b>	in Malaysia	since 2009.

**Example 4.120**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial
The <b>expatriate</b>	<b>resides</b>	in the city	under the “Malaysia, My Second Home” programme.

**Example 4.121**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Conj	Subject	Verb
Lots of <b>expats</b>	<b>lived</b>	here	and	there	were
Object	Adverbial				
numerous organisations.	that could get you settled.				

Aside from that, Verb phrases were also useful in identifying tokens that fall under the characteristic “desired by Malaysia in terms of career” (refer to Table 4.3 p. 45). This can be seen either from the efforts through extra services, recruitment programmes or even new opportunities given by Malaysian bodies in attracting the *expatriates* to work here as seen from the examples below:

**Example 4.122**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Complement
The department,	scheduled to begin by March,	<b>will offer</b>	immigration services	to <b>expatriates</b> and their dependants.

**Example 4.123**

Subject	Verb	Object	Conj	Subject	Verb	Object
The country	<b>had worked (hard) to attract</b>	<b>top expatriate talent</b> and long-term investors,	and	the multiple entry visa	would make	it
Complement						
easier for investors and fund managers to visit Malaysia.						

**Example 4.124**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
A slew of incentives,	including the residence pass for <b>professional expatriates</b> ,	<b>will be extended to</b>	successful entrepreneurs engaged in knowledge-intensive activities.

Likewise, this characteristic can also be seen in tokens whereby the *expatriate* (as Subject of the sentence), is attracted or applied for the job (carried out through the Verb)

**Example 4.125**

Subject	Verb	Object	Conj	Subject	Verb	Adverbial
<b>Expatriates</b>	<b>are attracted by</b>	new projects,	and	the largest pool	is	still in the Klang Valley and Penang.

**Example 4.126**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
More than <b>4,000 expatriates</b> and Malaysian professionals living abroad	<b>have applied</b>	for local jobs	this year under two major programmes by Talent Corp Malaysia.

Next, the *expatriates* were also seen be financially wealthy, having the capability to invest in high-end properties in Malaysia. This coincides with the characteristic “Big Spending Power” as seen in the following token:

**Example 4.127**

Subject	Verb	Object
These <b>expatriates</b>	<b>bought</b>	<b>RM1.5 billion</b> worth of properties.

While it is logically considered good for the country’s economy to have bigger investors in the country, it may have a negative effect to the locals as it alters the property landscape of what is deemed to be affordable for the locals here. In the following token, the Adverbial phrase establishes that *foreigners* and *expatriates* indeed can afford more expensive homes, giving the connotation of their bigger spending power, which would eventually disrupt the local property market:

**Example 4.128**

<b>Adverbial</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Conj</b>	<b>subject</b>
As foreigners and <b>expatriates</b> are able to afford homes at higher prices,					arises land prices beyond what
	this	<b>disrupts</b>	the market	and	
<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Object</b>			
is	affordable	for locals.			

**4.7.1.4 Adverbial/Complement Phrase**

In some other cases, the Complement plays a role in creating this context of understanding.

With the Adjectives found in the Complement position, this reveals how the *expatriate* feels about Malaysia:

**Example 4.129**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>
Many <b>expats</b>	have (genuinely) fallen	<b>in love</b>	with our culture.

**Example 4.130**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>
Stephanie Dennis,	a 39-year-old <b>Australian expatriate,</b>	still finds	<b>delight</b>	in being part of the Thaipusam celebration in Penang	even after five years of taking part.

**Example 4.131**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Complement</b>	<b>Adverbial</b>
The <b>expatriates</b>	(soon) fell	<b>in love</b>	with Malaysia.

This characteristic can also be seen through their desire to extend their stay in Malaysia as seen expressed through the Adverbial phrase in the token below:

**Example 4.132**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Expatriates who are in Malaysia	always	try to extend	their time	in Malaysia.

Likewise, the Adverbial and Complement phrases found in Example 4.133 indicate a likelihood that expatriates in Malaysia will have no form of troubles (refer to Complement phrases “easier...to manage the foreigners living here” of example) with the authorities as these expatriates are identified as people who are “of standard” (refer to adverbial phrase of example).

**Example 4.133**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Complement	Object	Complement
By having expatriates of standard calling Malaysia their home,	it	will be	easier	for the authorities	to manage the foreigners living here.

**Example 4.134**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The rollouts of these projects	have seen	a lot of expats	coming into the local market.

With “Big Spending Power” as its characteristic (see Table 4.3, p. 45), companies are seen to cater services specifically for *expatriates* with spending power, as seen in the following token. The Adverbial phrase provides further explanation about the product as to who it is specifically catered for:

**Example 4.135**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The product	is in	collaboration	with InterGlobal Insurance Co Ltd,	<b>which caters to expatriates and high net worth individual.</b>

Besides, *expatriates* are also seen to be “Community-minded” as one of its characteristics (see Table 4.3, p.45). This could either be through getting involved in charity or an environmental protection cause. In the following token, the Adverbial phrase reveals the co-operation the *expatriates* have with the following bodies for an environmental cause:

**Example 4.136**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object	Complement
<b>The expatriates,</b>	<b>together with Shell auxiliary police, Sarawak Forestry wildlife rangers, volunteers from the local communities and the village folk here,</b>	will form	a committee	<b>to help beef up security in the camp.</b>

In addition, *expatriates* also resume another role according to Table 4.3 of the chapter which is “Tourists in Malaysia”. The role of tourist as seen in the following token where the Complement reveals the identity of the tourists to be of *expatriates*:

**Example 4.137**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Complement	Conj	Adverbial
For instance,	most of the tourists from Bangalore	are	<b>expatriates</b>	and	normally
Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object		
they	seldom	create	problems.		



