Pragmatics of Sense Relations: A Description of the Kigiryama System of Meaning

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Abstract: **Language carries the culture of the people. Knowing the correct meaning of each word in every context enables one to be integrated successfully into that community something which contributes to harmony and understanding. Sense relations are concerned with meanings that words establish with each other in the vocabulary of a language. The meanings of words are frequently adjusted and fine-tuned in context, so that their contribution to the proposition expressed is different from their lexically encoded sense. This creates an occasion specific sense, based on interaction among concepts, contextual information and pragmatic principles. Though Kigiryama is not a minor language, there is hardly any information on sense relations and their pragmatics in this language. In this regard, this study aims to provide evidence of sense relations in Kigiryama. It also aims to identify the lexical pragmatic processes affecting the interpretation of sense relations in Kigiryama. This research was guided by the Lexical Pragmatics Approach proposed by Wilson and Sperber (2003). Data was collected through interviews, questionnaires and archival sources. The findings should be useful to university students and professionals in Linguistics especially those -interested in Bantu languages and Linguistics in general and will also add to the body of knowledge in linguistics in general and Kigiryama in particular.**

*Key Words***: Sense relations, Concept encoded, Concept communicated, Lexical pragmatic processes, Lexical narrowing, Lexical broadening**

I. INTRODUCTION

Background to the Language and its speakers

Kigryama is a Bantu language which belongs to the Niger Congo language group and a member of the Mijikenda sub-family. According to Guthrie (1948) , Kigryama has been classified in zone E group in the world Language classification. In addition, is spoken by the nine closely related sub-ethnic groups that make up the wider umbrella that is the Mijikenda community (Mcintosh,, 2004). The rest of ethnic groups are Chonyi, Ribe, Rabai, Kambe, Jibana, Kauma, Duruma and Digo. The language is mainly spoken in Kilifi, Malindi, Kaloleni, Mariakani, Magarini, Ganze and Bamba areas of the Kilifi County in Coast region of Kenya.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population Census report the Mijikenda comprise of 1.96 million of the Kenyan population of which about 751,531 are Giryamas, they are therefore the largest group among the nine Mijikenda sub-tribes. Although in Kenya the Mijikenda occupy the coastal strip from Lamu in the north to the Kenya/Tanzania border in the south, approximately 30km inland, the Giryama speakers mainly reside in Mombasa, Mtwapa, Kilifi all the way to Malindi. (Figure 1)

Figure 1 A Map of Kilifi County showing the location where the Agiryama live.

Background to the study

This study focuses on the analysis of sense relations in Kigiryama, based on the lexical pragmatics theory. The sense of a word is defined as the relations holding between words or lexemes and the objects and ideas in the world. Sense relations on the other hand are the relationship existing between lexical items of a language and, furthermore, they are concerned with meaning relations that words contract with each other in the meaning system of the vocabulary of that language (Lyons, 1977). Sense relation can also be defined as meaning relation between words (Jackson, 1988). It is a complex system of relationships that exist between the linguistic elements. Sense relations are therefore the intra-linguistic realizations of lexical items making up the vocabulary of a language. The relationship of this sort of nature can be paradigmatic or syntagmatic. Examples of paradigmatic relation include hyponymy, synonymy, polysemy, meronymy, antonymy and homonymy. A syntagmatic relationship on the other hand, is a relation between expressions that occur next to one another. Examples include 'blond' and 'hair or 'kick' and 'foot (Lyons, 1968) Sense relations are important because every language is arranged in such a way that meaning is understood for purposes of communication.

Similarly, context has been established as an important factor in interpreting meanings of words and disambiguating various lexical items. The purpose of this study is to examine the interface between semantics and pragmatics in the analysis of sense relations. This interface of semantics and pragmatics occurs when the word/sentence meaning is obtained from the semantic level but the actual meaning of the same word is obtained through context which is basically the pragmatic level. . The whole theory of lexical pragmatics is an interface of semantics and pragmatics. The question is 'can the lexical pragmatics theory help in the analysis of sense relations?

