

<https://doi.org/10.18778/0208-6077.30.05>

*Anna Gintowt-Dziwiłł*

AN EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH  
TO THE CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF  
ENGLISH VERBS OF EATING AND DRINKING

Traditional bilingual and monolingual dictionaries do not always adequately show the semantic differences between verbs belonging to the same semantic field. They tend to give the same equivalents to different verbs. This fact puts many foreign language learners in trouble. They are not sure which verb they need to use in a specific context and situation. This lack of information leads to many mistakes in using proper words and often causes funny or even embarrassing situations or misunderstandings.

There is a need for an analysis which would show and explain even the slightest semantic differences between words that are generally recognized as synonymous; but, in fact, as pure synonymy does not exist, which are different in some aspects of meaning and usage. The aim of such an analysis is to show these differences and help learners to acquire a "feeling" about the language they learn. Many foreign language learners do not realize the importance and character of such conceptual differences and contextual restrictions concerning the words they use.

This work is an experimental attempt at such an analysis with examples of verbs expressing the actions of eating and drinking. It is questionable whether this system of analysis can work with all eating and drinking verbs. One may also ask: can it be also used with reference to other categories of verbs? What modifications are needed? Answering these questions may be more feasible after some experimentation with this kind of conceptual analysis.

Another question worth pursuing is whether such an analysis can be objectively measured. People accept and recognize reality

in different ways. Moreover, they do not express the perceived world in the same manner. It depends on one's sensitivity, intelligence, experience, and education: in other words, the ability of one person to perceive, express and evaluate what s/he sees is not identical with that of another.

This analysis will be presented partially in the form of a tree diagram in which some category features have positive (+), negative (-), or neutral (o) values. Other features which are relevant to the analysis are marked with "+" and are further analyzed in verbal description; others which are not present, or are not relevant for the analysis, are marked as "-". There is no danger of mixing the above mentioned +/-o system of analysis in a logical derivation of features presented. Some features are of a graded character, so presenting them in a +/-o system is not sufficient. This kind of analysis can be "uniform" only to a degree - the broader the semantic field discussed, the more limited the "uniformity".

If a lexeme may be categorized as belonging to different semantic fields, the analysis of this lexeme can be divided between these fields. If we want to acquire explicit knowledge connected with the meaning and usage of a selected item such an analysis should be done, but it is not necessary if we only compare differences and similarities in conceptual meaning of verbs in one semantic field, for example, drinking. Of course, if our aim is to find a proper verb expressing the meaning not generally but drinking in a specific sense, we would have to know and understand it to use it.

In the graphic presentation of the conceptual analysis distinctive features specifying a verb have a special marking -e.g. with an underscore or colour. Marking these features can be helpful in drawing a user's attention to a specific meaning of a verb and its correct use.

The whole analysis should include the following categories<sup>1</sup>:

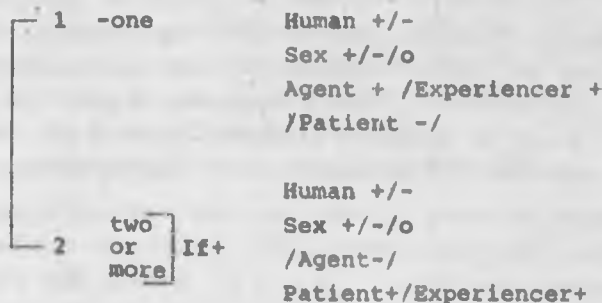
---

<sup>1</sup> Key to the analysis: feature value: (+) positive; (-) negative; (o) neutral; (+/-) feature exists or not.

If (+) - feature has positive value or exists in definite circumstances; if (-) - feature has negative value or does not exist in definite circumstances.

Sex: (+) male; (-) female; (o) neutral.

