

# The Structure of Lexicon

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# Presentation outline

- What is a lexeme?
- What is a semantic structure ?
- How is lexicon structured?
- What is a semantic field?
- Neatness vs. fuzziness?
- Is the stylistic factor important?
- *In vino veritas*, or truth comes out from wine!

# Presentation outline

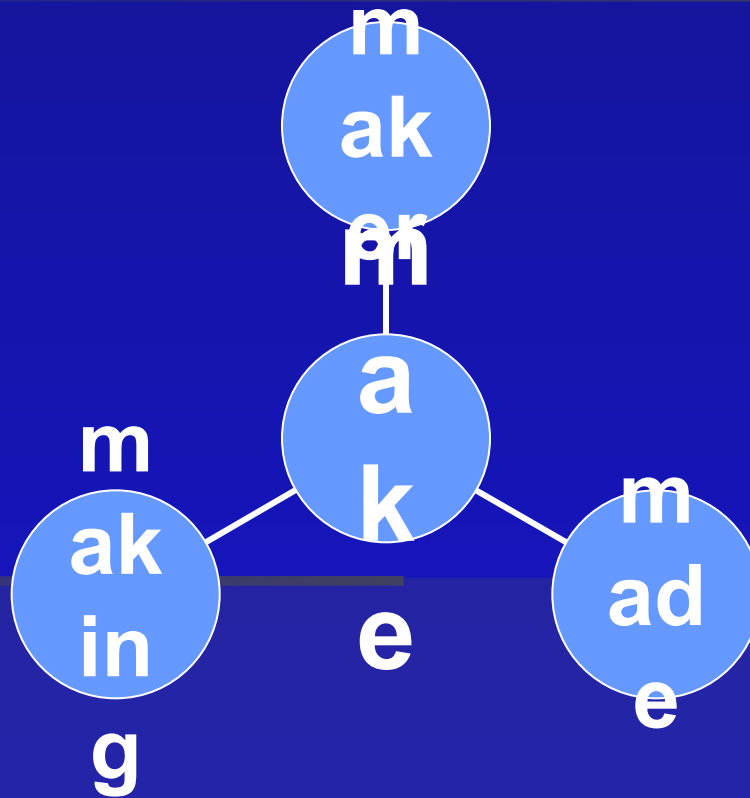
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# What is a lexeme?

“A lexeme is a fundamental unit of the vocabulary of a language”

[Mid-20th century. Coined from lexicon + -eme .]

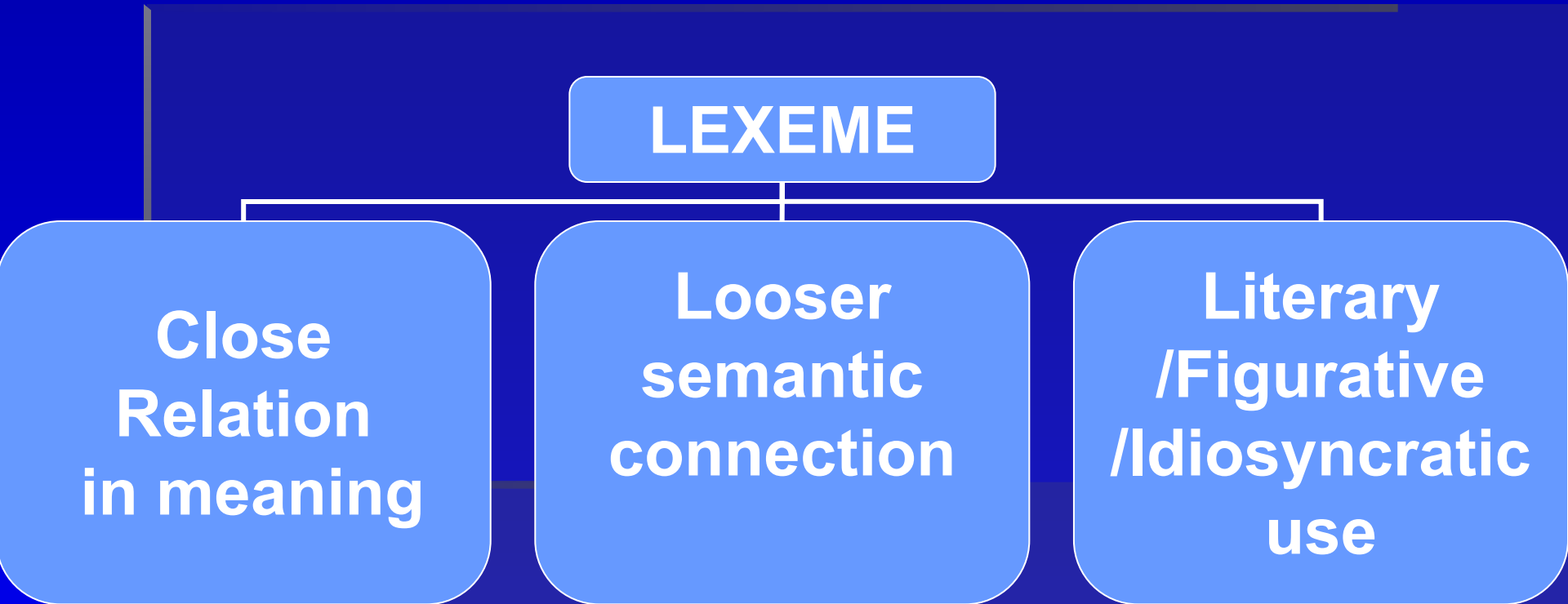
# Different forms of a lexeme



# What is a semantic structure?

It is a network of meaning relationships which bind lexemes together

# Lexicon structure



# 3 types of lexemes (uncle)

- Aunt, cousin, nephew, niece
- Relatives, family, reunion (*when the family gathers together*)
- Uncle Tom's Cabin, Uncle Sam (USA)
- Idiosyncratic use: my looney uncle = my crazy uncle)



