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**THREE FORMATS FOR PRESENTING TABLES OF SEMANTIC PRIMES**

CLASSIC. This is the classic format for presenting English exponents of semantic primes, updated to current thinking, e.g. positioning touch with the Place grouping, using (is) mine for “possession”, presenting parts and kinds in plural form (in languages that have distinct plural forms. Note also that the words of the first dot point under the table has been changed.

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**Semantic primes (English exponents) (Goddard & Wierzbicka 2014).**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| i, you, someone, something~thing, people, body | substantives |
| kinds, parts | relational substantives |
| this, the same, other~else | determiners |
| one, two, some, all, much~many, little~few | quantifiers |
| good, bad | Evaluators |
| big, small | Descriptors |
| know, think, want, don’t want, feel, see, hear | mental predicates |
| say, words, true | speech |
| do, happen, move | actions, events, movement |
| be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something) | location, existence, specification |
| (IS) mine | possession |
| live, die | life and death |
| when~time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment | time |
| where~place, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside, touch | place |
| not, maybe, can, because, if | logical concepts |
| very, more | augmentor, intensifier |
| like | similarity |

Notes: Exponents of primes can be polysemous, i.e. they can have other, additional meanings. Exponents of primes may be words, bound morphemes, or phrasemes.  They can be formally, i.e., morphologically, complex.  They can have combinatorial variants or allolexes (indicated with ~).  Each prime has well-specified syntactic (combinatorial) properties.

FORMAT A. This format is designed for presenting the exponents of primes in a non-English language, while also including the English equivalents for ease of reference. In each section of the table, words from the main language are given in the top row and appear in bold.

**XXX Semantic Primes, with English equivalents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | substantives |
| i, you, someone, something~thing, people, body |
|  | relational substantives |
| kinds, parts |
|  | determiners |
| this, the same, other~else |
|  | quantifiers |
| one, two, some, all, much~many, little~few |
|  | evaluators |
| good, bad |
|  | descriptors |
| big, small |
|  | mental predicates |
| know, think, want, don’t want, feel, see, hear |
|  | speech |
| say, words, true |
|  | actions, events, movement |
| do, happen, move |
|  | location, existence,  specification |
| be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something) |
|  | possession |
| (is) mine |
|  | life and death |
| live, die |
|  | time |
| when~time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment |
|  | place |
| where~place, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside, touch |
|  | logical concepts |
| not, maybe, can, because, if |
|  | intensifier, augmentor |
| very, more |
|  | similarity |
| like~as |

**Notes**: • Exponents of primes can be polysemous, i.e. they can have other, additional meanings. • Exponents of primes may be words, bound morphemes, or phrasemes. • They can be formally complex. • They can have language-specific combinatorial variants (allolexes, indicated with ~). • Each prime has well-specified syntactic (combinatorial) properties.

FORMAT B. This format is less technical, especially if the right-hand column is omitted. Anna Wierzbicka used it for the first time in her 2014 book *Imprisoned in English.*

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**Semantic primes (English exponents) (after Goddard & Wierzbicka 2014; Wierzbicka 2014).**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| i~me, you, someone, something, people, body | Substantives |
| kindS, parts | Relational substantives |
| this, the same, other~else | Determiners |
| one, two, some, allm much~many, little~few | Quantifiers |
| good, bad, big, small | Evaluators, descriptors |
| know, think, want, don’t want, feel, see, hear | Mental predicates |
| say, words, true | Speech |
| do, happen, move | Actions, events, movement |
| be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something), (IS) mine | Location, existence, specification, possession |
| live, die | Life and death |
| when~time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment | Time |
| where~place, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside, touch | Space |
| not, maybe, can, because, if, very, more, like~as | Logical concepts |

Exponents of primes can be polysemous, i.e. they can have other, additional meanings. Exponents of primes may be words, bound morphemes, or phrasemes. They can be formally, i.e., morphologically, complex.  They can have combinatorial variants or allolexes (indicated with ~).  Each prime has well-specified syntactic (combinatorial) properties.

|  |
| --- |
| i~me, you, someone, something, people, body |
| kindS, parts |
| this, the same, other~else |
| one, two, some, all, much~many, little~few |
| good, bad, big, small |
| think, know, want, don’t want, feel, see, hear |
| say, words, true |
| do, happen, move |
| be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something), (IS) mine |
| live, die |
| when~time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment |
| where~place, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside, touch |
| not, maybe, can, because, if, very, more, like~as |