#### 4.7.2 Passive Construction

As for the characteristic “Victims of crime or accidents” (see Table 4.3, p. 45), a notable findings that shares similarities to the one in *expatriate* is the usage of passive voice construction when reporting about a similar characteristic which is crime or wrongdoing. In the example 4.138, the *expatriate* is seen as a victim as his house was hit by a Molotov cocktail whereas in example 4.139 lost money as the result of a fraud case:

##### Example 4.138

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
A 46-year-old <b>Australian expatriate's</b> house	was hit	<b>by a Molotov cocktail</b>	in Ara Damansara yesterday.

##### Example 4.139

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
A woman teacher who is an <b>expatriate</b>	was made	<b>RM29,600 poorer</b>	by a would-be business partner who befriended her on Facebook	beginning last February.

### 4.8 Semantic Analysis of *Immigrant*

#### 4.8.1 Basic Semantic Structure that Invoke Positive/Neutral or Negative

##### Connotation

In terms of *immigrant*, the positive/neutral or negative connotation arise from: i) Active Construction (Section 4.8.3), (iii) Passive Construction (Section 4.8.4), (ii) Verb Phrase (Section 4.8.3.1, 4.8.4.1), (iii) Subject (Section 4.8.3.1, 4.6.3.2), (iv) Complement/Adverbial (Section 4.8.4.2), (iv) Adjective Phrase (Section 4.8.2)

This was rather similar to the categories seen in section 4.6 of chapter which discusses on *foreigner's* semantic structure with exception of the Adjectives category. In any case, *immigrants* do have overlapping characteristics with *foreigner* (refer to Table

4.3 of chapter) namely in terms of immigration issues, crime or wrong doing, bringing in diseases to the country as well as employment issues.

#### 4.8.2 Adjective Phrase

As an overall to the Adjective phrase found in tokens consisting of *immigrants*, it is noted that the most common Adjective that accompanied *immigrant* was ‘illegal’. Another Adjective used, although not as often as ‘illegal’, is ‘foreign’. Below are several examples of the occurrence of ‘illegal’ and ‘foreign’ with *immigrant* in the tokens:

##### Example 4.140

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Adverbial
Out of this number,	4,640 <b>illegal immigrants</b>	were picked up	since January 21.

##### Example 4.141

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
The highest number of <b>illegal immigrants</b> arrested	during the campaign	were	Indonesians,
<b>Complement</b>			
with 1,800 of them arrested so far.			

##### Example 4.142

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
A total of 3,978 <b>illegal immigrants</b> arrested	have since been	deported	back to their home countries.

In terms of the Adjective ‘illegal’, the Adjective itself already gives *immigrant* a negative connotation as it gives an impression that they are in Malaysia, or are doing things here that are not by the law. In these tokens, the immigrants are seen to have been arrested and sent back to their home countries. These tokens coincide with the characteristic “Illegal Entry or Stay in Malaysia”. Next, we will look at tokens that consist of the Adjective phrase *foreign immigrant*:

### Example 4.143

Subject	Verb	Complement	Conj	Verb
Foreign immigrants	are not allowed at all to be	taxi drivers	or	to obtain
Object	Adverbial			
taxi permits	in this country.			

### Example 4.144

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
Foreign immigrants hired as taxi or other vehicle drivers	would also adversely affect	government efforts	in promoting the country	in conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year 2014.

The Adjective ‘foreign’ on its own may not have more of a neutral connotation as it denotes one that is from another country or overseas but based on the context that this Adjective appears in, it also gives *immigrant* a negative impression. In the first token, it appears that the *immigrant* was refused a job as a taxi driver whereas the second token indicates that the country’s tourism would be negatively affected by the presence of these *immigrants* if they were to be hired as taxi drivers. The modal verb ‘would’ found in Verb Phrase indicates a negative possibility in future. Overall, these tokens coincide with the characteristic “working illegally or unwelcomed to work in Malaysia” (see Table 4.3 p. 45).

Adjectives that revealed the country of origin where also found existing together with *immigrant*. The table below shows examples of these types of Adjectives: (i) Indonesian immigrant, (ii) Myanmar national immigrant, and (iii) Vietnamese immigrant.

## 4.8.3 Active Construction

### 4.8.3.1 Subject Matter and Verb Phrase

The discussion will be further continued by looking at some examples of active construction tokens and how the connotations arise from the categories respectively. In

terms of Verb phrases found in the active construction whereby the Subject affects the Object. Future tense is sometimes used, mainly to indicate the Subject's actions that will be carried out in the future towards the *immigrants*.

