

A Look at the World through a Word "Shoes": A Componential Analysis of Meaning

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Abstract

Meanings are related to language functions. To comprehend how the meanings of a word are various, conducting componential analysis is necessary to do. A word can share similar features to their synonymous words. To reach the previous goal, componential analysis enables us to find out how words are used in their contexts and what features those words are made up. "Shoes" is a word which has many synonyms as this kind of outfit has developed in terms of its shape, which is obviously seen. From the observation done in this research, there are 26 kinds of shoes with 36 distinctive features. The types of shoes found are boots, brogues, cleats, clogs, espadrilles, flip-flops, galoshes, heels, kamiks, loafers, Mary Janes, moccasins, mules, oxfords, pumps, rollerblades, sandals, skates, slides, sling-backs, slippers, sneakers, swim fins, valenki, waders and wedge. The distinctive features of the word "shoes" are based on the heels, heels shape, gender, the types of the toes, the occasions to wear the footwear, the place to wear the footwear, the material, the accessories of the footwear, the model of the back of the shoes and the cut of the shoes.

Keywords: shoes, meanings, features

Introduction

There are many different ways to deal with the problem of meaning. It is because meaning is related to many different function of language. Finegan (2004: 181-182) states that there are three types of meaning. They are linguistic meaning, social meaning and affective meaning. Linguistic meaning deals with both sense and reference. Social meaning is what we rely on when we identify certain social characteristics of speakers and situations from the character of the language used. Affective meaning is the emotional connotation that is attached to words and utterances.

Sometimes, a word or lexeme can bring a complex semantic structure. A lexeme is combined from smaller components of meaning which are combined differently to for a different lexeme. A lexeme can be

analyzed and described through its semantics components which help to define differential lexical relations, grammatical and syntactic processes. Based on semantic theory, lexeme can be classified according to hared and differentiating feature. The semantic features explain how the member of the set related to one another and can be used to differentiate them from one another. The determination of such features is called as componential analysis.

Discussion

Componential analysis is a method that looks at each word as a bundle of different features or components. The focus of componential analysis is to find the features that are necessary and sufficient for a given item to be an example of a given word. To determine the meaning of any form, contrast must be found, for there is no meaning apart

from significant differences. Nida (1975: 31) states,

If all the universe were blue, there would be no blueness, since there would be nothing to contrast with blue. The same is true for the meanings of words. They have meaning only in terms of systemic contrasts with other words which share certain features with them but contrast with them in respect to other features.

Nida then categorizes the types of components into two main types, i.e. common components and diagnostic or distinctive component. Common component is the central component which is shared by all the lexemes in the same semantic domain or lexical field. Diagnostic or distinctive component is served to distinguish the meaning from other from the same domain.

Leech (1976: 96) states there is a very simple example to explain those two types by providing the words man, woman, boy, girl and other related words in English. Those all words belong to the semantic field of 'human race' and the relations between them may be represented by the following table.

Components	Man	Woman	Boy	Girl
[human]	+	+	+	+
[adult]	+	+	-	-
[male]	+	-	+	-

In the semantic domain of man, woman, boy and girl, [human] is the common component, and they are distinguished by [adult], [male], [female] as the diagnostic components.

Componential analysis can be done within the same semantic domain. Nida (1975: 48) states there are three basic steps in the procedure for determining the diagnostic features. The first one is determining the common feature and line up all the apparently relevant differences in form and possibly related function. The second is studying the relations of the features to one another, in order to determine the redundancies and dependencies. The last one is formulating a set of diagnostic features and testing such a set for adequacy.

Furthermore, Nida (1975: 54-61) has developed these three basic steps into six procedural steps which are important for analyzing the components of a related set of meanings. The first is conducting a tentative selection of meanings which appear to be closely related, in the sense that they constitute a relatively well-defined semantic domain by virtue of sharing a number of common components. In this case, the meaning of father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, and cousin all share the components of being applicable to human beings and designated persons who are related either by blood or by marriage.