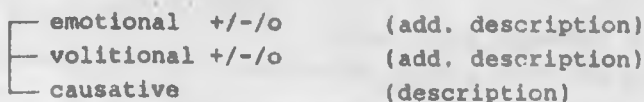
1. PARTICIPANTS: [cf. F i l l m o r e 1968 for a discussion of semantic cases]



In the case of two or more Participants the action takes place in relation:



2. EXPERIENCER'S ATTITUDE:



3. OBJECT: Solid Food

Liquid Food

Liquid

Alcoholic +/-/o

4. ACTION/TECHNIQUE:

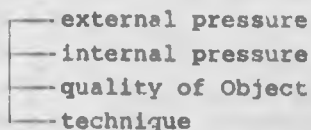
1) Instruments/Organs used

2) Place/Path

3) Manner

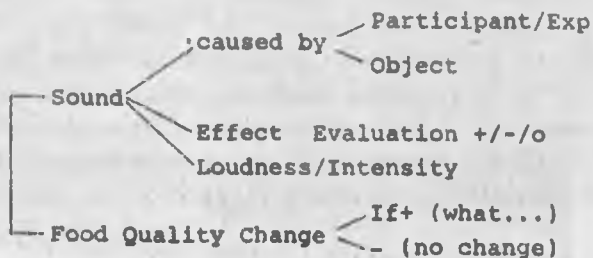
4) Speed

caused by



5) Quantity of Object

6) Effect of Action:



## 5. SPEAKER'S EVALUATION

## 6. USAGE

The diagrammatic presentation of the above feature categories will be discussed in a more detailed description and supported by some examples. Afterwards a complete analysis of a few selected verbs will be given as examples in order to show how the feature analysis works, and what its advantages and disadvantages are.

1. PARTICIPANT Category. A verb can imply one or more Participants of an action. The Participants play different roles: Agent, Patient, Experiencer etc. [F i l l m o r e 1968]. The part of an Experiencer can be taken over by an Agent (in the case of one Participant), or it can be taken over by a Patient (in the case of more Participants, when the Agent is not an Experiencer).

Most verbs expressing eating and drinking imply only one Participant i.e. an Agent who is an Experiencer at the same time.

- (1) *to drink* (someone *drinks* milk)
- (2) *to crunch* (someone *crunches* biscuits)

There are verbs which imply more Participants, e.g.:

- (3) *to feed* (John *feeds* his dogs)
- (4) *to suckle* (Mother *suckles* a baby)

However, the verb *to feed* in connection with the preposition "on" can also imply only one Participant.

- (5) COWS *feed on grass* [F i s i a k 1990: 74]

The category PARTICIPANT includes the features: Animate (+), Human (+/-), and Active (+). The feature Active is understood as the ability of instigating the action and the ability of creating the action (activation of organs taking part in eating or drinking and using instruments needed to activate this action). The features Animate and Active are predictable, so they can be treated as redundant and their presentation is not needed.

With some verbs, especially those expressing the action of alcohol drinking, the feature Sex (male (+), female (-), neutral (o)) should be also distinguished, which is not realized by the majority of non-native speakers of English. It can be noticed that the Agent of the verb *to suckle* is also typically a female. In the case of other categories of verbs this feature is not relevant and can be omitted in the analysis.

Let us consider the examples of verbs mentioned above using the category features.

For the verb *to drink* (1) the Participant is Active in the sense of instigating the action, and can be recognized as an Agent. As a consumer he is an Experiencer at the same time. In other words, there is only an Agent-Experiencer (+) Participant here with no transition: Participant<sub>1</sub>----> Participant<sub>2</sub>. That can be concisely presented in the following way:

PARTICIPANT:

Human +/-o

Sex +/-o

Agent +

Experiencer +

In the case of the verb *to suckle* [b] (4)] there is a transition between Participant<sub>1</sub>----> Participant<sub>2</sub> of which P<sub>1</sub> is the Agent, and P<sub>2</sub> is the Patient, and only the Patient is the Experiencer. Here is a short presentation:

PARTICIPANT <sub>1</sub> ----->	PARTICIPANT <sub>2</sub>
Human o	Human o
Sex o/If- typically	Sex o
Agent +	Agent -
Patient -	Patient +
Experiencer - female	Experiencer +

It is not sufficient, however, to identify the Participants only in terms of the category features mentioned above. Some verbs, for example, those expressing alcohol drinking imply not only the Sex subcategory feature, but also refer to the class or generation of people being the Participants of drinking. For instance, the verb *to booze* refers mainly to young people drinking (boozing) cheap wine or beer with intention of getting drunk. Another verb like *to intoxicate* is used by older people talking seriously about someone being intoxicated as a result of drinking. It is also used in a formal register. These properties of verbs should be discussed in a separate compartment referring to USAGE.