**Example 4.145**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
<b>The authorities</b>	<b>will be hunting down</b>	<b>illegal immigrants</b>	in the nation's biggest-ever operation to flush out unwanted foreigners	from Sunday.

**Example 4.146**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
<b>The Home Ministry</b>	<b>will launch</b>	a large-scale operation	to flush out <b>illegal immigrants</b>	on January 21.

**Example 4.147**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
<b>The government</b>	<b>will not use</b>	public funds	to deport the <b>illegal immigrants</b> .

**Example 4.148**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Come Sunday,	<b>the authorities</b>	<b>will be hunting down</b>	an estimated 500,000 <b>illegal immigrants</b>	in the nation's biggest ever operation to flush out unwanted foreigners.

In the tokens above, the Subjects of the tokens are authoritative bodies such as the government, minister or even the authorities, which whom we can assume to be the police force or immigration officers or other governing bodies who want to get rid of these *immigrants* in the country. With the assumption that these *immigrants* will have a negative impact towards the country or towards the community, the tokens may coincide

with the characteristics (see Table 4.3 p. 55) “Illegal Entry or Stay in Malaysia” or “Involved in Crime as Perpetrator or Victim”.

Besides the future tense, the present tense was also used in some tokens. In these cases, the actions of the Verb phrases are as seen in the tokens below:

**Example 4.149**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial
Ahead of the Chinese New Year,	Bukit Aman and city police	<b>are cracking down</b>	on <b>illegal immigrants</b> and gang members	in tourism hotspot Petaling Street.

**Example 4.150**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Object
The first phase of the operation,	which runs until the end of 2013,	<b>aims to nab</b>	around 400,000 <b>illegal immigrants</b> and about 45,000 employers of such foreigners.

**Example 4.151**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The government	<b>hopes to round up</b>	most of the estimated <b>400,000 illegal immigrants</b>	believed to be in the country.

All tokens above refer to either the characteristics “Illegal Entry into Malaysia”, “Involved in Crime, as Perpetrator or Victim” or “Working Illegally or Unwelcomed to Work in Malaysia” (see Table 4.p. 45). Through the Subject and the Verb Phrases, the negative connotation for immigrants arises when the Subject matter, who are identified as authoritative bodies, want to take action against them.

In some cases, modal verbs are introduced to the Verb phrases, expressing obligation towards the action to carry out against the *immigrant*. Both tokens below are grouped under the characteristic “contribute to health problems” (see Table 4.3 p. 45). In

the example 4.152 below, it states the compulsory responsibility of the Subject to control the coming in of *illegal immigrants* whereas in example 4.153, it states that *immigrants* with diseases had to leave Malaysia. This gives an overall connotation that these *immigrants* had health issues that were contagious and could affect the rest of the Malaysians:

**Example 4.152**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The authorities	<b>must control</b>	the influx of <b>illegal immigrants</b> (PATI)	due to the recorded increase in diseases which are highly contagious	brought in by this group into the country.

**Example 4.153**

Subject	Verb	Complement
<b>Illegal immigrants</b> who carry these diseases	<b>must leave</b>	the country.

**4.8.4 Passive Construction**

**4.8.4.1 Verb Phrase**

The modal verb was also found in tokens with passive constructions. The modal verb *should* is used in the following token, to express advice or right action, that is to deport them back to their own country, should be taken when dealing with *immigrants*:

**Example 4.154**

Subject	Verb	Conj	Verb
I think every <b>illegal immigrant</b>	<b>should</b> be rounded up	and	sent back.

In example 4.155 below, the token which belongs under the characteristic “working illegally or unwelcomed to work in Malaysia” (see Table 4.3 p. 45), the modal verb *would* indicates the probable action that were to happen to the *immigrant* if the authorities were to find out about the employment. As a complex sentence, the second Subject, which is the *local employer*, will face punishment from the authorities, as

indicated by the modal verb *can* which indicates a possibility or ability for the punishment in the Object position to happen:

**Example 4.155**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Conj	Subject
Immigrants	would be deported	immediately	while	local employers
Verb	Object			
can be fined	up to RM50,000 or face jail time of up to five-years or six strokes of the rotan, or all three.			

Similar to the findings of *foreigner*, in some passive constructions, the Subject is directly affected by the action of the Verb. Example 4.156 indicates the *immigrants* being caught for wrongdoing whereas example 4.157 indicates the *immigrants* being caught by the authorities:

**Example 4.156**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
Thirteen Indonesian immigrants	were nabbed for allegedly using	fake Malaysian Immigration Department stamps	to leave the country	by air yesterday.

**Example 4.157**

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverbial	Adverbial
A total of 25 employers and 2,170 illegal immigrants	were arrested	by enforcement agencies	in 330 operations nationwide	from May to June.

**4.8.4.2 Adverbial/Complement Phrase**

It was noted that most of the tokens indicated crime or immigration-related offences (as seen by their Complement or Object), which is the reason why these *immigrants* were being caught:

**Example 4.158**

Subject	Verb	Complement	Adverbial
A total of <b>1,565 immigrants</b>	were detained	<b>for various immigration offences</b>	on the first day of the crackdown against illegals.