The second is listing all the specific kinds of referent for each of the meanings belonging to the domain in question. In some special situations one may even be able to list all the referents. For father and mother, as related to any one ego, there would presumably be only one referent. Expressions such as father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepfather, and stepmother are all regarded as separate semantic units and should be treated only as parts of extended domain, since they are clearly secondary in formal as well as semantic structure.

The third, determining those components which may be true of the meanings of one or more terms, but not of all the terms in question. Obviously some of the meanings, as reflected in the differences between referents, involve the component of female sex, e.g. mother, aunt, daughter, sister, niece and cousin, while others involve the component of male sex, e.g. father, uncle, son, brother, nephew and cousin. The term cousin is non-distinctive with respect to sex. One must proceed feature to feature to determine those components which do make distinctions and ultimately the features of sex, generation and lineality and consanguinity vs. affinal relations prove to be the distinctive features.

The fourth is determining the diagnostic components applicable to each meaning, so that the meaning of father may be indicated as possessing the components: male sex, one ascending generation, and direct descent; mother as female sex, one ascending generation and direct descent; brother as

male sex, same generation as ego, and first degree of laterality, etc.

The next one is cross-checking with the data obtained by the first procedure. On the basis of the diagnostic features, one should be able to apply the correct terms to the referents known to possess such features. The last one is describing the diagnostic features systematically. It may be done simply by listing the diagnostic features for each meaning (or term) or the arrangement of such data in the form of a tree diagram or matrix.

The actual linguistic procedures employed in componential analysis consists of four types, they are naming, paraphrasing, defining and classifying (Nida, 1975: 64-66). The process of naming is in certain respects similar to reference, though the perspective is somewhat different. Reference is usually described as the relation established between linear unit and a referent, while naming is the specific act of designating a referent. Paraphrasing is also an important linguistic function and one can spell out the distinctive features of any semantic unit by employing certain types of paraphrases. Uncle can be paraphrased into my father's brother or my mother's brother.

The process of defining would seem to be simply another form of paraphrase, but defining is a highly specialized form or paraphrase and is rarely used in actual language situations. It consists essentially in combining all the various specific paraphrase into a single statement based on the diagnostic components of the particular meaning in question. Uncle may be defined as the brother of one's father or mother or the husband of one's aunt.

The last one, that is classifying, involves a triple procedure. The first is lumping together those units which have certain features in common. The second is separating out those units which are distinct from one another. The third is determining the basis for such groupings. Classification is never merely a process of putting referents into conceptual files for the basic kinship terms in English, it is essential to establish the features

of sex, generation, degree of lineality and consanguinity-affinal distinction.

This paper will observe the componential analysis of the word shoes. Shoes are the protective items that enables us to protect ourselves during various activities, comfort us in various outdoor environments, provide us with another way to express ourselves with their designs and uses that changed from ages to ages and from civilization to civilization. With the combined minds and traditions, our ancestors quickly gained skills to adapt to any kind of environment, from scorching hot deserts, humid swamps, icy landscapes, mountainous cliffs, to moderate plains and lush forests. All those environments required its own dress code, with shoes playing very important part for enabling people to move, work and live more longer, safer and healthier. First archeological evidence of protective covering of the feet comes from 40.000 B.C., exactly in those times when humans from Africa came to Europe and started their expansion toward all four corners of the Earth.

After the modern human civilization appeared in the Middle-East and northern Africa kingdoms of Babylon, Assyria and Egypt, production of shoes finally started to happen on more widespread and "industrial" scale. The need of protecting feet from scorching sands gave birth to first sandals some 6 thousand years ago, and during the time of the Egypt pharaohs the first mentioning of high heeled shoes started appearing in the historical records. Even so long ago, high heel shoes started their life as synonyms for wealth, political position and social influence. As the centuries went on, trade with other European countries slowly transferred the fashion of high heeled shoes to the Greece and Rome, where they were used from highest position in their ruling classes to all the way down to the common people and even slaves. Simple wooden clogs, sandals, leather buskins, slippers, high heeled shoes and many other types of protective foot items were used during those ancient times.

