

Lexical-semantic databases, practical work 2, Corelex, summary

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Answers and comments

What is top concept of 'rainbow'?

Short answer: There are 2 meanings of 'rainbow'. First meaning yields to top concept *abstraction*, the second one to *psychological feature*.

Comments: Notion that rainbow is 'an arc of colored light in the sky caused by refraction of the sun's rays by rain' sounds correct, but is not answer for the question. This phrase serves as *gloss* (definition, explanation) of the word.

'Natural phenomenon' sounds logical, but is the top concept that 'rainbow' *should have* (we think so as well :), but not the top concept that it has in current version of WordNet.

So, how does it happen that 'rainbow' is an abstraction, but not a (natural) phenomenon? If you look at the hypernym of 'rainbow', you can see the concept of 'bow, arc' (something curved in shape; the hypernym tree has nodes *curve, line, shape, attribute*). According to WN, rainbow is an arc, but not natural phenomenon. That hierarchy will lead to abstraction, but not phenomenon. 'Rain', for example, belongs to phenomena (the hypernym tree has nodes *downfall, weather, atmospheric phenomenon, natural phenomenon*)

The second sense, that yields to psychological feature seems to be correct only in one phrase (chasing rainbows) and is highly metaphorical. It is very questionable whether such senses should be included into WordNet.

Are 'banquet' and 'dinner' systematically polysemous? How is it expressed in CoreLex?

Short answer: Yes, they are. They both belong into type *fev* (*food group_social*)

Comments: The idea, that 'banquet' and 'dinner' are systematically polysemous, is convincing. They may both be the party and a gathering. The only suspicious point is, that if they both were social groups, then we could say that 'we are part of dinner', because a member of a group is part of a group. Sounds not very appetizing? Banquet or dinner as *social event* would sound better.

Why is there in CoreLex type ‘coh’? What does it mean? What feature of English language does it express?

Short answer: Type coh (communication human) contains mostly words, that denote nation and language. In English, the name of nation and language are very much the same.

Comments: The names of nations and languages prevail, but are not the only cases. Another systematic polysemous class is here where the names of singing voices and singers are (e.g. countertenor, bass). Still there are some occasional entries (pro).