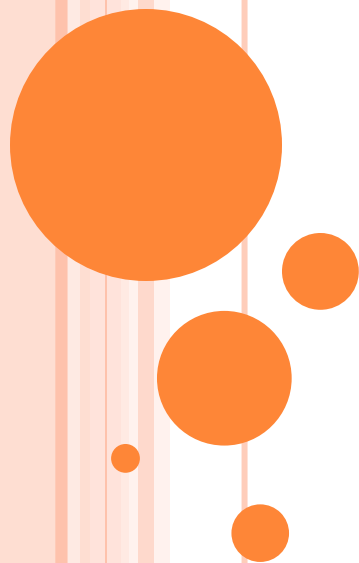


TYUMEN STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF PHILOLOGY AND JOURNALISM

WORD MEANING

Polina Sokolova,
student of group
27L1212, III year



□ **Semantics**

1. the study of linguistic development by classifying and examining changes in meaning and form [Webster's Unabridged Dictionary].
2. the branch of linguistics which specialises in the study of meaning [Antrushina, 130].

□ **Semasiology**

1. the branch of linguistics that is concerned with the meaning of words and word equivalents [Arnold, 31].
2. the branch of lexicology that is devoted to the study of meaning [Ginzburg, 13].



□ **Word meaning**

1. a certain reflection in our mind of objects, phenomena or relations that makes part of a linguistic sign.
2. relationship between symbols (words, signs) and what they refer to (called 'referents') [Babich, 58].
3. establishment of the interdependence between words and the things or concepts they denote [Ginzburg, 13].
4. the relation between the object or notion named and the name itself [F. de Saussure].



DIACHRONICAL AND SYNCHRONICAL APPROACHES

Diachronical approach

- semasiology studies the change in meaning which words undergo

Synchronical approach

- demands a study not of individual words but of semantic structures typical of the lg studied, its general semantic system



REFERENTIAL AND FUNCTIONAL APPROACHES

- ▣ **Referential / Structural / Denotational approach**

seeks to formulate the essence of meaning by establishing the interdependence between words and things or concepts they denote;

