

# Meaning from a Stylistic Point of View



***Meaning* is what is intended to be  
or actually is expressed or  
indicated.**

A crucial issue for stylistic studies is the ability of a word to be **polysemantic**, i.e. to comprise several lexical meanings. Stylistics takes for granted that a word has an almost unlimited potentiality of acquiring new meanings. Stylistics is more subjective in the perception of meaning in words unlike other branches of linguistics.

**Contextual meaning** is born in the context and disappear if the context is altered. There is also the notion of the **dictionary meaning** which is materialized in the context.

**Grammatical meaning** refers our mind to relations between words or to some forms of words or constructions bearing upon their structural functions in the language-as-a-system. There are no words deprived of grammatical meaning since all words belong to some system and consequently have their place in the system and function in speech.

**Lexical meaning** is a means by which a word-form is made to express a definite concept. Lexical meaning refers the mind to some concrete concept, phenomenon, or thing of objective reality, whether real or imaginary.

**Lexical meaning** of any word presents a very complicated unity consisting of **connotative** and **denotative** meanings. **Denotative (logical)** meaning is connected with the extra linguistic reality. It is the precise naming of a feature of the idea, phenomenon, or object, the name by which we recognize the whole of the concept.



**Connotative meaning** is connected with the conditions and participants of communication. Connotation comprises four components: emotive, appraising, expressive and stylistic. If denotation is obligatory in any word, connotation is optional.