2. EXPERIENCER'S ATTITUDE Category. Experiencer's Attitude to eating or drinking can be neutral (o), or may be tinged with some emotion (-/+ ) or volition (-/+ ) connected with this activity, or cause of this activity. Something can be eaten or drunk with enjoyment (positive emotion) as is the case with the English verbs:

to *munch*

- (6) He is *munching* an apple<sup>2</sup>.

to *crunch*

- (7) They are *crunching* fresh rolls.

to *relish*

- (8) He *relishes* his favourite food every Sunday.

- (9) I would *relish* a lobster and a bottle of Chablis. [H o r n b y 1974: 726]

to *regale*

- (10) They are *regaling* themselves and their friends on caviar and champagne. [H o r n b y 1974: 721]

The Polish verb *delektować się* is recognized as the equivalent of the English verbs *to relish* and *to regale*, and in this sense expresses enjoyment of consuming some favourite food or drink.

- (11) Oni wypili już wino, a Maria wciąż się nim *delektuje*.

(They have already drunk wine, and Mary is still *regaling* herself on it.)

Something can be eaten with unwillingness or with no appetite as in the case of the Polish verbs *dsiamdzieć* or *dziabąć*. The lack of appetite is connected with the subcategorical feature CAUSE, recognized here as negative (-). It should be noticed that the English equivalent of the verb *dsiamdzieć* given by Stanisławski's dictionary [228]: *to mumble* seems to be neutral (0), and its distinctiveness is hidden in the technique of eating (chewing with toothless gums). We cannot say anything about the emotion or attitude of the Experiencer. It should be noticed that the verb *to mumble* mainly denotes the action of talking. The Stanisławski equivalents of *dziabąć* (*to strike, to hit, to jab*) [227] have nothing to do with eating, and its English equivalent should be looked for not in dictionaries but in every day language experience (cf. 'to pick at').

The Volitional Attitude can be recognized as distinctive and positive (+) with the verb *to taste* or with its Polish equivalent *kosztować*, in the case when the Experiencer shows his willingness to try the quality of Object consumed (food, drink).

- (12) Please *taste* this and tell me if it is too sweet. [F i s i a k 1990: 695]

<sup>2</sup> Examples with no reference quoted are the examples collected by the author.

- (13) I always *taste* food before adding salt. [L o n g m a n 1990: 1084]
- (14) This cake is delicious, would you like to *taste* it? [L o n g m a n 1990: 1084]
- (15) Muszę skosztować tego wina, bo nie wiem czy nie jest zbyt kwaśne.  
(I must *taste* this wine as I don't know if it is not too sour.)

The positive Volitional Attitude can be also connected with eagerness or strong will of eating some delicious food, or having a favourite drink.

*zajadać się*

- (16) Janek *zajada się/obżera się* ciastkami.  
(John *gorges/stuffa* himself on cakes.)

The English equivalent to *gorge* (*zajadać się, obżerać się*) also expresses a greedy way of eating.

- (17) He *gorged* himself on cream cakes. [L o n g m a n 1990: 451]

The subcategory discussed can also express one's intention, for example one's intention of getting tipsy or drunken, or the intention of drinking a lot for pleasure, in a good company etc.

*to booze* (beer)

- (18) He is out *boozing* with his friends. [L o n g m a n 1990: 108]

*to fuddle*

- (19) He *fuddled* his head with wine.

*upić się*

- (20) *Upił się* ze zmartwienia.