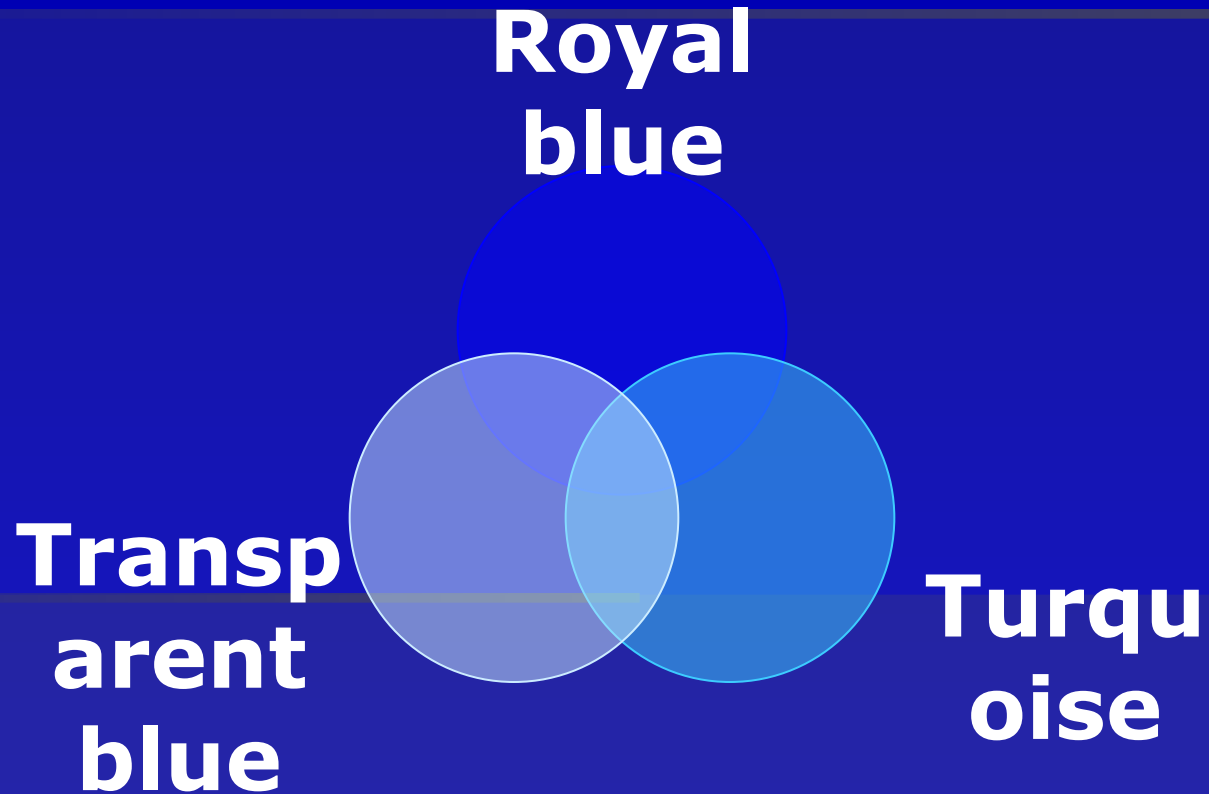
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# **What is a semantic field?**

**It is a named area of meaning in which lexemes interrelate and define each other in specific ways**

# Colour: blue



# Tropical Fruit



Citrus  
plants



Grapefruit

Orange

Lemon

# Neatness vs fuzziness

## NOISE:

- murmur , din , blare , clamour
- clatter, hubbub , racket
- sound , uproar
- talk and rumours
- atmospheric noise
- big noise

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# What is wrong with a stylistic factor, or what is so special in the vocabulary of wine?

- **Figurative lexeme application**
- **Numerous associations**
- **Subjectivity of topic**

# Wine can taste . . .

- **Bland** (implies lack of character, too mild)
- **Dry** (not sweet, sugar fully fermented out)
- **Finesse** (elegant and refined)





# Wine can taste ...

- **Heavy**  
(over-endowed with alcohol, lacking *finesse*)
- **Meaty** (thick, almost chewable flavour)
- **Tart** (tongue curling)



***IN VINO VERITAS*, OR  
TRUTH COMES OUT FROM WINE!**



Encarta Encyclopedia, Oxford Scientific  
Films

# Conclusions

- **A lexeme: a fundamental vocabulary unit**
- **A semantic structure as a lexeme network**
- **A semantic field as an area of lexemes' interrelation**
- **The vocabulary of wine: figurative, ambiguous, subjective, and . . .**



**LOVELY!**

**Thank you!**