

Theories of Semantics: Merits and Limitations

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Abstract

Meaning is so intangible that one group of linguists , the structuralists , preferred not to deal with it or rely on it at all . It is a variable and not to be taken for granted. Nevertheless , many theories have been interested in the study of meaning. Because of the limited scope of this paper, the discussion will cover some of the well-known theories of meaning formulated in the last century. Mainly referential theory of meaning, non-referential theory of meaning and generative grammarian theory of meaning are discussed. Some assumptions, merits and limitations for each theory are also described. The researcher hopes that many people can benefit from this article since meaning is a complex concept and difficult to understand.

Keywords: Generative Grammmarian Theory, Meaning, Non-Referential Theory, Referential Theory, Semantics