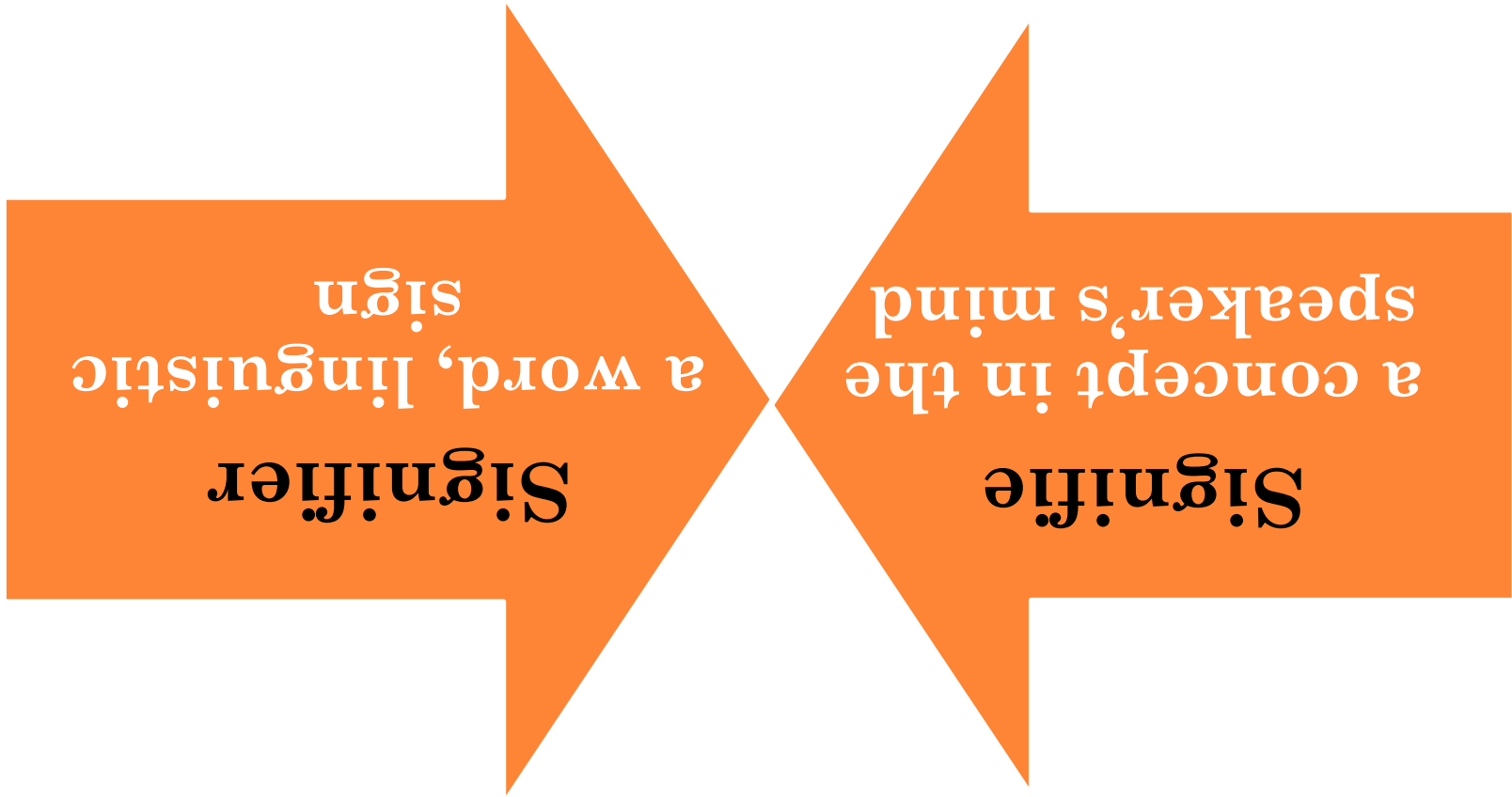
- ▣ **Functional / Relative approach**

studies functions of a word in speech and is less concerned with what meaning is than and how it works [Ginzburg, 13].



REFERENTIAL APPROACH

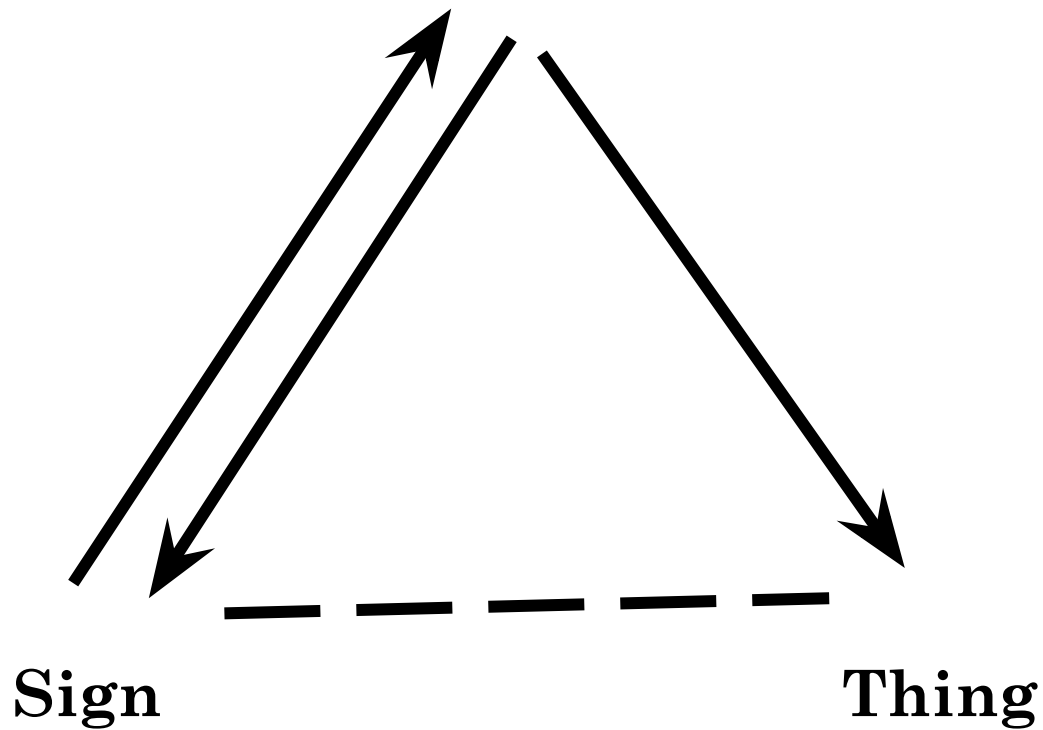
HOW IS THE WORD CONNECTED WITH ITS REFERENT?