**Example 4.159**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
The <b>illegal immigrants</b>	were found to have committed	various offences	<b>such as not possessing valid travel documents, overstaying and possessing fake documents.</b>

In cases where *immigrant* is not in the Subject position of the passive construction, its position, whether as an Adverbial phrase or Complement phrase helps create the connotation of the tokens. This can be seen in the two following examples whereby in the example 4.160, the Subject has been arrested in relation to hiring *immigrants* as indicated by the Adverbial phrase whereas for the example 4.161, the Subject was informed of the operation that had to do with getting rid of the *immigrants*, based on the Complement phrase:

**Example 4.160**

Subject	Verb	Adverbial	Adverbial
Forty-eight employers	have been arrested	to date	<b>during the ongoing Ops Bersepadu 6P campaign aimed at nabbing illegal immigrants.</b>

**Example 4.161**

Adverbial	Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Earlier,	he	was briefed	on the integrated operation	<b>to chase away illegal immigrants.</b>



In general, the Adverbial or Complement phrases do play their roles in some tokens to bring out the positive/neutral or negative connotation. The following example shows the reason why the *immigrants* were arrested through the Complement phrase:

**Example 4.162**

Subject	Adverbial	Verb	Complement
The <b>illegal immigrants</b> ,	between the ages of 17 and 52,	were arrested	<b>for not having valid travel documents.</b>

On the other hand, in the following example, we can understand that the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) set up by the government has something to do with *immigrant*-related issues:

**Example 4.163**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The Government	has agreed to set up	a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI)	<b>to investigate problems related to illegal immigrants</b>	in Sabah.

In the following token, the Complement also indicates the reason why the raid was carried out which was basically to arrest *immigrants* who were working in entertainment outlets. This, once again, coincides with the characteristic “Working illegally or unwelcomed to work in Malaysia”.

**Example 4.164**

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement	Adverbial
The raid	was initiated based on intelligence gathering and monitoring	done by the department	in an effort to weed out <b>illegal immigrants</b>	working in entertainment outlets in the state.

#### 4.9 Discussion

Based on the structural analysis (Sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4), it is seen that *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant* share similarities in terms of structural combinations. As discussed in 4.5, this could be attributed to the fact that these synonyms share similar denotative meanings and the closer the semantic meaning, the more similar the structure would be. However, while it is good to know that these synonyms are structurally similar, the analysis in its overall does not contribute to the study of the connotative differences between them. This is where the semantic analysis plays a role. In Frame Semantics, this part of the analysis is crucial as it focuses on how the meanings or characteristics of the words are manifested from the linguistic form, and how we then use our background knowledge to understand or perceive these synonyms. This proves to be true as different connotation arises for each synonym.

As an example, comparing the Adjective Phrases for *expatriate* and *immigrant*, contrasting differences can already be noticed. *Expatriate* was often associated with positive/neutral adjectives such as *skilled* or *talented* whereas *immigrant* frequently appeared with rather negative adjectives such as *illegal* (Example 4.165) or *foreign* (Example 4.143). This gave *immigrant* an almost immediate negative connotation in most of its tokens. While both shared similarities of having nationality-driven adjective phrases, differences were also seen from their country of origin; *expatriates* originated from first world countries such as the United Kingdom, Japan, and France, to name a few examples whereas *immigrant* were often associated with countries such as Vietnam, Myanmar or Indonesia. The association of *immigrant* to these countries specifically could be due to the long history of the country in hiring foreign workers originating from there. This may also be an indication of an early lead to a possibility that would require further studies

that the country of origin is an influential factor of the way we perceive those who do not belong in the country.

Besides, in terms of Verb Phrases, it can be seen that *immigrant* and *foreigner* shared more similarities as compared to *expatriate*. Tokens that consist of *immigrant* and *foreigner* co-occurred with verbs which more often had negative connotation where they committed crimes, or were caught with the reason of the crime, illegal entry or even employment issues. This factor is further strengthened with the occurrence of the Subject in some tokens who revealed the identity of the person or body that has carried out the action, who are more often than not government bodies, ministries or authoritative forces such as the police force. Extra measures or compulsory actions to keep them away were also practiced. For *expatriate*, on the other hand, measures are adapted to attract them to Malaysia, be it for residency or even employment.

Overall, it can be seen how the different parts of sentence reveal different connotations of the synonyms through the semantic analysis. This shows that although the synonyms may denote similar denotative meaning, they may not always share absolute similarities, due to the connotation it evokes. For example, the Subject for the three sentences is interchanged with *foreigner*, *expatriate* and *immigrant*: (i) The *foreigner* stole the money. (ii) The *expatriate* stole the money. (iii) The *immigrant* stole the money.

Based on the findings, it can be seen that (i) and (iii) had more of a likelihood of happening, based on the semantic analysis, it was usually found in contexts that were related to social issues, immigration issues and more whereas (ii) was odd or a rarity, given that the occurrence of the synonym were least likely to be found in such contexts through the analysis. The appearance of the synonyms in specific contexts are, however, not coincidental. This could be traced back to the background knowledge that we have preconceived in our minds which we access to comprehend a lexical item. To further

understand how our background knowledge aids in interpreting these synonyms, we will attempt form frames for each synonym in the next section of the discussion.

