

HG2002: Tutorial Three

Francis Bond <bond@ieee.org>

1. Synonymy/Antonymy

- (a) Find a pair of absolute synonyms in a language that you speak.
- (b) Decide if the words in the following sets are absolute or near synonyms. How do you decide? What type of criteria have you used?

(1) *tell, say, talk*

(2) *sad, unhappy*

- (c) Classify the following pairs of opposites

(3) *temporary/permanent* (8) *buyer/seller*

(4) *strong/weak* (9) *clean/dirty*

(5) *open/shut* (10) *present/absent*

(6) *monarch/subject* (11) *red/green*

(7) *advance/retreat* (12) *yesterday/today*

- 2. Below are some nouns ending in *-er* and *-or*. Using your intuition about their meanings, discuss their status as agentive nouns. In particular, are they derivable by regular rule or would they need to be listed in the lexicon?

*author, blazer, blinker, choker, crofter, debtor, loner,
mentor, reactor, roller, lecturer*

Check your decisions against a dictionary's entries.

- 3. For the following sets of sentences, discuss the meaning relations between the underlined words.

(13) a. *The wind shut the door.*

b. *The door shut with a bang.*

(14) a. *The student slept all through the class.*

b. *The student snored all through the class.*

(15) a. *Kim bought a text book from Sandy.*

b. *Sandy sold a textbook to Kim.*

c. *Kim obtained a text book from Sandy.*

(16) a. *Bobby showed her answers to Hiromi.*

b. *Hiromi saw Bobby's answers.*

c. *Hiromi looked at Bobby's answers.*

Acknowledgments Some of these questions are partially based on exercises from Saeed (2003, ch3)