SEMANTIC TRIANGLE

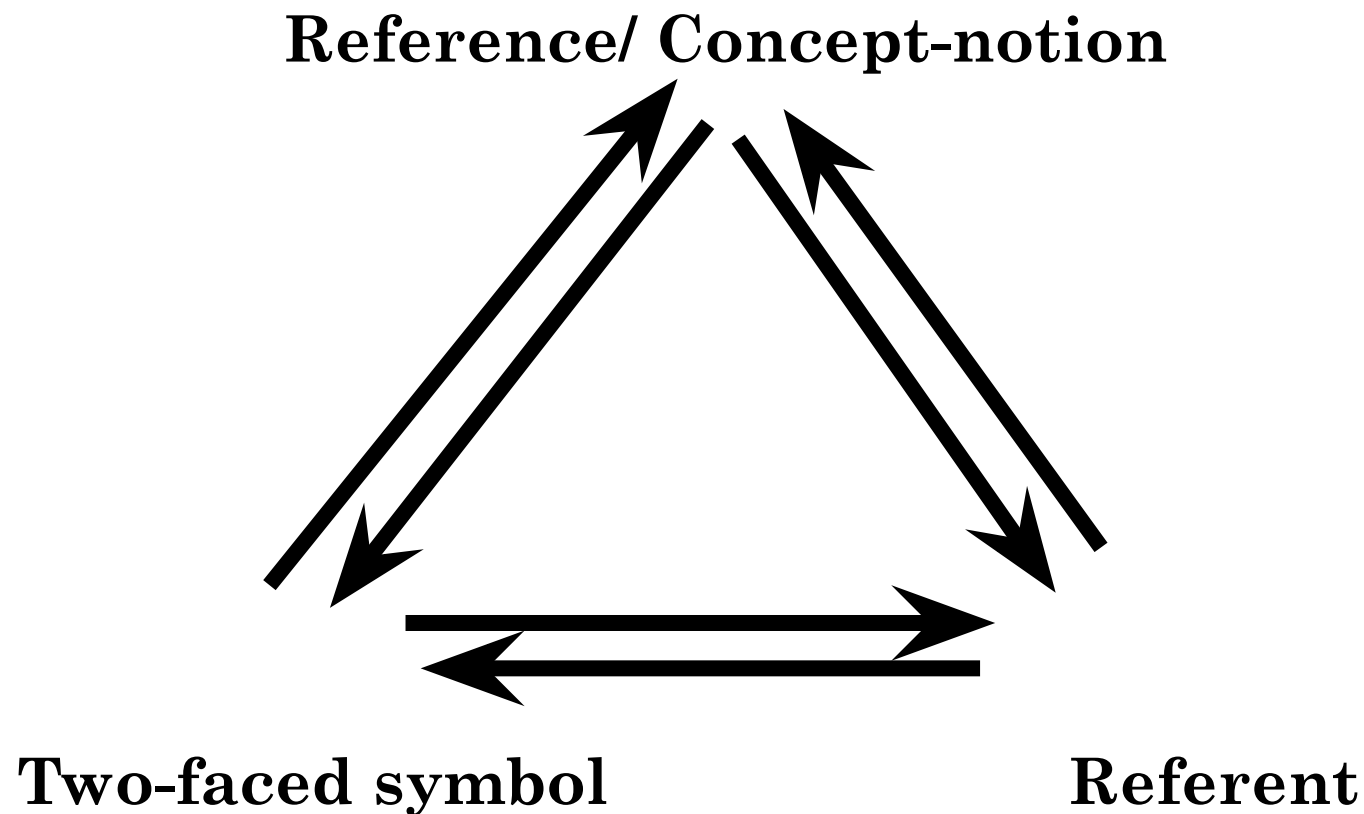
- According to Gotlieb Frege:

Signifie (a concept)



TRIANGLE OF SIGNIFICATION

- According to C.K. Ogden and I.A. Richards:



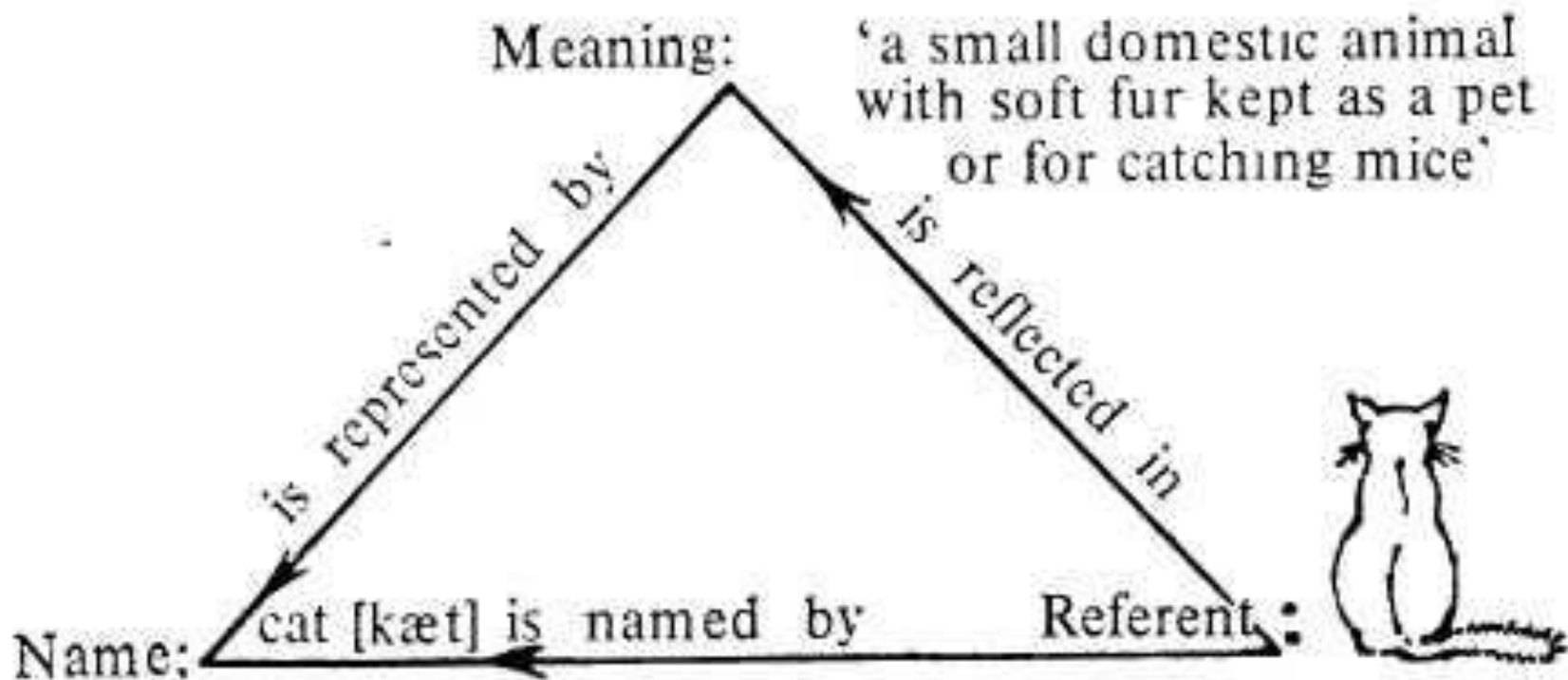
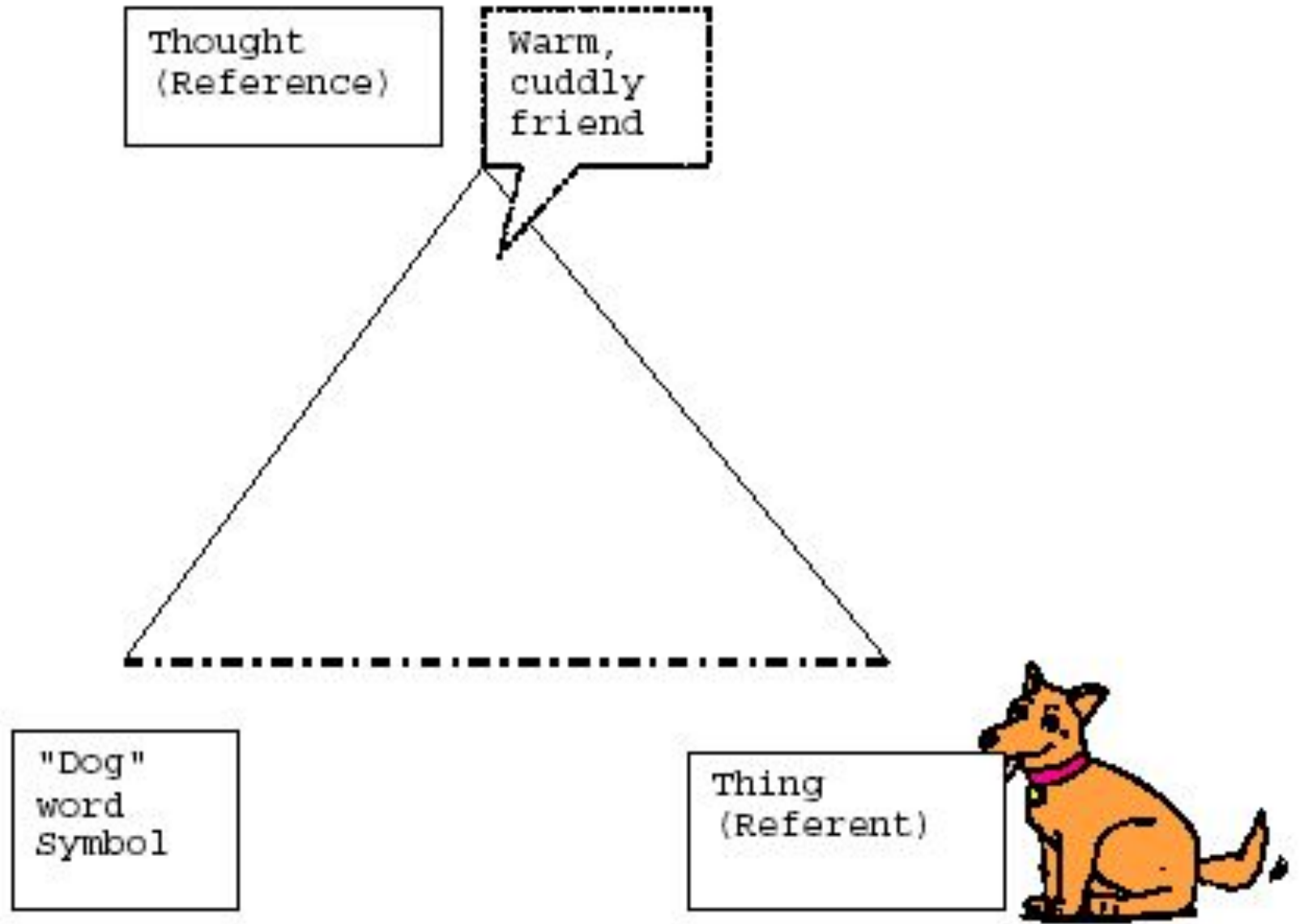