During the last 700 years, there were countless fashion changes that brought and took away many types of shoes from use in Europe and entire world. In the last 150 years

emergence of faster communication and new ways to faster produce clothing and shoe items brought tremendous rise of new fashion trends in Europe and United states, who quickly became leaders in production of new types of shoe designs. New materials, faster manufacture and means for widespread popularization of these items (television, radio, and newspapers) created many new types of shoes that are in use even today. The best and most popular examples of this new wave of shoes are American Sneakers who were created in early 20th century when manufacture of cheap gum soles enabled Charles Goodyear to create cheap and reliable canvas shoe that was both durable, light and silent (which was the feature that gave them their name), and steel heeled Stilettoes from Roger Vivier, which enabled females to proudly showcase their femininity, sexual appeal and form of their body.

Without a doubt, shoes represent one of the most important aspects of our outdoors experience. They empower us to live and work in various environments, showcase our creativity and fashion sense and provide comfort that no other clothing item can produce. Let's simplified shoes as the general footwear. Here we will see the distinctive features of some kinds of footwear.

From my observation, there are 26 kinds of footwear with 36 distinctive features. The shoes types are boots, brogues, cleats, clogs, espadrilles, flip-flops, galoshes, heels, kamiks, loafers, Mary Janes, moccasins, mules, oxfords, pumps, rollerblades, sandals, skates, slides, sling-backs, slippers, sneakers, swim fins, valenki, waders and wedge. However, the distinctive features are based on the heels, heels shape, gender, the types of the toes, the occasions to wear the footwear, the place to wear the footwear, the material, the accessories of the footwear, the model of the back of the shoes and the cut of the shoes.

The heels height is divided into three features that are flat, short and high. For its shape, there are 6 types that are tapered, narrow, rounded, pointed, square and full. The shoes of course differentiated based on its user whether male or female. We can also see the model of the toes of the shoes,

whether it is close or open. The occasion to use the shoes is also differentiate, whether to use it in formal, informal, to exercise or to dance. The place of use is also different, indoor or outdoor. There are some material of the shoes such as plastic, leather, nylon, canvas and satin. Some of footwear are provided with adding accessories such as lace, buckle, strap and tie. The back of the shoes is also different; some of them are open and the others are closed. The cut of the shoes are also different: low cut, medium cut, total closure, closed up to the ankle, closed up to the calf, closed up to the knee and closed up to the thigh.

A boot is a type of footwear and a specific type of shoe. Most boots mainly cover the foot and the ankle and extend up the leg, sometimes as far as the knee or even the hip. Most boots have a heel that is clearly distinguishable from the rest of the sole, even if the two are made of one piece. Traditionally made of leather or rubber, modern boots are made from a variety of materials. Boots are worn both for their functionality – protecting the foot and leg from water, snow, mud or hazards or providing additional ankle support for strenuous activities – and for reasons of style and fashion.

The Brogue (derived from the Gaelic *bróg* (Irish), *bròg* (Scottish) "shoe") is a style of low-heeled shoe or boot traditionally characterised by multiple-piece, sturdy leather uppers with decorative perforations (or "broguing") and serration along the pieces' visible edges. Modern brogues trace their roots to a rudimentary shoe originating in Scotland and Ireland that was constructed using untanned hide with perforations, allowing water to drain when crossing wet terrain such as a bog. Brogues were traditionally considered to be outdoor or country footwear not otherwise appropriate for casual or business occasions, but brogues are now considered appropriate in most contexts.

Cleats or studs are protrusions on the sole of a shoe, or on an external attachment to a shoe, that provide additional traction on a soft or slippery surface. In American English the term cleats is used synecdochically to refer to shoes featuring such protrusions.