Linguists have shown that sense relations are universal in all languages. For instance, Ndlovu (2001) analysed sense relations in the treatment of meaning in Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele (ISN) language. This study revealed that the application of sense relations contributes to user-friendliness of the definitions in dictionaries where hyponymy and meronymy were more user-friendly and had accessible dictionary definition while synonymy reduced the user-friendliness to accessibility in dictionaries. Also, studies on sense relations in Gikuyu showed that the application lexical-pragmatics theory is a better tool for analyzing homonymy and polysemy but not synonymy (Mugure, 2009).

Meaning seems at once the most obvious feature of language and the most obscure aspect to study. It is obvious because it is what we use language for—to communicate with each other, to convey 'what we mean' effectively. But the steps in understanding something said to us in a language in which we are fluent are so rapid, so transparent, that we have little conscious feel for the principles and knowledge which underlie this communicative ability (Thomas, 1995)

Questions of 'semantics' are an important part of the study of linguistic structure. They encompass several different investigations: how each language provides words and idioms for fundamental concepts and ideas (lexical semantics), how the parts of a sentence are integrated into the basis for understanding its meaning (compositional semantics), and how our assessment of what someone means on a particular occasion depends not only on what is actually said but also on aspects of the context of its saying and an assessment of the information and beliefs we share with the speaker (pragmatics semantics).

The importance of context cannot be down-played because most words when examined closely reveal that they have many different senses and the rules which combine them into sentence meanings will frequently yield several possibilities for interpretation.

Though both meaning and context in sense relations are important, and appear in all languages and have a pragmatic element to them, which is important in communication, there is limited knowledge on these important aspects of language meaning in Kigiryama.

This paper therefore seeks to establish how lexical pragmatics processes affect the interpretation of sense relations in Kigiryama.

Theoretical Framework

Lexical Pragmatics Theory

This study wasguided by the Lexical Pragmatic Approach (LPA) as a tool for our analysis. Lexical Pragmatics is a theory proposed by Dreidre Wilson in the year 2006. This theory has two components i.e. Lexical semantics and Lexical Pragmatics. The lexical semantic model has words treated as encoding concepts which denote categories of objects, events or properties in the world. The lexical pragmatic component of the theory explains how a hearer bridges the gap between the concept encoded by a word and the concept communicated by use of that word on a particular occasion. He states that *'do not make contributions more informative than is required'* was later refined by Levinson to what he called informativeness principle:

> *'Amplify the informational content of the speaker's utterance, by finding the most specific interpretation, up to what you judge to be the speaker's m-intended point' Wilson (2006/2007)*

The speaker's 'm-intended point' refers to the speaker's overtly intended meaning and hence refers to narrowing one of the processes involved in this theory. The theory argues in favor of divisions of labor between lexical and pragmatics hence combines the idea of semantics under specification in the lexicon, with a theory of pragmatics i.e. context. It is therefore made up of lexical semantics and lexical pragmatics.

The theory of lexical pragmatics tackles issues on notions such as: lexical semantics, nature of concepts and their role in communication and cognition, acquisition of words meanings, word meanings and how they are processed, and about the development of lexical- pragmatics abilities. The theory therefore has the relevant concepts and descriptive tools appropriate in the analysis of the data relevant for the study.

Lexical Semantics

Under lexical semantics, words are treated as encoding concepts and concepts are treated as denoting categories of objects, events or properties in the world or other possible worlds.
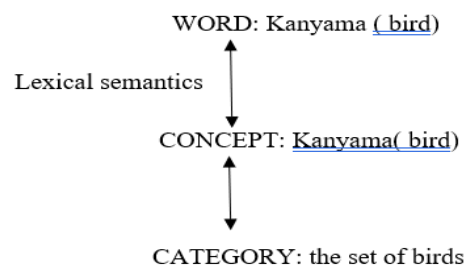
Model of lexical semantics

Figure 2: A simple model of lexical semantics

The goal of lexical semantics is therefore to study the relation between words and the mentally-represented concepts they encode. If there were no such thing as pragmatics, a word would always be used to express exactly the concept it encodes, and would therefore pick out the same category of objects, events or properties on each occasion of use. The pragmatics theory asserts that there is a gap between the concept encoded and the concept communicated or expressed by use of that word on a particular occasion. This gap provides the data for lexical pragmatics and the goal of lexical pragmatics is to explain how hearers bridge the gap.