(He *got drunk/fuddled* because of his worries.)

Volition is closely connected with the subcategorical feature CAUSATIVE expressing a more objective than subjective attitude of the Experience. The feature CAUSATIVE if present (IF+) can be motivated by the necessity of appeasing one's hunger or necessity of accepting food for one's sake, satisfying one's thirst etc.

*to quench*

- (21) She *quenched* her thirst with a glass of cold milk. [L o n g m a n 1990: 849]

- (22) They wanted to *quench* their thirst with cold juice.

- (23) I had a glass of lemonade to quench my thirst. [F i s i a k 1990: 527]  
*posilić się*
- (24) *Posilili się* przed podróżą.  
 (They had a meal before the journey.)

3. OBJECT (food or liquid consumed) is one of the most significant features deciding the choice of a verb expressing the activity of eating or drinking. In the analysis presented the OBJECT category includes:

Solid Food (e.g. meat, fruit, biscuits)

Liquid Food (e.g. soup)

Liquid

Alcoholic (+) (e.g. whisky, beer, vodka)

(-) (e.g. milk, tea, coffee, soft drink)

(o) (any drink)

The kind of Object decides about the technique of eating/drinking, and therefore about the verb that should be chosen if this technique and the kind of Object and its quality are to be foregrounded properties.

- (25) beer is being *swilled*
- (26) biscuits are being *crunched*
- (27) spirits, sherry, cocktails, coffee can be *sipped*
- (28) soup can be *slurped*
- (29) meat can be *devoured*
- but
- (30) soup, meat, biscuits etc. can be *consumed*,

because the verb *to consume* has nothing to do with the technique and Object Quality. So for the verb *to consume* the OBJECT category is not a relevant feature, as there are verbs expressing the meaning of eating and drinking for which kind of food and/or technique are not relevant at all. (In addition, *consume* is not even confined to the semantic field of eating.)

in Polish

- (31) *delektować się* (to regale oneself)
- (32) *s/kosztować* (to taste)
- (33) *trawić* (to digest)

in English

- (34) *to taste*
- (35) *to relish*



(36) to regale

(37) to digest

4. ACTION/TECHNIQUE Category. The Action and its Technique include many subcategories of different degree of distinctiveness and their characterization. The ACTION/TECHNIQUE category is the most complicated one, and the selection of subcategories and feature descriptions can be differentiated.

The following subcategories can be selected:

1) Instruments/Organs used while eating or drinking:

(38) for to crunch mouth  
jaws  
teeth - as distinctive

(39) for to slurp tongue  
lips

(40) for to taste this category is not relevant

2) Place/Path - identifies where the main part of action takes place:

(41) for to crunch jaws, teeth

(42) for to sip lips

(43) for to swallow the path: mouth-throat-stomach

(44) for to digest stomach

3) Manner is the way of accepting food/liquid and its changing:  
biting  
jaw movement  
chewing  
swallowing  
sucking etc.

A problem appears here concerning the method of description within this category. The words used for this description should be also described separately as they belong to the category of drinking/eating verbs. It is not always easy to substitute them with other words that could express the character of the action described.

4) Speed of eating and drinking depends on different factors. A slow or fast way of eating can be caused by:

- external pressure

social circumstances: (we shouldn't devour a chicken in haste at official parties; we shouldn't gobble food in such situation),

haste necessity: (an animal is bolting its prey in haste not to lose it; someone is gulping so as not to be late for work),

culture or convention: (whisky should be *sipped* slowly, not drunk by quick *gulping*);

- internal pressure of emotional or volitional character as fear, hunger, appetite, acceptability often decide about Speed and the way of eating or drinking, which results in the specific meaning of the verb described.

(45) *pożerać* (to devour, to wolf) - appetite, hunger

(46) *to gulp* - thirst, haste caused by fear etc.