Clogs are a type of footwear made in part or completely from wood. Clogs are used worldwide and although the form may vary by culture, within a culture the form often remained unchanged for centuries. Espadrilles or alpargatas are normally casual flat, but sometimes high heeled shoes originating from the Pyrenees. They usually have a canvas or cotton fabric upper and a flexible sole made of rope or rubber material moulded to look like rope. The jute rope sole is the defining characteristic of an espadrille; the uppers vary widely in style.

Flip-flops (also called *zōri*, thongs, jandals, pluggers, go-aheads, slappies, slides, step-ins, chankla or a variety of other names throughout the world) are a type of open-toed sandal typically worn in casual situations, such as outside or at the beach. They consist of a flat sole held loosely on the foot by a Y-shaped strap that passes between the first and second toes and around either side of the foot. They may also be held to the foot with a single strap over the front of the foot rather than a thong. The name "flip-flop" originated because of the sound that is made by slapping between the sole of the foot and the floor when walking.

Galoshes (from French: *galoches*), also known as boat shoes, dickersons, or overshoes, are a type of rubber boot that is slipped over shoes to keep them from getting muddy or wet. The word *galoshes* might be used interchangeably with boot, especially a rubberized boot. Properly speaking, however, a galosh is an overshoe made of a weatherproof material to protect a more vulnerable shoe underneath and keep the foot warm and dry.

Mukluks or Kamik (singular: *kamak*, plural: *kamiit*) are a soft boot traditionally made of reindeer skin or sealskin and were originally worn by Arctic aboriginal people, including the Inuit and Yupik. The term *mukluk* is often used for any soft boot designed for cold weather and modern designs are often similar to high-top athletic shoes. The word "mukluk" is of Yupik origin, from *maklak*, the bearded seal, while "kamik" is an Inuit word. In the Inuipiaq language the "u" makes an "oo" sound, and so the spelling

"maklak" is used with the same pronunciation.

Slip-ons are typically low, lace-less shoes. The style most commonly seen, known as a loafer or slippers in American culture, has a moccasin construction. One design was introduced in London by Wildsmith Shoes called the Wildsmith Loafer, they began as casual shoes, but have increased in popularity to the point of being worn in America with city lounge suits. They are worn in many situations in a variety of colours and designs, often featuring tassels on the front, or metal decorations.

Mary Jane is an American term (formerly a registered trademark) for a closed, low-cut shoe with one or more straps across the instep. Classic Mary Janes for children are typically made of black leather or patent leather, have one thin strap fastened with a buckle or button, a broad and rounded toebox, low heels, and thin outsoles. Among girls, Mary Janes are traditionally worn with pantyhose or socks, and a dress or a skirt and blouse. Among boys (less common), Mary Janes are traditionally worn with socks, short trousers, and a shirt.

A moccasin is a shoe, made of deerskin or other soft leather, consisting of a sole and sides made of one piece of leather, stitched together at the top, and sometimes with a vamp (additional panel of leather). The sole is soft and flexible and the upper part often is adorned with embroidery or beading. Though sometimes worn inside, it is chiefly intended for outdoor use, as in exploring wildernesses and running. Mule, a French word, is a style of shoe that is backless and often closed-toed. Mules can be any heel height - from flat to high. The style is predominantly (but not exclusively) worn by women.

Sandals are an open type of outdoor footwear, consisting of a sole held to the wearer's foot by straps passing over the instep and, sometimes, around the ankle. While the distinction between sandals and other types of footwear can sometimes be blurry (as in the case of *huaraches*—the woven leather footwear seen in Mexico—and peep-toe pumps), the common understanding is that a sandal leaves most of the upper part

of the foot exposed, particularly the toes. People may choose to wear sandals for several reasons, among them economy (sandals tend to require less material than shoes and are usually easier to construct), comfort in warm weather, and as a fashion choice.