Lexical Pragmatics

Recent work in the field of lexical pragmatics states that," the meanings of words are frequently pragmatically adjusted and fine-tuned in context, so that their contribution to a proposition expressed is different from their lexically encoded sense" (Wilson,D. and Carston Robyn, 2006) According to Wilson (2006) there are three main types of lexical-pragmatic processes, corresponding to the three main ways in which the concept communicated by use of a word may differ from the concept encoded. He calls these processes are narrowing, approximation and metaphorical extension. This study will therefore try to establish how the lexical pragmatic processes affect sense relations in Kigiryama. The study will use this component of the theory to show that narrowing, loosening and metaphorical extension creates an occasion-specific sense based on the encoded concepts, contextual information and pragmatic expectations or principles.

Lexical Narrowing

Lexical Narrowing is the case where a word is used in a more specific sense than the encoded one, resulting in a narrowing of the linguistically-specified denotation. Narrowing leads to highlighting a particular subpart of the linguistically specified denotation. For example, in the *word(1) ' kunwa'* drink might convey not the encoded sense 'drink liquid' but more specifically, 'drink alcohol' or 'drink significant amounts of alcohol'. Semantics therefore plays the role of proving the different shades of meaning attached to the word while lexical pragmatics helps one to narrow to the required specific understanding of the sense in the particular situation it is uttered in.

The central task for lexical pragmatics is to explain what triggers the narrowing process, what direction it takes and when it stops.

The study adopts a relevance theoretic approach to narrowing and broadening. The relevance theoretic comprehension heuristic states that:

1. Follow a path of least effort in constructing an interpretation of the utterance.
2. Stop when your expectation of relevance is satisfied (or abandoned.)

According to this heuristic, at each point in the on-line processing of an utterance, the addressee tentatively chooses the most accessible interpretation, and reconsiders this choice only if it seems to lead to an overall interpretation that satisfies his expectation of relevance (Sperber & Wilson, 2003). The same procedure applies to the different pragmatics tasks: assigning referents torefertial expressions, disambiguating words and even to the adjustment of lexical meaning. Thus a hearer using this heuristic will stop at the first overall interpretation that satisfies his expectation of relevance.

Lexical Broadening

Lexical Broadening is a case where a word is used to convey a more general sense than the encoded one with consequent widening of the linguistically-specified denotation.

Approximation and metaphorical extension may be seen as varieties of broadening, where a word is used to convey a more general sense than the encoded one, with consequent widening of linguistically- specified connotation.

II. METHODOLOGY

Data which consisted of Kigiryama sense relations included Kigiryama synonyms, homonyms, polysemous words, antonyms and hyponyms were collected questionnaires. The questionnaires were administered to those who could read and write. For those respondents who could not read and write interviews were conducted and they involved prompting to elicit the various sense relations of synonymy, homonymy, Polysemy, antonyms and hyponymy. Library research was conducted to collect the various lexical pragmatic processes of lexical narrowing and lexical broadening. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher. Data collected from the pilot study was then analyzed and discussed.

Data collection procedures

Data collection was carried out in this study beginning with library search exploring Kigiryama written materials such as the Kigiryama bible and Tujifunze Kuongea Kikwetu (TKK) series of children's books. This was then followed by interviews and questionnaires. The questionnaires and interviews, however, involved prompting. The primary source of data for this work was words based on a questionnaire devised by the researcher to elicit synonyms based on different contexts, homonyms, polysemous words and Kigiryama antonyms, as well as questions that elicited the lexical pragmatic processes and how these processes affected the interpretation of sense relations. Other than that, the researcher also used the questionnaire to obtain examples of hyperboles and metaphors (primarily in Kigiryama).

