

English Semantics

- Book Recommended

(i) Patrick Giffiths (2006) *An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh.

- ~~The exam will cover Chapters 1-8 in (i).~~
- ~~It would be helpful if you do the exercises at the end of each chapter.~~

- **Important Terms**

- Semantics vs. Pragmatics
- Propositions, sentences, and utterances
- Entailment (Cf. Presupposition)
- Compositional semantics
- Sense and Denotation
- Sense relations:
 - Synonyms, Complementaries (= simple antonyms), Antonyms (= gradable antonyms), Converses
 - Meronyms (see 'the *has*-relation'), Hyponyms
 - Incompatibility
 - Count and mass nouns
- Situation Types: States, activities, accomplishments and achievements
- Argument Structure
- Theta roles (= Thematic roles): Agent, Theme, Experiencer, etc.
- Theta-role Grid
- Literal and figurative usage
- Irony, metonymy, metaphor, simile
- Subclasses of Intransitive Verbs: Unaccusatives, Unergatives
- Causatives
- Tense (past, present, and future) and aspect (habituality and simple, progressive, and perfect)
- Modality: epistemic modality and deontic modality
- Implicature and Explicature
- Grice's four maxims: Quality, Quantity, Manner and Relevance
- Speech acts