#### **4.10 Frame Semantics**

Based on the semantic analysis, we have seen how implications and meaning arise from the contextual environment rather than the structural environment of the three synonyms. With these information, we will now attempt to form frames for each synonym, with reference to Barsalou's CAR frame (see Figure 3.1 in Chapter 3). These will consist of the key attributes and types that is related to each synonym. In this context, the researcher refers to Ibanez and Arasaez's (1997-1998) interpretation of attributes as a key in "recognizing the existence of essential attributes (not necessary and sufficient conditions) for categories" (p. 259). This does not restrict the number of attributes that will make up a category but at the same time places certain restrictions on them so that certain conditions are still met for the comprehension of synonyms. While additional attributes may be added to the category in the near future, these frames are a general and current representation of the background knowledge that Malaysians have for each synonym, based on our findings. We will first look at the *foreigner* frame.

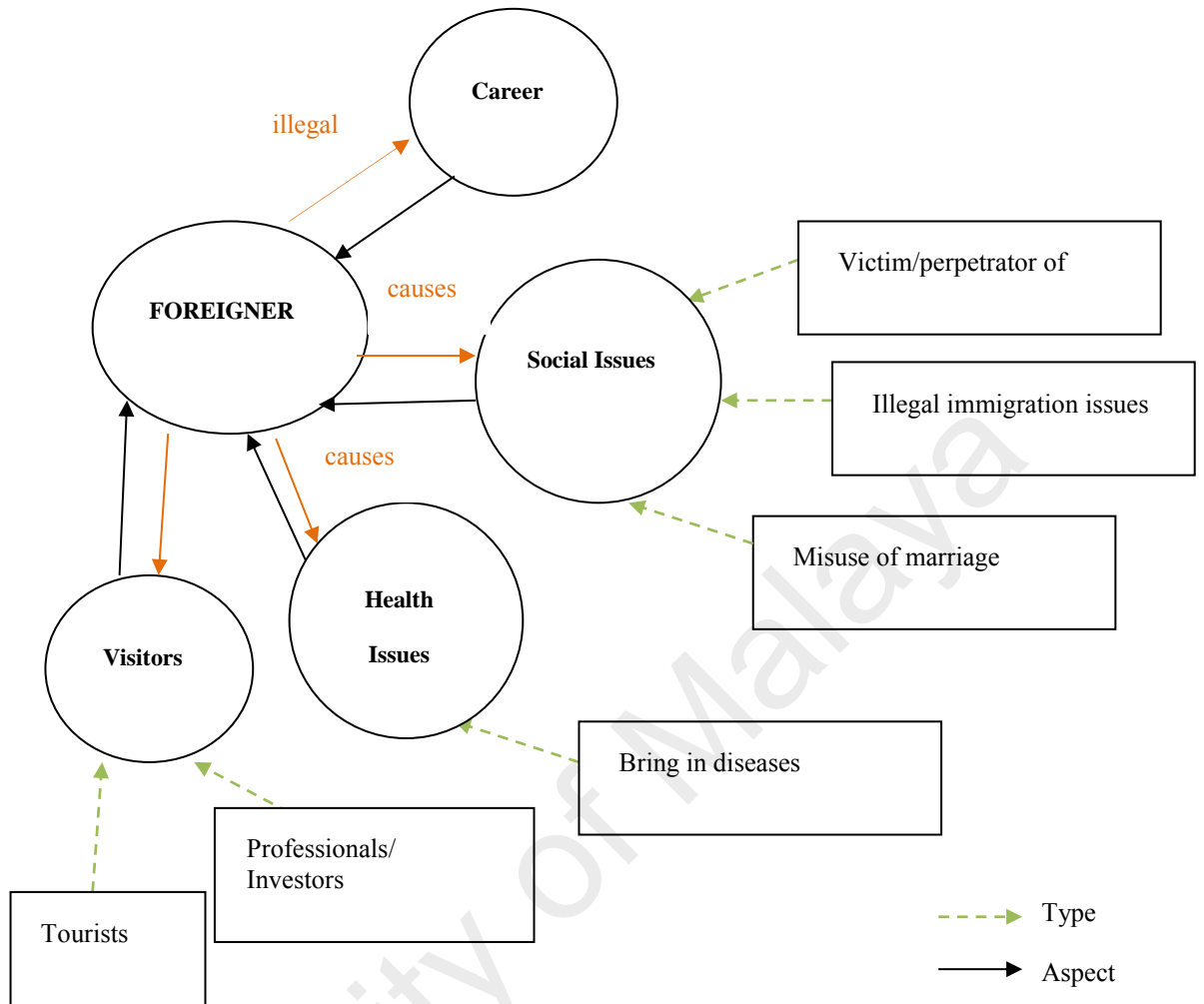


Figure 4.1 FOREIGNER frame interpretation based on Barsalou's CAR frame

The findings for *foreigner* can be classified into bigger concepts to form the attributes as seen in Figure 4.1. The noun thus evokes four related main aspects, supported by several types as seen in the figure. To fully understand *foreigner* in the Malaysian context, we have to first understand their role, or attributes in the country. They are related to attributes such as 'seeking illegal careers' (see example 4.106), 'a cause for social issues or health issues' (see example 4.114), or at times, seen as 'visitors' (see example 4.110) who are here for a short period of time, either as tourists, professionals (see example 4.96) or investors (see example 4.97). This is rather similar to the frame for *immigrant* which is seen as follows:

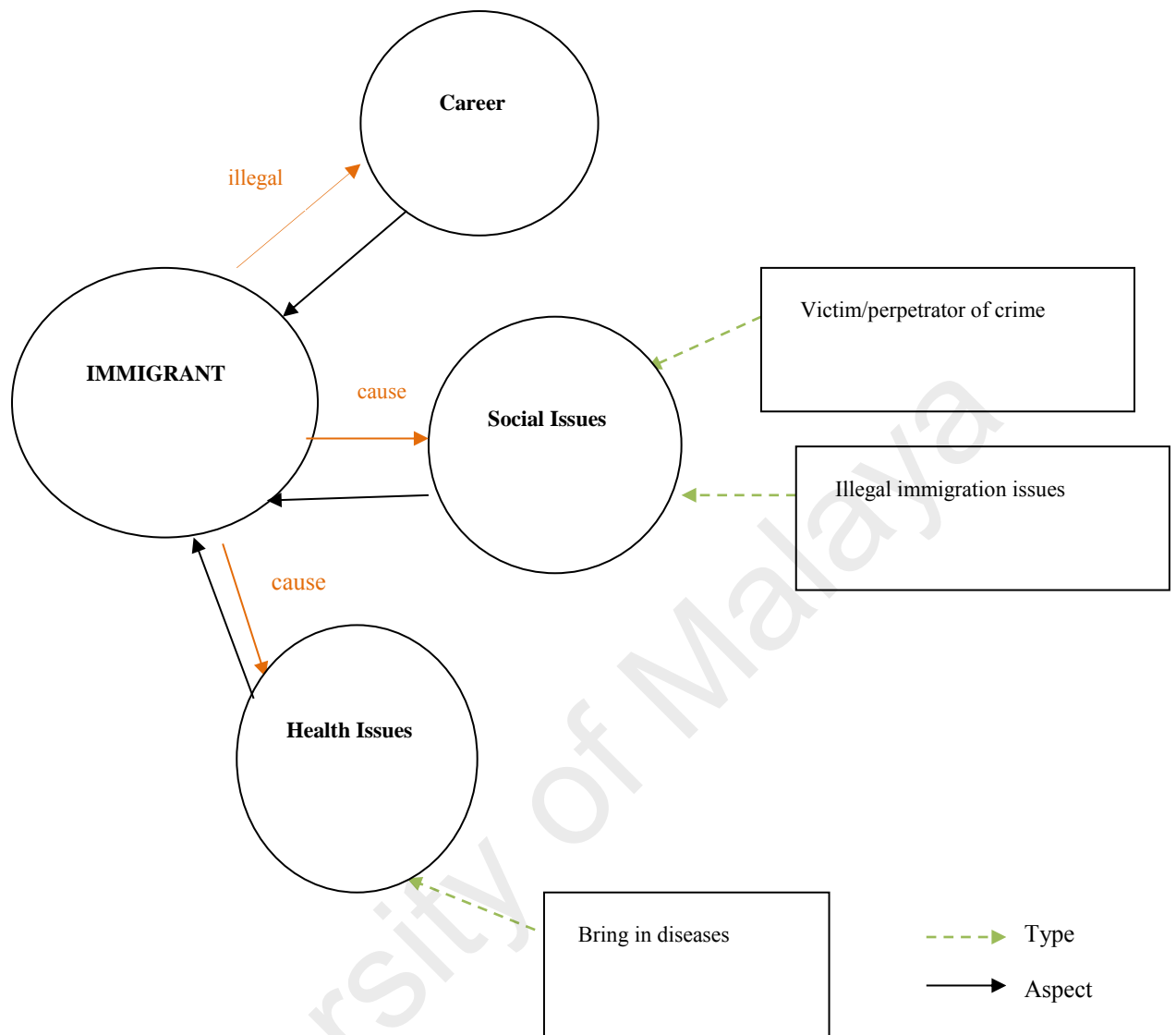


Figure 4.2 IMMIGRANT frame interpretation based on Barsalou's CAR frame

*Immigrant* is seen to have a considerably similar frame as *foreigner* with overlapping attributes that form the background knowledge of the frame including 'career' (see example 4.150 and 4.155), 'social issues' (see example 4.149 and 4.158) and 'health issues' (see example 4.152 and 4.153). While the *foreigner* frame extends to include 'visitors', the *immigrant* frame is seen to concentrate specifically on three main key issues. Given this, when it comes to these specific attributes (see Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.2), both synonyms might be almost interchangeable, sharing the characteristic that comes clear to absolute synonyms which display the same meaning of the items. Finally, the *expatriate* frame is as follows:

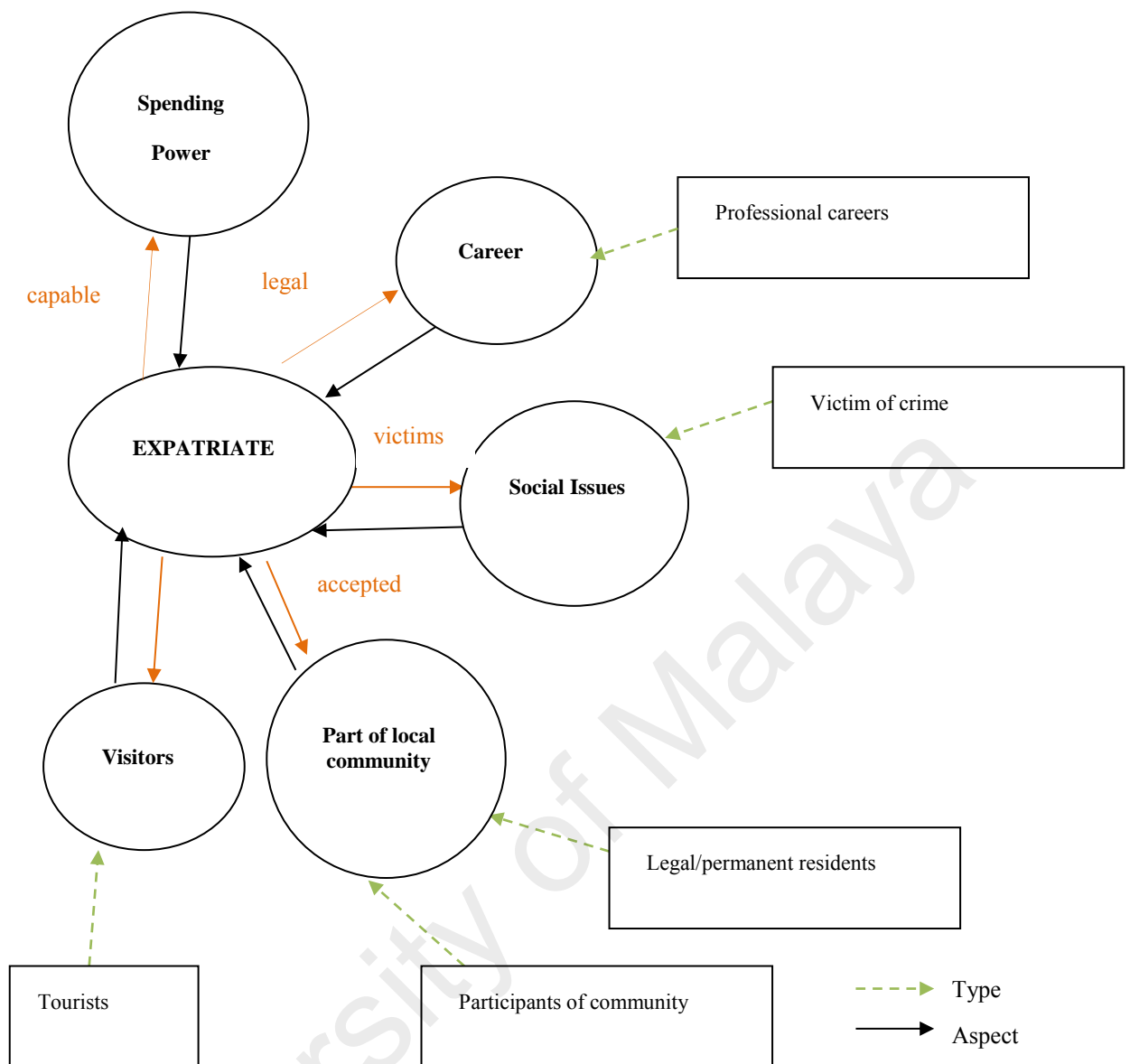


Figure 4.3 EXPATRIATE frame interpretation based on Barsalou's CAR frame

Expatriate were associated with the attributes of 'having spending capability' (refer example 4.127), 'legal careers' (see example 4.123 and 4.124), 'sometimes victimized in social issues' (see example 4.138 and 4.139), 'accepted as part of the community' (see example 4.116 and 4.117) and sometimes, 'tourists to the country' (see example 4.137). With the addition of attributes such as 'spending power' and 'part of the local community', *expatriate* also has attribute categories that are present in *foreigner* and *immigrant* such as careers or visitors. Despite the similarities, the difference is present in the 'type' of the attribute. While the type of *expatriate* has a positive/neutral connotation, the types for *immigrant* and *foreigner* were more often than not, negative in connotation.