Data Analysis

Accordingly, our first task after getting the words was to translate them into English. Secondly we classified the words into the various sense relations such as synonyms, homonyms, polysemy, antonyms and hyponyms. The third task was to

identify the lexical pragmatic processes that affect sense relations and lastly, we explained these sense relations and the lexical pragmatic processes in Kigiryama by looking at them in the context of sentences. The outcome of this analysis was a detailed description of the types of sense relations found in Kigiryama, how context affects their use and a description of the lexical pragmatic processes as well as the varieties of lexical adjustments. This allowed the researcher to define the parameters on which variation in these data was possible and in turn dictated the points of interest for the next stage of research.

III. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Varieties of Lexical Adjustments

The aim of this section is to describe the lexical pragmatic processes and show the effect they have on the interpretation of sense relations in Kigiryama language. The processes will be examined with an aim of showing that narrowing and broadening are flexible, highly context dependent processes and use a variety of examples to explain the lexical pragmatics approach.

Lexical Narrowing

Lexical narrowing involves the use of a word to convey a more specific sense than the encoded one, with a more restricted denotation. Narrowing leads to highlighting a particular subpart of the linguistically specified denotation and helps to select the most appropriate sense among a variety of available options. Narrowing can take place in different directions and to different degrees. For example

> 1a) Rero *sindanwa* mino
> Today PRESENT drink not me
> 'Today I will not drinking'
> 1b) Mekatilili were ni *muche*
> Mekatilili PAST be a woman
> Mekatilili was a woman.

In various circumstances, the speaker of (1a) might be understood as conveying that she will not drink any liquid at all, that she will not drink any alcohol' or that she will not drink significant amounts of alcohol. Each successive interpretation is narrower than the previous one, with a more restricted denotation. Arguably, the verb *kunwa* has now acquired an additional lexical sense as a result of frequent narrowing to the more specific sense of 'drink alcohol'. However, the further narrowing to 'drink substantial amounts of certain types of alcohol have not been lexicalized.

(1b) shows that narrowing may take place not only to different degrees but also in different directions. This is because in different situations of the utterance, the speaker might be understood as conveying that Mekatilili was "a typical woman" or that Mekatilili was "an ideal woman" (where the notion of what constitutes a typical woman or an ideal woman is in itself context dependent) (Barsalou, 1993). An adequate pragmatic account of narrowing should explain what triggers the narrowing process, what direction it takes, and when it stops.

One way of showing the flexibility and context dependence of narrowing is to consider the various interpretations that the same word would receive in different linguistic contexts. Standard examples include the Kigiryama verbs *'tosa'*, (cut) *'vugula'* (open) and *'richa'* (leave) as illustrated below:

> 2a*) Tosa nyasi/ nyere/ kinolo/ chala/masumuriro/...*
> CUT grass/ hair/ cake/ a finger/ a story...
> 2b*) Vugula pazia/ mulomo/ kithabu/thupa/ngira/...*
> OPEN curtains/one's mouth/a book/ a bottle/a road...
> 2c*)* Richa nyumba/mudzi/chakurya/ mucheo/mulumeo/ barua... LEAVE the house/home/food/one's spouse/ a letter

The above examples show that there is no standard or stereotypical way for cutting, opening or leaving but there are standard methods for cutting hair, opening curtains or leaving one's spouse, each of which involves a narrowing of the more general concepts of CUT, OPEN and LEAVE (Searle 1980)

Another example to illustrate narrowing as a process in Kigiryama, is by studying adjectives. For example the adjective *mbidzo* can show that it has many slightly different interpretations across contexts. One method was to ask informants to provide antonyms for its occurrence in different adjective-noun combinations. Here are some responses:

3*)* *-idzo*

Noun	Antonym	Gloss
Shati	chafu	Dirty shirt
mboga	vunda	Stale vegetables
samaki	vuva	Rotten fish
shuka	chafu	Dirty sheets
madzi	machafu	Dirty water
mukahe	vunda	Stale bread
wari	udzayaya	Stale ugali

