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Phonosemantics

- [Idea Particles](#)

In linguistics, [sound](#) symbolism, phonesthesia or phonosemantics is the idea that vocal sounds or phonemes carry meaning in and of themselves.

Origin

In the 18th century, Mikhail Lomonosov propagated a theory that words containing certain sounds should bear certain meanings; for instance, the front vowel sounds E, I, YU should [be](#) used when depicting tender subjects and those with back vowel sounds O, U, Y when describing things that may cause fear ("like anger, envy, [pain](#), and sorrow").

However, Ferdinand de Saussure (1857–1913) is considered to [be](#) the founder of modern 'scientific' linguistics. Central to what de Saussure says about words are two related statements: First, he says that "the sign is arbitrary". He considers the words that we use to indicate things and concepts could [be](#) any words – they are essentially just a consensus agreed upon by the speakers of a [language](#) and have no discernible pattern or relationship to the thing. Second, he says that, because words are arbitrary, they have meaning only in relation to other words. A dog is a dog because it is not a cat or a mouse or a horse, etc. These ideas have permeated the study of words since the 19th century.

Types

Margaret Magnus is the author of a comprehensive [book](#) designed to explain phonosemantics to the [lay](#) reader: *Gods in the Word*. This work describes three types of [sound](#) symbolism using a model first proposed by Wilhelm von Humboldt (see below):

Onomatopoeia

See also: Onomatopoeia This is the least significant type of symbolism. It is simply imitative of sounds or suggests something that makes a [sound](#). Some examples are "crash", "bang", and "whoosh".

Clustering

Words that share a [sound](#) sometimes have something in common. If we take, for example, words that have no prefix or suffix and [group](#) them according to meaning, some of them will fall into a number of categories. So we find that there is a [group](#) of words beginning with /b/ that are about barriers, bulges and bursting, and some other [group](#) of /b/ words that are about being banged, beaten, battered, bruised, blistered and bashed. This proportion is, according to Magnus, above the average for other letters.

Another hypothesis states that if a word begins with a particular phoneme, then there is likely to [be](#) a

number of other words starting with that phoneme that refer to the same thing. An example given by Magnus is if the basic word for 'house' in a given [language](#) starts with a /h/, then by clustering, disproportionately many words containing /h/ can [be](#) expected to concern housing: hut, home, hovel, habitat...

[Sound](#) symbolic words cannot [be](#) broken down into smaller units of meaning. [Sound](#) clusters are not treated as morphemes. Words beginning with /gl/ (glitter, gleam, glow, glisten, etc.) pertain to [light](#) reflection but [gl] on its own has no meaning nor does every other word with /gl/ refer to [light](#).

Clustering is [language](#) dependent, although closely related languages will have similar clustering relationships.

Semantic/sensible Component	cluster of words / compound word groups	Phonetic/non-sense Component (for pronunciation)
B	banged , beaten , battered , bruised , blistered	
H	house , hut , habitat , hovel , home	
Gl	glow , glamour , glitter , gloomy , glisten ,	
Bl	blow , blue , blunder	
Gn	gnosis , knowledge , cognition	

CONCERNING THE PREDICAMENT OF PRONUNCIATION

- sounds called radicals
 - more general
 - vowels
 - अ
 - [SPACE](#)
 - [without](#)
 - इ
 - उ
 - ए
 - ओ
 - Consonants
 - [Dimensional space cluster](#)
 - [K](#)
 - radicals
 - concerned with a very lowly creature
 - [insect](#)
 - concerned with a lowly space
 - [corner](#)
 - [an object](#) for separation and [an action](#) of separating space
 - [sword](#)
 - a question
 - [QUESTION](#)
 - phonetic words
 - [words with ks / क्स](#)
 - [words with kt / क्ट](#)
 - [words with ksh / क्ष](#)

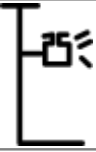
- words with kr / क्र
- words with Q/kyu / क्यू
- Words with kt / क्त
- words with kl / क्ल
- words with kri / कृ
- KH
 - bird
 - action
 - push
- G
 - move
 - phonetic categories
 - words with gr
 - words with gl
 - words with gn
- GH
 - script
- N
 - particle
- clusters of life and shadow
 - C
 - a flat object
 - bed
 - chair
 - table
 - CH
 - hole
 - shield
 - J
 - an act of making something
 - create
 - an object of creation
 - seed
 - a product of creation
 - species
 - the life and its negation
 - death
 - life
 - an organ of creation
 - Genitals
 - consciousness
 - ज्ञ (jny)
 - an organ of knowledge
 - mind
 - an object of knowledge
 - book
 - sense
 - An object of sense
 - message
 - an organ of sense
 - EYE