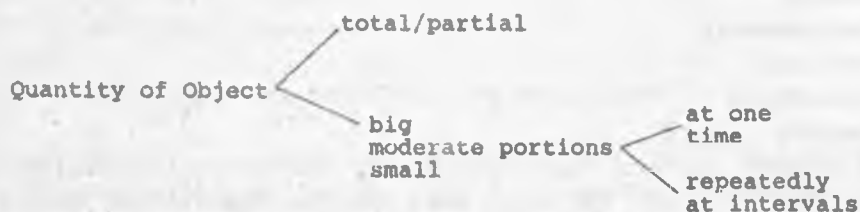
(47) *to gobble* - rapidity caused by greed

Speed of consumption also depends on the quality of the Object - whether it is something hard (a bone, a hard piece of meat, a dry hard cracker or biscuit), hot soup, or a cold soft drink. In other words it depends on physical state, temperature, and taste of the Object, too.

- technique of eating/drinking action expressed by a verb. It decides about the rate of consumption itself and does not need a separate discussion here.

It should also be remembered that the subcategory of Speed is a graded feature, but it must be simplified in this description - to the scale of fast - moderate - slow if necessary.

5) The Object Quantity Subcategory can be concisely presented in the following way:



The Object can be consumed totally as one portion at one time - as in the case of the verb *to swallow* and its Polish equivalent *połknąć*<sup>3</sup>:

(48) Zwierz *połknął* swą ofiarę.

(The beast *swallowed* its prey.)

<sup>3</sup> The lexical forms of the Polish verb (the equivalents of the English verb *to swallow*) are different: *połykać*, *połknąć*, *łykać*, *łyknąć* etc., which depends on the aspect of this verb and decides about partial or total, repeated or one time consumption of bigger or smaller portions of the Object consumed.

- (49) Pies połknął ciastko nawet nie gryząc.  
(The dog *swallowed* the cake without even biting it.)
- (50) Try to swallow the pill. [F i s i a k 1990: 684]

It can be taken repeatedly by bigger or smaller portions at every time, which for example is expressed by the verbs *to sip*, *to lap*, or their Polish equivalents *popijać*, *chleptać*, respectively.

- (51) Siedziała w fotelu *popijając* kawę.  
(She was sitting in the armchair *sipping* coffee.)
- (52) Kot *chlepcze* mleko.  
(The cat is *lapping* milk.)
- (53) The cat *lapped* milk from a saucer. [F i s i a k 1990: 365]
- (54) She *sipped* the anonymous drink served by the hovering waiter never taking her eyes from Boysie's face. [G a r d n e r 1968: 41]
- (55) She *took a sip* of the medicine<sup>4</sup>. [F i s i a k 1990: 620]
- (56) The dog *emptied* the plate with three *laps* of the tongue.  
[H o r n b y 1975: 480]

A big quantity of liquid taken partially or totally at one time can be illustrated by:

- (57) He *took a gulp* of whisky, which would have done for most experienced drinkers. [G a r d n e r 1968: 21]

The Object can be taken as a portion at one time in order to try, for example, in the case of the English verbs:

- (58) to taste
- (58') This cake is delicious - would you like to taste it?
- (58'') Do have a taste of this cake! [F i s i a k 1990: 696]
- (59) to bite (to bite off)
- (59') He *bit off* a large piece of the apple. [H o r n b y 1975: 84]

and in the case of the Polish verbs:

- (60) *s/próbować (s/kosztować)*
- (60') To ciasto jest wyborne - czy chciałbyś je *skosztować*?
- (61) *ugryźć (odgryźć)*
- (61') *Ugryził/odgryził* duży kawałek jabłka.

---

<sup>4</sup> Such verbs as *to sip*, *to lap*, *to gulp* etc. are often subjects to nominalization, which illustrated by the examples.

For the verbs such as *to consume*, *to eat*, *to drink* i.e. for the verbs expressing the general action of accepting Food/Liquid, the Object Quantity subcategory can be treated as neutral or not relevant to the analysis.

