

Thesis Title Aspects of Meaning in Northern Mandarin
 Nominals: A Sememic Analysis

Name Potchanee Chanrunghanok

Degree Master of Arts (Linguistics)

Thesis Supervisor Committee

 Nawanit Yupho, Ph.D.
 Christian Bauer, Ph.D.
 Phaiboon Duangchand, D.E.A.
 Ruengdet Pankhuenkhat, Ph.D.
 Suwilai Premsrirat, Ph.D.

Date of Graduation 15 February B.E. 2536 (1993)

ABSTRACT

This thesis employs the sememic analysis, adopted from the Ph.D. thesis of Thomas W. Gething entitled "Aspects of Meaning in Thai Nominals : A Study in Structural Semantics" (1972), in explicating semantic structure and figurative extensions of meanings of 14 nominal lexical sets in Northern Mandarin.

From this research it is found that the sememic analysis can tackle the problem of systematic accounts of meaning components of words. Semantic structure of words is explicated by viewing words in sets, studying contrasts within a field and defining the meanings of words in terms of semantic components.

It's also found in this thesis that one or more components of meaning, recognized by the people as being dominant, may have the potentiality of extending its meaning to other meanings.

Fourteen sets of words below have been treated here. All of them have figurative meanings except for the personal pronoun set and some words in kinship set.

1. personal pronouns
2. kinships
3. human body
4. mammal
5. reptiles
6. birds
7. insects
8. plants
9. natural phenomena / objects
10. seasonal
11. valuable things
12. utensils
13. surface bodies of water
14. gods