- EAR
 - NOSE
 - Tongue
 - Skin
 - JH
 - flag
 - brush
 - NY
 - parts
 - some
 - any
 - an action of separation
 - cut
 - third cluster or dimensional quantities cluster
 - T
 - depression
 - phonetic categories
 - words with tw/tv
 - TH
 - More General
 - cylindrical ट
 - bar , rod , कठ, लाठी
 - circular ट
 - fruit
 - stone
 - irregular ट
 - cloud
 - dream
 - bouba
 - bubble
 - an accumulation of things
 - group
 - box ट
 - abstract object
 - board
 - box
 - an object for sealing
 - lock
 - an object for beating
 - hammer
 - D
 - string
 - DH
 - cover
 - crown
 - ड़
 - bar
- fourth cluster or down to earth
 - त (T)
 - a solitary element
 - metal

- stairs
- a compound element
 - object
 - Used for or used by
 - त्र
 - tool
- थ(TH)
 - more general
 - place
 - more specific to a person
 - room
 - narrow place for moving between broad places
 - passage
- द(D)
 - tree
 - phonetic categories
 - words with dr
- ध(Dh)
 - CELESTIAL. II.
 - earth
 - moon
 - star
 - spiritual
- न(n)
 - negation
 - other self
- fifth cluster or up to sky
 - प(p)
 - Mountain
 - phonetic categories
 - words with pr
 - words with pl
 - words with pn
 - words with ps
 - words with pt
 - words with py
 - फ(f)
 - ability to flow
 - AIR. II.
 - gas
 - force
 - an object of nature as light as wind
 - flower
 - leaf
 - ब(b)
 - elevation
 - phonetic categories
 - words with bl
 - words with br
 - words with by
 - भ(bh)

- Light
 - intensity
 - FIRE. I.
 - TEMPERATURE
 - EMOTIONS
 - weight
- म(m)
 - NAME
 - self
 - agents for self action
 - hands with fingers and nails
 - legs
 - mouth with lips or beak
 - head and neck
 - mental
- semivowels
 - sixth cluster
 - य(y)
 - join
 - र(r)
 - objects which indicate action in itself
 - electricity
 - help
 - action
 - wheel
 - arrow
 - ENERGY
 - organs
 - organs of action
 - ARM
 - HAND
 - LEG
 - Foot
 - corporeal actions
 - postures
 - gestures
 - ल(l)
 - WATER. III.
 - MUSIC
 - ship
 - phonetic categories
 - words with lg
 - व(v)
 - SOUND
 - seventh cluster
 - ष(sh) , श(sh)
 - moral or emotional property of light
 - colour
 - pain
 - स(s)
 - balance

- phonetic categories
 - words with sl
 - words with sn
 - words with sm
 - words with sv/sw
- ह (h)
 - time
 - with
- conjuncts
 - independent clusters
 - क्ष (ksh)
 - श्र (shr)
 - money
- more particular ideological
 - expanded forms of so called general
- mixed radical and ideological

Compound Ideogram	Pronunciation and Meaning	Constituent Radical -1	Constituent Radical -2
chinese character	chinese sound and english meaning	semantic component	for pronunciation
河	hé "river"	水 - shui (water) 氵	(可 - ke) may , can , able
湖	hú "lake"	水 - shui (water) 氵	(胡 - hu) how , why , that , barbarian
流	liú "stream"	水 - shui (water) 氵	(荒 - liu) penant , wild , barren
冲 ,	chōng "surge"	水 - shui (water) 氵	(中 - zhong) central , centre
滑	huá "slippery"	水 - shui (water) 氵	(骨 - gu) bone , skeleton , frame
洋	yáng "ocean"	水 - shui (water) 氵	羊 (yáng) "sheep"
mantrakshar character	english sound /meaning	semantic component	Phonetic Component
	spray	water	sitting person
	fog	water	air
	juice	water	fruit

PHONOSEMANTICS ENGLISH

A	first , foremost ,
An	none , without

B	
bl	air
bh	light
bh	fire
C	
C	Flat
C	cup
D	
E	
F	
G	
gh -	concave , convex
H	
I	
J	life
Jny	Knowledge , know , brain , sense
K	
L	water , pipe ,
M	self
Mn	Mental , science , consciousness
N	n negative
N	n particle
n	n parts
n	n crooked
O	
P	
Q	
R	actions , flow
S	
sh	bad , poison , danger
sh	good , nice , beautiful , pure
T	
th	location , there , thar
th	shapes , solid
U	
V	sound
W	
X - crossing , cutting	
Y	
Z	last

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Last update: **2024/04/09 10:28**