6) The Effect of Action results in the Sound produced while absorbing Food and in Food Quality Change. The Sound may be produced by the Experiencer (e.g. with the noise of *slurping* or *guzzling*), or by the Object (Food/Liquid) itself as a result of its Quality. The Sound can also be produced both by the Experiencer and the Object at the same time (e.g. a *crunched* biscuit). The biscuit being crushed by the Experiencer's teeth, because of its dryness and hardness, produces a crackling sound with the Effect of a significant loud noise. This noise can be evaluated by the Speaker as a positive Effect connected with *crunching* tasty biscuits or fresh rolls. Eating biscuits and rolls of such quality implies the enjoyment of the Experiencer (the Experiencer's emotional attitude cf. the subcategory above). *Slurping*, on the other hand, produced by the Experiencer and hot Liquid Food as soup, for instance, gives the Sound Effect of more or less strong intensity negatively evaluated by the Speaker who is the representative of European culture in which *slurping* is not accepted and treated as misbehaviour or behaviour associated with a lower social register.

It should be noticed that in other cultures such as the Asiatic one, for instance, *slurping* implies enjoyment of the Experiencer and is positively accepted by the Speaker. It should also be pointed out here that this analysis is based only on the behavioral norms accepted in European culture. The Speaker's Evaluation discussed below in a more detailed description is recognized as a separate category.

In the Effect of Action Food Quality Change takes place in the Action expressed by many verbs, for others this subcategory is neutral. The verb *to crunch* expresses crushing or crackling dry Solid Food portions into pieces and pressing it into a pulp which is swallowed next. In the case of the verb *to chew*, food is also changed in the mouth and the process of changing it before swallowing is foregrounded. When Liquid is taken the physical change in the mouth does not take place before swallowing, so it can be concluded that the subcategory Food Quality Change is not relevant for the analysis and in this sense can be treated as neutral.

5. **SPEAKER'S EVALUATION** Category shows the Speaker's Attitude towards the Action expressed by the verb, the acceptance or the lack of acceptance of the Speaker who gives a label to this action. Generally, the Speaker's Evaluation can be positive (+), neutral (o), or negative (-). This Evaluation also depends on cultural conventions as has already been mentioned above. For example *to guzzle* (connected with noisy eating or drinking) is a verb used in a low register. It is associated with bad manners or misbehavior of the Agent. In other words the Speaker's Evaluation of this Action is negative. *To munch* on the other hand, is associated with chewing something tasty with enjoyment, so the Action expressed by this verb achieves the Speaker's positive evaluation. The situation is similar in the case of the verb *to crunch* as has been mentioned above.

6. **USAGE** Category classifies verbs according to the social group of people (e.g. class, generation etc.) who use these verbs. It also explains which verbs should be used in describing the drinking/eating action of different social groups of people or of social groups' individual representatives in reference to their specific or normal behaviour. This category shows a kind of verb usage register (a graded social scale indication of verb usage). It explains whether it is formal or informal, or the evaluation of verb Usage is classified in the scale of low, middle, high, or neutral value. In other words, a verb can be classified as having low, middle, high, or neutral register.

For example the verb *to tippie* is connected with habitual and often secretive drinking. Its usage is current but not common. It is the verb of high register. It refers to both sexes (men and women). *To fuddle* is used among fairly sophisticated people. This verb is considered as having high - middle register; *to sip* is the verb quite universal and common among all social groups and generations; *to champ* usually refers to animals; *to munch* is universal in this sense etc.

In the analysis carried out above, the semantic field discussed has been limited to eating and drinking. Many verbs given as examples belong to other semantic fields, which have not been discussed in the present work as they are irrelevant thereto. Discussing all the semantic fields of a verb analyzed is possible but more complicated and needs a dynamic verification of category features.

Let us present a complete analysis of the verb *to crunch* and the verb *to slurp* as examples of overall frameworks.