While Barsalou's theory of frame has helped us categorise and form the background knowledge for each of the synonyms in a systematic manner, here we will lend Fillmore's profile-frame organization as an explanation to the phenomenon of similar attributes, yet different senses of types. As defined in Chapter 3, frames are a system of concepts or a network of structured encyclopaedic knowledge in the mind. They are deemed important because they play a role in how to form opinions, beliefs and understanding towards situations and the case of this study, understanding the connotative differences of the synonyms. In the case of profile-frame organization in Frame Semantics, profile refers to "the concept symbolized by the word in question" (Cruse, 2004, p. 15). To fully understand the meaning, or to pair it with the lexical item, these profiles will activate certain frame knowledge that the user has stored from his or her own previous experiences or understanding. In terms of synonyms, they are generally concepts that have similar denotation but profiled against different frames. With reference to the 'career' attribute found in *foreigner*, *immigrant* and *expatriate*, different points of access are activated, depending on the synonym that is in use. *Expatriate* would be linked to high-skilled professions or talents who the government are seeking to further to advance the country's economy whereas *foreigner* and *immigrant* are linked to hard labour, low-skilled professions or even illegal workers in the country. These attributes do not just contain one single type under its category. In fact, the attributes consist of various types and the synonymous nouns profile different aspects of the attributes, be it negative or positive/neutral. This supports the cognitive view that word forms act as a point of access to certain areas of our vast yet structured body of knowledge in the mind.



## CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

This chapter takes the form of answering three research questions (see Chapter 1, Section 1.4)

### 5.1 Answering Research Question 1

Structurally, not much major differences are noted between the three synonymous nouns. All of them have similar types of structural combinations, which adhere to the typical sentence structure of the English language, are due to the fact they are all nouns and thus have the same behavioural pattern in sentences. Aside from that, this is also attributed to the similarities these synonyms on a denotative level. The closer the semantic meaning, the more similar the structural combination. However, while it is good to note the structural resemblance, the structural analysis does not aid in revealing the finer shades of differences, or more information that is required to form the frames of each of the synonym.

### 5.2 Answering Research Question 2

Through the semantic analysis, we discover how the different components of the sentence structure come together to give the sentences its negative or positive/neutral connotation. There were slight differences and similarities in terms of parts of speech that were identified in bringing out the connotation in each of the synonyms. In *foreigner*, the connotations arose mostly from the active and passive construction. In the active construction, the Subject and Verb Phrase indicated persons of authority carrying out the action against the *foreigner*. In cases where the Subject was the *foreigner* itself, the Verb Phrase, Adverbial Phrase or Complement Phrase would indicate the connotation of the tokens. In the case of passive construction, the *foreigners* which took the Subject position were affected by the action denoted by the Verb Phrase whereas at times, the Complement

Phrase and Adverbial Phrase indicated the connotation. Overall, the tokens for *foreigner* took a more negative connotation as compared to positive/neutral connotation.

The connotation of *expatriate*, on the other hand, mainly co-occurred with adjectives that were positive/neutral in connotation. The connotation of the action carried out in the Verb Phrases were also more positive/neutral in nature. Likewise, the Adverbial and Complement Phrase also played a role in creating the connotation, in this case a more positive/neutral connotation as opposed to a negative one. *Immigrant* was found to co-occur with adjectives as well, most commonly the adjective *illegal*, which automatically gave it a negative connotation. Aside from that, it shared similarities with *foreigner*, whereby the connotations manifested through the active or passive construction, Verb Phrase, Adverbial Phrase and Complement Phrase.

Through the semantic analysis, it indicates that despite being similar in denotative meaning, the synonyms are not exactly interchangeable as there are finer shades that differentiate them. The contextual information also provides clues to the background knowledge of these synonyms. They are reflections of what is preconceived or assumed to be the meaning of the word in a Malaysian context. Through this revelation, we are thus able to form frames to represent the background knowledge of each of these synonyms.

### **5.3 Answering Research Question 3**

Frame semantics has been able to give us an encyclopaedic look at the synonyms that goes beyond what the dictionary states. As the usage of words differs based on culture, this approach has allowed the researcher to further understand the functions and characteristics of synonyms in the Malaysian English context. This clearly shows that the understanding of words are never word-level only. It transcends beyond that for its meaning to take place and this is clearly demonstrated, although not extensively, by this study. A lexical item, or word, is a point of access into a network of knowledge we have

gained from our experiences, biases, assumptions and more. Referring to the theories of frames proposed by Fillmore, the theory proposes that background knowledge obtained from the user's experiences, which are in relation to the lexical unit will help give the word its meaning. On the other hand, according to Barsalou's frame semantics theory, information such as the specific attributes and types we relate to the lexical item will be accessed beforehand to aid in the understanding of lexical meaning. While these theories have slight differences in their presentations, one remains the same; words meanings are never 'pre-registered' into the word. Meaning is constructed and construed based on the experiences and culture that we have been exposed to.

#### **5.4 Suggestion to Future Studies**

While this study is a brief look at the application of frame semantics on synonyms in local English newspapers, it also indicates more possibilities in using this theory as a framework for more studies in the future. In relation to the topic of this paper, perhaps a more in depth study to include other components such as questionnaires regarding the perception of 'one who does not belong in the country' to Malaysians can be done to discover further the thoughts, assumptions or experiences they have so as to obtain a more detailed picture of the background knowledge that surrounds the word which will help in constructing frames that are more accurate. This study can also be carried out using other forms of media such as television or radio recordings, to study the differences (if any) between the usages of the synonyms. This could also be carried out to study other lexical phenomenon such as antonyms, polysemy, homonyms and more. Furthermore, a contrastive study can also be carried out to analyse if there are differences in how speakers of different country use the synonym and how similar or different are the frames for the words.

(24007 words)

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