



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
AND
NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE**

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME
MANUAL**

SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

**ENG 331: INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS
(3 Credit Units)**

ENG 341: THE PHONOLOGY OF ENGLISH (3 Credit Units)

(TESSA Integrated Manual)

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ENG 331: INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS

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COURSE GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

ENG 331 Introduction to English Semantics is a three-credit unit course. It is presented in five modules with emphasis on the meaning and mechanisms of the English semantics. We note that communication is impossible without meaning shared between the speaker/writer and the audience. Apart from dealing on theoretical perspectives of semantics, we shall explore in some detail the application of semantics to everyday interactions and literary communication. We shall also examine the connection between semantics and logic.

COURSE AIM

The aim of this course is to present you with the essentials of English semantics and complex analysis of issues of communication. The course will also be a logical link to the contemporary thought on web-based and computer related communication systems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Besides the specific objectives of each unit, the general objectives of this course are presented below. It is expected that at the end of this course, you should be able to:

- trace the development of linguistic semantics
- highlight the scope and concepts of linguistic semantics
- explore the nature and meaning of English semantics
- identify different types of meaning
- explain the different theories of meaning
- highlight the major thrust in the various approaches to the study of semantics
- discuss the sense relations in the study of words
- identify practical manifestations of semantic principles in literary and non-literary communication
- highlight some semantic problems of Nigerian English.

WORKING THROUGH THIS COURSE

To succeed in this course, you will be expected to study the units thoroughly, refer to the recommended texts and complete all the assignments. You will also need to attempt the self-assessment exercises. This course will take about 16 weeks to complete. You will discover that the units have been presented in simple and logical forms to enable you benefit maximally from them.

COURSE MATERIALS

You have been provided in this course with the following items:

Course Guide
Study Units
Textbooks and References
Assignment File

STUDY UNITS

The units in this course are presented in the following modules.

Module 1 Definition and Scope of Semantics

Unit 1 Definition and Brief History of Semantics
Unit 2 The Scope of Semantics
Unit 3 Approaches to the Study of Semantics

Module 2 The Study of Meaning

Unit 1 The Nature and Types of Meaning
Unit 2 Theories of Meaning

Module 3 Word and Sentence Meaning

Unit 1 Semantics and the Study of the Word: Sense Relations
Unit 2 Semantics and the Nature of the Lexicon
Unit 3 Aspects of Sentential Meaning
Unit 4 Pragmatics: Conversational Implicature and Speech Acts Theories

Module 4 Logic and Fallacies

Unit 1 Basic Aspects of Linguistic Fallacies
Unit 2 Aspects of Material Fallacies Relevant to Semantics
Unit 3 Elements of Logic in Semantics

Module 5 Semantics and the Practice of Literary Communication

Unit 1 The Application of Semantics to Literary Communication
Unit 2 The Application of Semantics to Everyday Communication
Unit 3 Semantic Problems in Nigerian English

TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCES

There is a list of references at the end of every unit. You are encouraged to search for these sources and consult them for further information. It will also be very profitable to consult other standard textbooks on each of the topics discussed.

ASSESSMENT

There are two aspects of the assessment of this course; the tutor-marked assignments and a written examination. In doing these assignments, you are expected to apply information gathered during the course. The assignments must be submitted to your tutorial facilitator for formal assessment in accordance with the deadlines stated in the presentation schedule and the Assignment file. The work that you submit to your tutor for assessment will count for 30% of your total course mark.

TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT (TMA)

There are two types of assessment for this course. These are the tutor-marked assignments and the end of semester examination. At the end of each unit, there is the TMA, which you will be expected to attempt, applying the information, knowledge, and techniques you have acquired in the unit. As the university is now largely automated in its operations, the tutor-marked assignments are now done and graded online. This has largely helped in reducing the burden of slowness in accessing results by students. Make sure you keep up with the dates for submission of your TMAs on the University/Institute's web site and your Study Centre. TMAs constitute 30 per cent of your final assessment.

FINAL EXAMINATION AND GRADING

The final examination constitutes 70 per cent of your final grading score. Moreover, the institute as noted above now conducts the examination on the electronic platform. Questions will be drawn from all areas of the course. You will be required to read the course material very well before the examination. You are also required to improve your computer skills for your own good.

COURSE MARKING SCHEME

The total score for the course is 100 per cent - comprising 30 per cent TMAs and 70 per cent for the examination. It is advisable that you do all you can to pass both your TMAs and the examination to give you good standing in your final grade.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

S/N	Title of Work	Weeks of Activity	Assessment
Module 1 Definition and Scope of Semantics			
1	Unit 1 Definition and Brief History of Semantics	1	
2	Unit 2 The Scope of Semantics	2	
3	Unit 3 Approaches to the Study of Semantics	3	TMA 1
Module 2 The Study of Meaning			
4	Unit 1 The Nature of Meaning	4	
5	Unit 2 Theories of Meaning	5	
Module 3 Word and Sentence Meaning			
6	Unit 1 Semantics and the Study of the Word: Sense Relations	6	
7	Unit 2 Semantics and the Nature of the Lexicon	7	TMA 2
8	Unit 3 Aspects of Sentential Meaning	8	
9	Unit 4 Pragmatics: Conversational Implicative and Speech Acts Theories	9	
Module 4 Logic and Fallacies			
10	Unit 1 Basic Aspects of Linguistics Fallacies	10	
11	Unit 2 Aspects of Material Fallacies Relevant to Semantics	11	TMA 3
12	Unit 3 Elements of Logic in Semantics	12	
Module 5 Semantics and the Practice of Literary Communication			
13	Unit 1 The Application of Semantics to Literary Communication	13	
14	Unit 2 The Application of Semantics to Everyday Communication	14	
15	Unit 3 Semantic Problems in Nigerian English	15	TMA 4
16	Revision	16-17	
17	Revision	18-19	
18	Examination		

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THIS COURSE

The units are intended to guide you just as a teacher would. You will be required to read each unit very carefully. You will also need to attempt all the exercises. Each unit has been presented in a similar structure – introduction, objectives and the main content. The objectives highlight what you are expected to achieve, while the introduction provides a short overview. The details are presented in the main text.

FACILITATORS/TUTORS AND TUTORIALS

The University will provide tutors at your different study centres for tutorials on areas of the course that may be difficult. Tutors are expected to have contacts with you on specific periods. Your tutors will also assess your progress and comment on your TMAs.

SUMMARY

The central function of language is communication. Without the sharing of meaning, there is no communication. Since semantics concentrates on the study of meaning, the course is critical to success in English and indeed, any other language. The course is also relevant to law, mass communication and all other branches of liberal studies. It is advisable to pay attention to this course.