The analysis will be presented in an abbreviated diagrammatic form:

#### TO CRUNCH

##### 1. PARTICIPANT:

Human +/-  
 Sex o  
 Agent +  
 Experiencer +  
 (Patient-)

##### 2. EXPERIENCER'S ATTITUDE:

emotional o/+ (enjoyment)  
 volitional + (eagerness of eating something tasty or fresh)  
 causative (tasting, consumption)

##### 3. OBJECT:

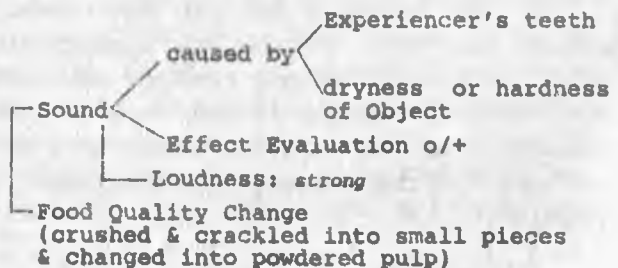
Solid Food - *hard & dry* (often fresh & crusty)

biscuits
rolls
cakes
bones
toasts
aweets
peanuts

##### 4. ACTION -> eating

###### TECHNIQUE:

- 1) Organs used: mouth, jaws & teeth, tongue
- 2) Place: front & side parts of oral cavity, teeth
- 3) Manner: biting, jaw movements, crushing, chewing
- 4) Speed: o  
 If+ caused by: energetic movement of jaws inspired by appetite etc.
- 5) Quantity of Object: o (any at one time, can be repeated)
- 6) Effect of Action:



## 5. SPEAKER'S EVALUATION:

- o (e.g. 2)
- (if associated with disturbance, something annoying, e.g. 1,3)
- + (if associated with something fresh & tasty, e.g. 4)

## 6. USAGE: universal

- (1) She *crunched* sweets all through the film. [F i s i a k 1990: 142]
- (2) The dog was *crunching* a bone. [H o r n b y 1975: 210]
- (3) People who *crunch* peanuts in the cinema can be very annoying. [H o r n b y 1975: 210]
- (4) They were *crunching* fresh rolls for breakfast.

## TO SLURP

## 1. PARTICIPANT:

- Human +/- (If - e.g. a monkey)
- Sex o
- Agent +
- Experiencer +
- (Patient -)

## 2. EXPERIENCER'S ATTITUDE:

- emotional o/+
- volitional +
- causative (consumption, killing hunger, thirst; tasting)

## 3. OBJECT:

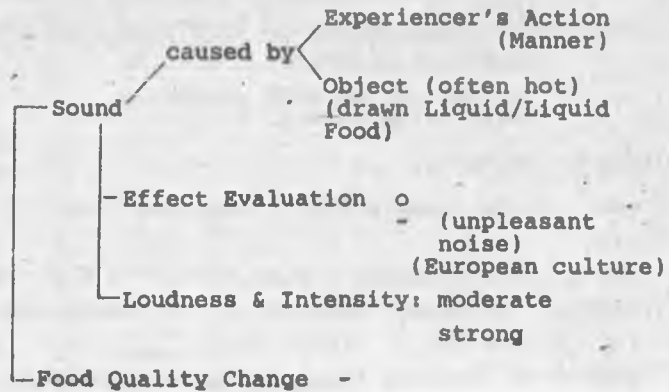
- Liquid Food (often hot) [soup]
- Liquid Alcoholic - (often hot)
  - tea
  - coffee
  - milk
  - water etc.

## 4. ACTION -&gt; eating/drinking

## TECHNIQUE:

- 1a) Instruments: a spoon, a dish, a container as a cup, a glass etc.
- 1b) Organs used: lips & tongue
- 2) Place: mouth
- 3) Manner: drawing in with continuous *suck-ing* repeatedly
- 4) Speed: o  
If- caused by Object Quality (hotness)
- 5) Quantity of Object: small or moderate portions at one time repeatedly

## 6) Effect of Action:



## 5. SPEAKER'S EVALUATION:

(European culture): disapproval, contempt, unpleasant experience of Sound Effect (e.g. 1,2,3,4)