An Oxford shoe is characterized by shoelace eyelets that are attached under the vamp, a feature termed "closed lacing". This contrasts with Derbys, or Blüchers, which have shoelace eyelets attached to the top of the vamp. Originally, Oxfords were plain, formal shoes, made of leather but they evolved into a range of styles suitable for both formal and casual wear. Based on function and the dictates of fashion, Oxfords are now made from a variety of materials, including calf leather, patent leather, suede, and canvas. They are normally black or brown, and may be plain or patterned (Brogue).

Pumps are one of the most popular styles of women's shoes, and they're also one of the most difficult to define. In their most basic form, pumps have closed backs, and low-cut fronts that hit closer to the toes than they do the top of the foot. A classic pump has a seamless vamp, and is without laces, buckles, straps or ties, but it's very common to see the classic pump silhouette enhanced by an ankle strap, t-strap, or mary jane strap. Pumps can have open toes, peep toes, pointy toes, round toes, almond toes or square toes, and they can have heels of any height.

Skate shoes or skateboard shoes are a type of footwear specifically designed and manufactured for use in skateboarding. While numerous non-skaters choose to wear skate shoes, the design of the skate shoe includes many features designed especially for use in skateboarding, including a rubber or polyurethane sole with minimal tread pattern or no pattern, a composition leather or suede upper, and double or triple stitching to extend the life of the upper material. A low, padded tongue is often included for comfort.

Slide is a common term that refers to a shoe that is backless and open-toed, essentially an open-toed mule. Generally, all slides are a type of sandal. Thongs and flip flops are normally classified separately.

Slides can be high-heeled, flat-heeled or somewhere in between, and may cover nearly the entire foot from ankle to toe, or may have only one or two narrow straps. They usually include a single strap or a sequence of straps across the toes and the lower half of the foot to hold the shoe on the foot.

A slingback is a type of woman's footwear characterized by a strap that crosses behind the heel or ankle. A slingback strap is distinguishable from an ankle-strap in that the latter is a strap that completely encircles the ankle. Slingbacks can be considered a type of sandal and come in a wide variety of styles from casual to dressy, with heel height ranging from none to high, heel types ranging from as thin as a stiletto to as thick as wedges and they may be either closed or open-toe. Slingback's straps is usually adjustable through a buckle or an elastic allowing the wearer to slip her foot into the sandal easily without the need to make further (or any) manual adjustment to the strap or buckle, while still holding the foot in the sandal relatively securely. The buckle can be made of metal, plastic, or even sometimes stone.

Sneaker is a synonym for "athletic shoes," the generic name for the footwear primarily designed for sports or other forms of physical exercise. Additionally, in recent years, sneakers have come to be used for casual everyday activities. The term describes a type of footwear with a flexible sole made of rubber or synthetic material and an upper part made of leather or canvas.

Valenki are traditional Russian winter footwear, essentially felt boots: the name *valenok* literally means "made by felting". Valenki are made of wool felt. They are not water-resistant, and are often worn with galoshes to keep water out and protect the soles from wear and tear. Valenki were once the footwear of choice for many Russians, but in the second half of the 20th century they lost most of their appeal in cities, due to their association with rustic dress.

Waders refers to a waterproof boot extending from the foot to the chest, traditionally made from vulcanised rubber, but available in more modern PVC, neoprene

and Gore-Tex variants. Waders are generally distinguished from counterpart waterproof boots by shaft height; the hip boot extending to the thigh and the Wellington boot to the knee. They are therefore sometimes referred to as Chest Waders for emphasis. Waders are available with boots attached or can have attached stocking feet (usually made of the wader material), to wear inside boots.

On most shoes, the "heel" sits under only the heel of the foot, but a wedge heel runs

under the foot, from the back of the shoe to the middle or front. As you've probably guessed, it has a somewhat triangular, wedge shape, but not all wedges are high heels. In fact, wedge heels range from low to high, it's the shape and the length of the heel that classify it as a wedge.

To make a better view on the description of each kind of shoes, the table is provided below.