The above examples clearly illustrate that a single lexical item, encoding a general concept FRESH, gets specified or narrowed or fine-tuned in slightly different ways in different linguistic contexts and supports the general claim that discourse context and pragmatic expectations strongly influence the direction in which narrowing takes place

Polysemies arising from shift application, register and metonymy are analyzed by the process of narrowing. For example the term *gwiza* which is polysemous due to shift in its application, has the following meanings;

> 4) *Gwiza* -1- to light or kindle a fire
> -2- to pass on a disease to someone (infect)
> -3- to conceive (of an animal/human being)
> (derogatory when used with humans)

In context the word can be used as follows;

5a) *Kadzo adzagwiza moho*
   'Kadzo has lit a fire'
5b) *Kadzo adzamugwiza mwanziwe uhere*
   Kadzo has infected his sister with rashes
5c) *Ng'ombe yangu idzagwira mimba*
   'My cow has conceived'

The lexeme *gwiza* by itself has no general meaning but when used in context with an object such as fire then it narrows down the meaning 'to light a fire'. When used with the object disease, *gwiza* narrows down the meaning 'to infect someone with a disease'. In the mind of the hearer, context leads to cognitive effects to trigger fire or disease. Fire or disease brings the hearer in the right direction of the interpretation of the word and guides the interpretation process to the optimal relevant conclusion. This makes polysemy a special kind of narrowing since there exists no specific encoded meaning but the meaning only exists in three different forms which context narrows to one.

Polysemies arising from register are also well described by the narrowing process. An example of polysemy based on register is seen in the word *tsinza* which has the following meaning:

6) *Tsinza* - 1- Doctor- to operate
      -2- Butcher- to slaughter an animal
      -3- Church- to offer sacrifice

The lexeme *tsinza* acquires different meanings when used in separate fields such that when used in the hospital setting, the meaning differs from a slaughter house or a religious setting. In all these settings, the lexeme is synonymous with the lexeme *ngizwa kishu* (to be cut) For example,

7a) *Charo wangizwa kishu dzana ni dhakithari.*
   Charo was operated yesterday by the doctor
7b) *Ng'ombe yangu yatsinzwa*
   My cow was slaughtered

The term *tsinza* on its own has the general meaning of 'to cut up' but when used in hospital context *tsinza* narrows down the meaning to 'operate someone'. When used in an abattoir context, *tsinza* narrows down the meaning to' slaughtering an animal'. In the mind of the hearer, register or context leads to cognitive effects to trigger the right register whether in hospital or abattoir. The appropriate register brings the hearer into the right direction of the interpretation of the word and guides the interpretation process to the optimal relevant conclusion.

Homonyms can also be analyzed using the narrowing process. Homonyms based on the same or different grammatical categories are well captured by the narrowing process. For example, the homonym *kala* has the following meanings

8) *Kala* -1-(N) a piece of charcoal
      -2-(N) a jackal

In a sentence the lexeme can cause ambiguity as seen in the following example;

9) *Kadzo waona kala*
   Kadzo saw a piece of charcoal/ a jackal

The homonym *kala* on its own has two meanings a jackal and a piece of charcoal. When the term is used in context, the comprehension of the meaning in use involves the use of ad hoc concepts derived from either discourse context or relevance. In context therefore the meaning can be narrowed down to mean either a piece of charcoal or a jackal when the meaning is triggered by search for relevance while using the accessible contextual implications.

Narrowing also applies in the analysis of homonyms based on different grammatical categories. For example, the lexeme *kurya* is a homonym which has the following meanings;

10) *Kurya* -1-(N) the right side of something
      -2-(V) to eat
      -3-(Adj) the sharpness of the knife

Consider the following examples;

11a) *Kahindi anahumira mukono wa kurya kundhika*
   Kahindi uses the right hand to write
11b) *Kahindi anarya kitsere*
   Kahindi is eating maize
11c) *Cho kishu cha Kahindi kinarya*
   Kahindi's knife is very sharp.