## 6. USAGE: common

informal

of low register

- (1) Don't *slurp* your soup, children. [L o n g m a n 1990: 993]
- (2) He *slurped* his coffee. [W e b s t e r's 1989: 1343]
- (3) Don't *slurp* when you eat your soup. [W e b s t e r's 1989: 1343]
- (4) He finished his milk in about three *slurps*.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- F i l l m o r e, Ch., 1968, *The Case for Case*, B a c h E., and H a r m s, R.T. (eds) *Universals in Linguistic Theory*, New York, Chicago, San Francisco.
- L e w a n d o w s k a-T o m a s z c z y k, B., *Verbs and Concepts: an Essay in Applied Lexicology* (this volume).
- S n e l l-H o r n b y, M., 1983, *Verb-descriptivity in German and English. A contrastive study in semantic fields*, Heidelberg: Winter.
- G a r d n e r, J., 1968, *Nadrigal*, Bungay, Suffolk: Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press), Ltd.



## DICTIONARIES

- F o w l e r, F. G., 1969, *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary of Current English*, Glasgow, New York, Toronto, Salisbury, Addis Ababa, Oxford: OUP.
- G u r a l n i k, D. B., 1982, *Webster's New World Compact School and Office Dictionary*, New York: Webster's New World.
- H o r n b y, A. S., 1975, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, (New Edition). Glasgow, New York, Toronto, Cape Town, Calcutta: OUP.
- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, (New Edition) 1989. London: Longman Group UK Limited, reprinted in Poland by PWN - Polish Scientific Publishers: Warszawa.
- S c h w a r z, C. M., S e a t o n, M. A., F i s i a k, J., 1990, *English Dictionary for Speakers of Polish*, Toronto: Kernerman Publishing Inc. Poznań: Kantor Wydawniczy SAWW.
- S t a n i s ł a w s k i, J., 1969, *The Great Polish-English Dictionary*, Warszawa: Wiedza Powszechna.
- S t a n i s ł a w s k i, J., 1969, *The Great English-Polish Dictionary*, Warszawa: Wiedza Powszechna.
- Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, 1989, New York: Portland House.

Anna Gintowt-Dziwiłł

EKSPERYMENTALNE PODEJŚCIE DO ANALIZY POJĘCIOWEJ  
 CZASOWNIKÓW ANGIELSKICH OZNACZAJĄCYCH JEDZENIE I PICIE

Praca przedstawia propozycję eksperymentalnej analizy konceptualnej czasowników angielskich wyrażających czynność jedzenia i picia. Tradycyjne słowniki nie zawsze podają różnice semantyczne pomiędzy czasownikami tego samego pola semantycznego, wskazując te same ekwiwalenty dla różnych czasowników, co powoduje trudności w dobraniu właściwego czasownika do określonego kontekstu. Dlatego narodził się pomysł stworzenia modelu takiej analizy konceptualnej, która wskazywałaby możliwie najsubtelniejsze różnice semantyczne między czasownikami i mogłaby być pomocna w zrozumieniu istnienia i znaczenia tych różnic.

Analiza ma formę wykresu z oznaczeniem wartości cech znakami +/-o wraz z opisem werbalnym. Należy pamiętać, że wiele czasowników wyrażających czynność jedzenia i picia należy również do innych pól semantycznych. Zdobycie wyczerpującej informacji na temat wybranego leksemu (należącego do różnych pól) wymagałoby analizy tych pól, nie jest to jednak przedmiotem tej pracy.

Czy dany model analizy konceptualnej spełnia swoje zadanie? Czy może być wykorzystany w analizie innych kategorii czasowników i jakie modyfikacje byłyby niezbędne? Odpowiedzi kryją się w efektach dalszych eksperymentów. Czy rezultaty takiej analizy można uznać za obiektywne? Zdolności percepcyjne, ekspresyjne, oraz ocena doświadczeń jest wynikiem czynników charakteryzujących jednostkę, tj. inteligencji, nabytego doświadczenia etc. w związku z tym wstrzymam się od próby obiektywnej odpowiedzi na to pytanie.