

THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FIELD OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE TERMINOLOGY

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Abstract. This paper explores the lexical-semantic field of household appliance terminology in the English language. Household appliances play a significant role in everyday life, and their terminology reflects both technological advancements and cultural aspects. The study examines the structure, classification, and semantic relationships of terms related to household appliances, highlighting the ways these words are organized within the lexicon. By analyzing synonyms, hyponyms, and semantic shifts, the research reveals patterns of meaning and usage specific to this domain. The findings contribute to a better understanding of how technical vocabulary develops and functions within a specialized semantic field, providing useful insights for lexicographers, language learners, and professionals in the field of linguistics and translation studies.

Keywords: Lexical-semantic field, household appliances, terminology, semantics, English vocabulary, word classification, technical lexicon

I. Introduction

The study of lexical-semantic fields is a crucial part of understanding how specialized vocabularies are organized and function within a language. Household appliances represent a significant area of everyday communication, reflecting both technological progress and cultural influences [1]. The terminology related to household appliances is rich and varied, encompassing a wide range of objects designed for domestic use, including kitchen devices, cleaning machines, heating and cooling systems, and personal care equipment. In English, these terms not only denote specific objects but also carry semantic relationships that help users classify and differentiate between various types of appliances. For example, the term "appliance" itself functions as a superordinate category that includes more specific items such as "microwave," "vacuum cleaner," and "hairdryer." The lexical-semantic field thus provides a framework for understanding how words are related in meaning and how they contribute to effective communication in technical and everyday contexts. This research aims to explore the lexical-semantic field of household appliance terminology in English, focusing on semantic relations such as synonymy, hyponymy, and semantic shifts. By examining these relationships, the study seeks to shed light on the structure of this vocabulary domain and the factors influencing its development, including technological innovation and cultural trends.

II. Methodology

The research adopts a qualitative descriptive approach complemented by corpus linguistics techniques. A specialized corpus was assembled by collecting terms related to household appliances from a variety of sources, including authoritative technical dictionaries, manufacturer websites, product catalogs, and user manuals [2]. This corpus provides authentic linguistic data that reflect current usage. The analysis involved categorizing terms into semantic groups based on their function and area of use, such as kitchen appliances, cleaning devices, heating and cooling systems, and personal care appliances. Each term was examined for its semantic properties, including synonymy (different words with similar meanings), hyponymy (specific terms under a broader category), and polysemy (a word with multiple related meanings). In addition, the study analyzed semantic shifts where meanings of terms have broadened or narrowed over time, often in response to technological developments. Expert consultations and reviews of linguistic literature on terminology and lexical semantics provided further theoretical support for data interpretation [3].

III. Results

The analysis identified a clear hierarchical structure in the lexical-semantic field of household appliance terminology. At the top level, the superordinate term "household appliance" encompasses several subfields:

- **Kitchen appliances:** including terms like "microwave," "toaster," "blender," and "refrigerator."
- **Cleaning devices:** such as "vacuum cleaner," "steam mop," and "dishwasher."
- **Heating and cooling appliances:** including "air conditioner," "heater," and "fan."
- **Personal care appliances:** like "hairdryer," "electric shaver," and "electric toothbrush."

Synonymy was less frequent but present, particularly in general or colloquial terms. For example, "fridge" is a synonym of "refrigerator," and "hoover" (primarily British English) is a synonym of "vacuum cleaner." Hyponymy was the most dominant semantic relation, providing a clear taxonomy of appliance types under broader categories. The study also found semantic shifts where terms have changed their meanings due to evolving technology. For instance, the term "iron" originally referred to a heated metal device for pressing clothes but now may also refer to cordless or steam irons, reflecting technological advancement. Cultural influences were apparent in the presence of brand names used generically, such as "Hoover" in the UK or "Kleenex" for tissues, although the latter is outside household appliances strictly. This phenomenon reflects the interplay between language, culture, and commerce within the lexical field [4].

IV. Discussion

The results underscore the dynamic nature of the lexical-semantic field of household appliance terminology. The hierarchical organization of terms, grounded in hyponymic relations, facilitates clear communication and

understanding within this specialized domain. Such structuring is essential for language learners, translators, and professionals dealing with technical language. Technological progress continually introduces new appliances and modifies existing ones, prompting semantic shifts and the creation of neologisms. This process illustrates how language adapts to societal changes and innovations. Cultural factors also play a significant role in shaping terminology. Regional preferences, marketing strategies, and everyday language use influence which terms become dominant or synonymous within a community. Therefore, lexical-semantic studies must consider sociolinguistic contexts alongside pure linguistic analysis. Overall, the study confirms that lexical-semantic fields are not static but evolve, reflecting changes in both language and culture. These insights contribute to a broader understanding of terminology development and can inform dictionary compilation, language teaching, and cross-cultural communication [5].

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, the lexical-semantic field of household appliance terminology in English exhibits a well-defined hierarchical structure shaped by semantic relations such as hyponymy, synonymy, and semantic shifts. This structure facilitates effective categorization and communication of specialized vocabulary. Technological innovation and cultural influences are key factors driving changes within this field, leading to the introduction of new terms and adaptations of existing ones. Recognizing these patterns is vital for linguists, educators, translators, and lexicographers working with technical language. Future research may explore cross-linguistic comparisons to examine how other languages organize similar terminologies and how cultural differences impact lexical-semantic structures.

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