Fig. 3

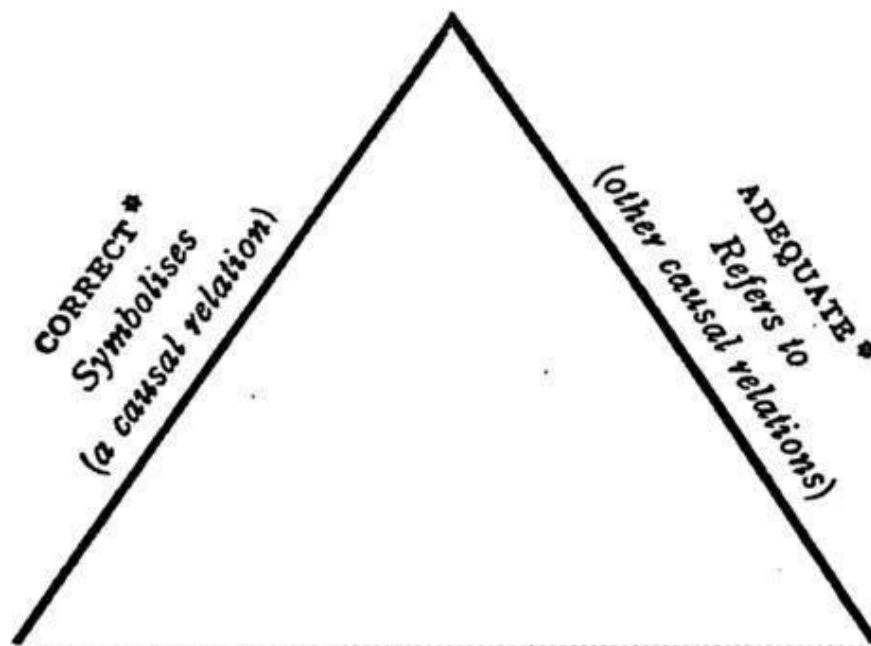




Semantic Triangle

Concept of tree – biological type, has leaves, branches, looks arboreal,,,,

THOUGHT OR REFERENCE



“Tree”/
“Tree in a yard”/
“Tree by cemetery”
.....