The fact that a word belongs to different categories minimizes the probability of ambiguity when used in context. One narrows to the relevant required grammatical category applicable at a particular position in a sentence. The hearer's lexical, logical and encyclopaedic information not only triggers the narrowing but also helps in the attaining the specific meaning relevant at a particular context.

Some types of synonyms can also be analyzed using the narrowing process. Synonyms based on formality register and attitude fall into this category. For example, the term kuzhala which means to give birth or to deliver has several other synonyms such as;

12)

Word	Gloss
Kuzhala	To deliver
Kudzivugula	To give birth
Kureha mwana	To bring forth a baby

The context in which the above words are used differs in the level of formality. The term *kuzhala* is used in formal situations such as by the doctors in a hospital and is used for both human beings and animals. The rest of the terms are used in informal situations as they are seen as euphemisms. The terms can be used in a sentence as follows;

13) *Karembo wazhala/ wadzivugula/wareha mwana dzuzi.*
Karembo delivered a baby two days ago.

Confronted with the two or more lexemes having the same meaning, one has to apply the narrowing process to arrive at the required context since he/she is to use one lexeme that is appropriate in that situation.

In the analysis synonyms based on register, attitude or formality, the context or situation determines the narrowing process and not the lexemes themselves.

Narrowing however, cannot be used in the analysis of synonyms arising due to borrowing and dialectal differences because most of them are total synonyms and hence are interchangeable in most contexts so the context cannot be used to narrow down the concept.

Lexical broadening

Lexical broadening involves the use of a word to convey a more general sense than the encoded one. Lexical broadening can take various forms. Approximation, hyperbole and metaphors are sub varieties of broadening which differ mainly in the degree to which the linguistically specified denotation is expanded (Wilson, D & Carston, R. 2007).

Approximation

Approximation is the case where a word with relatively strict sense is extended to include a variety of items that strictly fall outside its linguistically specified denotation.Wilson, D. (2006) points out that the loose uses of round numbers, geometric terms and negatively defined terms are good examples. Examples in Kigiryama include;

14) *Riri rinda ranigharimu shilingi alifu mwenge*
This dress cost me 1000 shillings ('about 1000 shillings') (round numbers)

15) *Yo Shindano kaindalumiza* the injection will be painless ('nearly painless) (negatively defined terms)

16) *Go madzi ganaira* the water is boiling. ('almost boiling') (scientific terms)

17) *Mudzini ni upande wa mwambolero wa dzuwa kula haha furiho* Our home is east of where we are. (roughly east) (geographic terms)

Examples 14-17 are acceptable approximations when applied to objects that almost satisfy the definition but not quite. Just as with narrowing, the different degrees and types of approximation are appropriate in different circumstances.

Hyperbole

Hyperboles may be seen as a more radical type of broadening which allows the communicated concept to depart much further from the encoded meaning. Examples include;

18) *Yo ndhumo ya VAT indalumiza akurima*
The policy of VAT will hurt farmers

The example (18) may be used hyperbolically to mean that as a result of VAT policy, the farmers will substantially be poorer than might have been expected or desired. Another example in Kigiryama is;

19) *Nafa na nzala*
I am dying of hunger.

Example 19 above is a hyperbole if the speaker wants to mean that he or she is simply very hungry.

Metaphorical Extension

Metaphors are also seen as a radical form of broadening than hyperbole involving a greater departure from the encoded sense. Consider the following examples in Kigiryama:

20) *Kadzo ni luwa.*
Kadzo is a flower

The above example is a metaphor due to the fact that Kadzo, a human being, falls very far outside the denotation of flower, whether a rose flower or any other flower. In appropriate circumstances, however, (20) might be metaphorically used to convey that Kadzo, who is not literally a flower, has a capacity to be of fair complexion and beautiful. This metaphorical use is seen as involving an expansion from the category FLOWER to the category FLOWER* which includes both actual flowers and people who share with flowers the encyclopedic property of being beautiful.

