

Using semantic fields in the clinic

This is a page from the lexical section of the profile in semantics (PRISM-L), one of the suite of clinical profiling techniques described in my *Profiling Linguistic Disability* (1982), with typical words shown. The approach distinguished 61 semantic fields, and 239 subfields. In its clinical application, the words used by a linguistically challenged child or adult would be assigned to the various fields, and a picture built up of which areas of meaning were being used and which avoided.

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Building	Type	castle house bungalow cottage	flat home kennel tent	Parts	roof window ceiling wall	rooms	door floor hall stairs wall balcony
	Outside	garage garden drive	gate lawn car park driveway	Materials	glass tile brick	plaster ciment	
	Action	clean sweep fetch	repair build mend mow	People	architect bricklayer maid	electrician painter handyman	
	Rooms	playroom cellar bedroom	kitchen basement study	Other			
Furniture	General	chair shelf carpet	cupboard curtain mirror lamp	Bathroom	toilet bathtub	shower	
	Bedroom	wardrobe dressing-table	mattress leap	Living Room	sofa armchair piano	TV hi-fi	
	Kitchen/Dining	sink slideboard fridge	stove	Other			
	Tools	General hammer screw saw	shovel cut nails hinge	screw ladder belt bench	Farm/Garden	hoe rake mower	shears spade barrow mow weed axe
Containers	Type	basket parcel prize	safe handbag case cupboard	jug can bottle box	bag beul	Parts	door side lid lock handle
	Action	fill open close lock	pack empty bulging	Other			
Quantity	General enough every lot(s)	only several edge all	even odd bit	Specific alone single pair	one two dozen etc.	half	
Measurement	Act add count divide	Distance inch foot cm	mile ruler	Weight ounce gram scales	Volume pint litre barrel	Other	
Size	+ big large tall	deep great huge tall	high long thick wide	heavy expand widened	- small tiny little	narrow dust light	shrink reduce lower
Shape	line dot circle pyramid	square black ball crooked	round bent flat pointed	stripe pile spot heap	bump corner hole		
Time	Day dawn morning noon	evening midnight	Period age lifetime term	instant youth young old	ancient		
Location	Part yesterday recently previous	just ago	Present now today	Future soon tomorrow next			
State	Quality good better	best nice awful	Intensity very at all just	actually really			
Other	Like + alike same similar	equal matching twin series	group compare sort out also	Like - different opposite unlike	other contrast		