SYMBOL

Stands for
(an imputed relation)
*** TRUE**

REFERENT

Reality?

He's chasing the cat again!

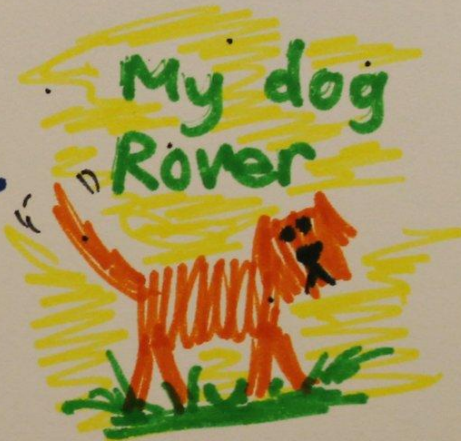
THOUGHT

meaning, abstract concepts, sense, connotation

internal Perception

internal Experience

OGDEN & RICHARDS
Semiotic Triangle



WOOF!

SYMBOL

words, sounds, images, sign vehicle

REFERENT

OBJECT

real world

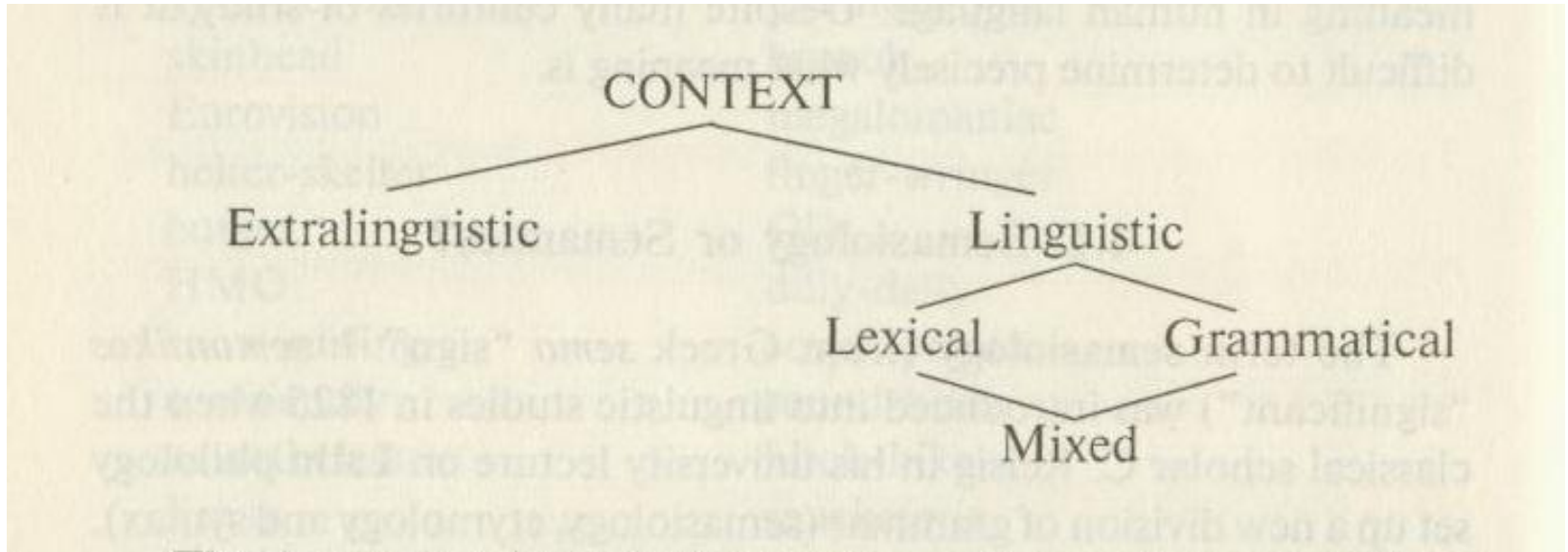
convention external

FUNCTIONAL APPROACH

- In the functional approach
 1. semantic investigation is confined to the analysis of the difference or sameness of meaning;
 2. meaning is understood essentially as the function of the use of linguistic units [Ginzburg, 17].
 3. each sign achieves a meaning only in comparison with other signs, its neighbours, meaning can be studied only through context [Babich, 58].



