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Categorization, memory and linguistic uses: what happens in the case of polysemy.

Polysemy is a pervasive phenomenon in historical-natural languages and, consequently, it is of central importance in the description of their functioning. Polysemy - as it is known – describes the coexistence of two or more correlated meanings starting from the same linguistic form, as a necessary effect of the limited number of words in the vocabulary, in short as an indispensable resource of the economy of languages.

In an ideal language every event, fact, class or cultural category would have a unique and univocal designation. But in historical-natural languages - by virtue of the economy principle and of its key position in languages and since human experiences present a remarkable wealth and complexity – it's impossible to have a one-to-one correspondence between signs and referents and therefore words, especially the more common, present the phenomenon of polysemy.

In this paper I intend to deal with the phenomenon of polysemy, taking into account its interweaving with categorization, memory. I will address the way in which polysemic words are expressed in linguistic use and comprehension, activating phenomena of presupposition on the part of speakers and making necessary the reference to the pragmatic context of enunciation.

My main aim is show that polysemy is not a merely linguistic issue, but a phenomenon of great theoretical interest in that it allows us to advance in (re)consideration of the functioning of human cognition and memory.

Actually, the overwhelming majority of polysemic words in the lexicon of historical-natural languages can contribute to shed light on our of categorization of objects, events, properties, etc. of reality, as well as and on the way the *enérgeia* of these words activates and organizes our memory and guides us in linguistic uses and mutual understanding.