21) *Kiki kithabu kinanilaza*
This book puts me to sleep

The above example has three possible interpretations apart from the strictly literal ones: as an approximation meaning that 'the book puts me almost to sleep', a hyperbole meaning that 'the book puts me in a state not too far removed from sleep or as a metaphor meaning that 'the book puts me in a state that has the properties common with sleep'. Thus approximation, hyperbole and metaphors may be seen as varieties of lexical broadening.

Category extension

Category extension is used to refer to words which start out as names for a particular brand of item may end up being used to apply to a whole broader category. It is seen when a name of an item is used to apply for other items in a larger group to which it belongs. A good example of category extension in Kigiryama is seen in the word *chai*. Which is polysemous and has the following meanings

22) *Chai* - 1- tea both leaves and the beverage
-2- a tea party
-3- any other beverage e.g. coffee chocolate

Consider the following examples;

23a) *Nidzanwa chai na mukahe madzacha*
I took tea (beverage) and bread in the morning.

23b) *Nidzanwa chai madzacha*

I took a beverage (it could have been tea, coffee or chocolate)

The original meaning of chai is tea leaves and tea beverage but due to category extension the meaning moves from the specific one of tea beverage to the general use which means any other beverage such as coffee, tea or chocolate. In example 23b the term *chai* can mean coffee, tea or chocolate and one has therefore to specify the ingredients of the 'tea' being offered. This is an example of category extension since *'the name of a salient category member is extended to apply to the whole broader category to which it belongs'*

Other examples of category extension in Kigiryama include;

24)   *Una pesa mo simuni uniM-pesa?*
        Do you have money in your phone you M-pesa me. (any form of money transfer)
25)   *Una Sellotape yoyosi*
        Have you any Sellotape? (any sticky tape)

Neologisms

Clark & Clark (1979) and Clark & Gerrig (1983) show that newly-coined verbs derived from nouns are another lexical pragmatic process or category and they are easy to understand just as regular verbs. Examples include;

26)   *Charo waribaraza ro gazeti*
        Charo PORCHED the newspaper (He threw it at the porch)
27)   *Azhazi angu madzani bambira gana*
        My parents have BAMBAred me 100shillings. (BAMBA here refers to airtime)

The above examples suggest that lexical pragmatic processes apply in a flexible, context-dependent way, creating new verb senses from existing nouns. Just as with category extensions, neologisms which start out as creative uses may become established in community and eventually be seen as part of the language.

The processes of broadening and narrowing

From the examples above both processes are involved in the analysis sense relations in Kigiryama. This is seen in the case of polysemous words where a word is seen to acquire extra meanings which are related hence a case of broadening. For one to get the specific meaning applied in a particular context, one has to apply the process of narrowing to get the exact meaning.

IV. FINDINGS

The analysis revealed that, lexical pragmatics theory can adequately handle the analysis of homonyms, polysemy and antonymy using the narrowing and broadening processes. It emerged that the theory is inadequate in the analysis of synonyms especially those based on dialectal differences, and borrowing and therefore a better approach that takes care of the analysis of synonyms may be an appropriate device.

The analysis also showed that context, whether cultural, discourse, social, cognitive, environment or background knowledge is indispensable in understanding sense relations in Kigiryama. This was particularly with polysemy where the discussion showed that some words shift application in certain context.

The study realized that Lexical Pragmatics Theory, through pragmatics inference continually makes up for the gaps in the vocabulary especially when the lexemes are in use. Lexical-pragmatic processes, the study established, seem to apply spontaneously, unconsciously, and automatically to fine tune the interpretation of every word.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

This study set out to analyze sense relations in Kigiryama within a lexical pragmatic framework. So far, this study is by no means the final study on sense relations since the domain is still a rich reservoir of future research possibilities.

The study only focused on five sense relations namely; synonyms, homonyms, polysemy, antonymy and hyponymy, we therefore recommend that a linguistic study on meronymy be carried out in future to establish whether meronymy is a sense relation or a lexical relation.

Furthermore, it is recommended that a future research be conducted on the area of morphological, morphosyntactic, syntactic and prosodic realization of polysemy in Kigiryama, since this study dwelt on the lexical realization of polysemy due to time constrains and scope of the study.

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