TYPES OF CONTEXT



- ❑ **Context** – the minimal stretch of speech determining each individual meaning of word;
- ❑ **Lexical context** – the groups of lexical items combined with the polysemantic word under consideration are of main importance;
- ❑ **Grammatical context** - the grammatical (mainly the syntactic) structure of the context that serves to determine various individual meanings of a polysemantic word;
- ❑ **Extralinguistic context** - the meaning of the word is ultimately determined not by these linguistic factors, but by the actual speech situation in which this word is used [Ginzburg, 47].



THE SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF A WORD

grammatical meaning

lexico-grammatical m.

lexical meaning



- ❑ **Grammatical meaning** – an expression in speech of relations between words based on contrastive features of arrangements in which they occur (speaks, reads, writes);
- ❑ **Lexico-grammatical meaning** – the common denominator of all the meanings of words belonging to a lexico-grammatical class of words, the feature according to which they are grouped together (generic terms);
- ❑ **Lexical meaning** – the realization of concept or emotion by means of a definite language system (concept of relation)

[Arnold, 39-41].



DENOTATIONAL AND CONNOTATIONAL COMPONENTS OF LEXICAL MEANING

- **Denotational meaning** – that component of the lexical meaning which makes communication possible [Ginzburg, 20]. It expresses the conceptual content of a word [Arnold, 40].
- - **significative** (if the referent/denotatum is a concept)
- - **demonstrative** (if it is an individual object) – are often met in colloquial speech.



- ▣ **Connotational meaning** - the emotive charge and the stylistic value of the word [Ginzburg, 20]; complex associations originating in habitual verbal or situational contexts, of which the speaker and the listener are aware [Arnold, 40].

Connotation can be referred to the speaker's attitude to the social circumstances and the appropriate functional style, his approval or disapproval of the object spoken of, about the speaker's emotions.

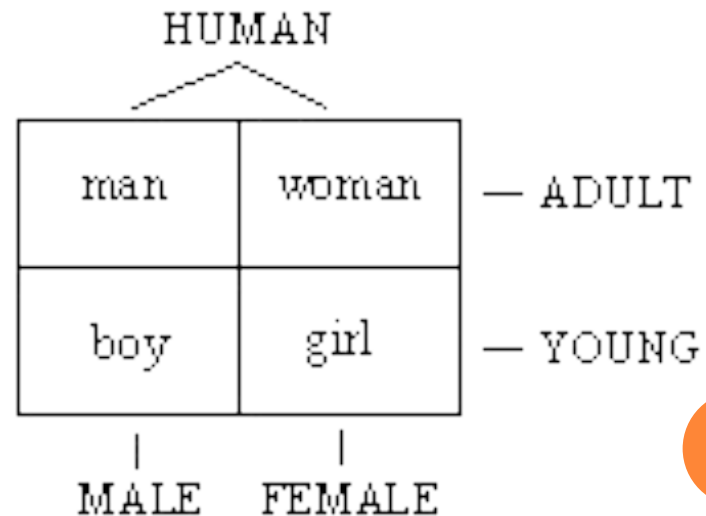
- **stylistic;**
- **emotive;**
- **evaluative;**
- **expressive/intensifying** [Babich, 60].



COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS

It attempts to treat components in terms of 'binary' opposites, between female and male, animate and inanimate etc. [Babich, 62]. They are also called elements of meaning or semes which can be combined in various ways with other similar elements in the meaning of different words. [Arnold, 41].

bachelor
+HUMAN
+MALE
NOT – MARRIED



man: [+noun] [+concrete] [+animate] [+human] [+male] [+old]
woman: [+noun] [+concrete] [+animate] [+human] [-male] [+old]
boy: [+noun] [+concrete] [+animate] [+human] [+male] [-old]
cat: [+noun] [+concrete] [+animate] [-human] [+feline]
rock: [+noun] [+concrete] [-animal]
idea: [+noun] [-concrete]



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