Kinds of Shoes	Heels Height			Heels shape					
	Flat	Short	High	Tapered	Narrow	Rounded	Pointed	Square	Full
boots	√	√	√	√					
brogues		√		√					
cleats	√								
clogs	√	√							√
espadrilles	√								
flip-flops	√								
galoshes		√		√					
kamiks	√	√		√				√	
loafers	√								
Mary Janes		√		√				√	
moccasins	√								
mules		√		√				√	
Oxfords		√						√	
pumps			√		√	√	√		
rollerblades	√								
sandals	√								
skates	√								
slides	√								
sling-backs		√	√		√	√	√		
slippers	√								
sneakers	√								
swim fins	√								
valenki	√								
waders	√								
wedge		√	√						√

Kinds of Shoes	Gender		Toes		Occasion			
	Male	Female	Close	Open	Formal	Informal	Exercise	Dance
boots	√	√	√		√	√		
brogues	√	√	√			√		
cleats	√		√				√	

clogs	√	√	√			√		
espadrilles	√	√	√			√		
flip-flops	√	√		√		√		
galoshes		√	√		√			
kamiks	√	√	√			√		
loafers	√		√			√		
Mary Janes		√	√		√			
moccasins	√	√	√			√		
mules		√	√			√		
Oxfords	√		√		√			
pumps		√	√		√			
rollerblades	√	√		√			√	
sandals	√	√		√		√		
skates	√		√				√	
slides	√	√		√		√		
sling-backs		√	√	√	√	√		
slippers	√	√		√		√		
sneakers	√		√				√	
swim fins	√	√	√				√	
valenki	√		√			√		
waders	√		√			√		
wedge		√	√	√	√	√		

Kinds of Shoes	Place of Use		Material					
	Indoor	Outdoor	Plastic	Leather	Nylon	Canvas	Rubber	Wood
boots	√	√	√	√				
brogues		√	√	√				
cleats		√			√			
clogs	√							√
espadrilles		√			√	√		
flip-flops	√	√	√			√		
galoshes	√				√		√	
kamiks		√		√				
loafers		√		√				
Mary Janes				√				
moccasins		√		√	√	√		
mules		√	√	√				
Oxfords	√	√		√				

Pumps	√	√		√				
rollerblades		√	√		√			
sandals		√	√					√
skates		√			√			
slides		√	√		√			

sling-backs	√	√	√	√				
slippers		√	√		√		√	
sneakers		√			√	√		
swim fins		√	√				√	
valenki		√	√	√			√	
waders		√		√	√		√	
wedge	√	√		√	√		√	√

Kinds of Shoes	Adding Accessories				Back of the shoes	
	Lace	Buckle	Strap	Tie	Open	Close
boots						√
brogues						√
cleats				√		√
clogs					√	√
espadrilles						√
flip-flops					√	
galoshes					√	
kamiks						√
loafers	√					
Mary Janes	√					√
moccasins				√		√
mules					√	
Oxfords				√		√
pumps						√
rollerblades		√	√	√		√
sandals					√	
skates				√		√
slides					√	
sling-backs		√	√		√	
slippers					√	
sneakers	√			√		√
swim fins						√
valenki						√
waders						
wedge		√	√		√	√

Kinds of Shoes	Shoes cut				
	Low cut	Closed up to the ankle	Closed up to the calf	Closed up to the knee	Closed up to the thigh
boots		√	√	√	√
brogues	√				
cleats	√				

clogs	√				
espadrilles	√				
flip-flops	√				
galoshes	√	√			
kamiks			√	√	
loafers	√				
Mary Janes	√				
moccasins	√				
mules	√				
Oxfords	√				
pumps	√				
rollerblades	√				
sandals	√				
skates	√				
slides	√				
sling-backs	√				
slippers	√				
sneakers	√				
swim fins					
valenki		√	√	√	√
waders		√	√	√	√
wedge	√				

Conclusion

The theory that is served in the discussion is used to analyze the distinctive features of the word shoes. By having this analysis, the writer hopes that the reader can have a better understanding on the differences of each type of the shoes. The writer also provides a table so that the reader can see the differences more clearly.

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