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## Synonymy and Antonymy in A·we (Garo)

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**Abstract:** This Paper discusses the two main sense relations in Semantics, i.e., Synonymy and Antonymy in A·we (Garo). A·we is the standard variety spoken among the Garos of Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India. This variety is spoken mainly in the North Garo hills. However, the medium of Education is based on this variety besides English which is the medium of instruction of most schools in Garo hills. This paper describes examples and the relationship between these two sense relations, i.e., Synonymy and Antonymy in A·we (Garo).

**Index Terms – Antonymy, A·we, Garo, Sense Relations, Synonymy.**

### I. INTRODUCTION

The word “A·we” has been derived from the location of the A·we speaking community who settled in the valley or the “A·kawe” area of the Garo Hills. They fended themselves by farming and making a life for themselves in the valley. The first group of people among the Garos (A·chiks) who were literate were from the A·we community. Thus, the early Garo (A·chikku) literature used the A·we variety for the written work. The difference in A·we and the other varieties of the Garo (A·chikku) language is only by a hairline. The A·we variety can be taken as the original language and thus it is used as the lingua franca of the whole of the Garo (A·chik) tribe wherever they might settle. It is also used as the medium of instruction and is used mostly in Garo (A·chik) literature and any written work done in Garo (A·chikku) language. The Bible is also translated in A·we including the school Garo readers or other subjects such as Geography, Social studies etc. The written literature used A·we and is still using this variety as the standard language.

This paper focuses on two of the Sense Relations in A·we (Garo), i.e., Synonymy and Antonymy. Before we start discussing on the topic, we should first be familiar with Sense Relations. Words are in different sense relations with each other. These words can be used as a reference and some words have more similar senses than others. For example, the sense of *desk* is more closely related to that of *table* than to *chair*. Conversely, we can say the sense of *desk* is more different from that of *chair* than from *table*. And the sense of *desk* is included in the sense of *furniture*, or the sense of *furniture* includes that of *desk*. As a result, the sense of a word may be seen as the network of its sense relations with others. In other words, *Sense* may be defined as *the semantic relations between one word and another, or more generally between one linguistic unit and another*. It is concerned with the intra-linguistic relations. In contrast, as we alluded to earlier, reference is concerned with the relation between a word and the thing it refers to, or more generally between a linguistic unit and a non-linguistic entity it refers to.

There are generally three kinds of sense relations recognized, namely, sameness relation, oppositeness relation and inclusiveness relation. However, we will be discussing about ambiguity and part-whole relationships which is a part of Sense Relations as well, in this paper.

### II. Synonymy and Antonymy

Synonymy is the relationship between two words that have the same sense. Some linguists, however, consider synonymy a similarity of meaning. Thus, two words are synonymous if they have the same sense.

**Criteria for Synonymy:** They need to have the same value for all their semantic features and they need to map to the same concept. They also need to satisfy the Leibniz Substitution Theory which states that the substitution of one for the other never changes the truth value of a sentence in which the substitution is made.

**Example of Synonyms:** The following pairs have the same sense:

I am going to *purchase* / *buy* a new dress.

This is a very *loose* / *short* explanation.

The convict tried to *conceal* / *hide* the evidence.

Most often, Synonyms share at least one meaning, while with the change of context, they both change their meaning, and lose their referential identity with the other member of the pair.

*Antonymy is a sense relation in which oppositeness of meaning is observed.*

Two words are *Antonyms* if they mean the opposite things such as black and white, rise and fall, ascent and descent, etc. One reason to think that it is necessary to recognize antonym as an indispensable component of grammatical descriptions is because at most, one member of each antonymous pair is allowed to occur with measure phrases like tall is the opposite of short, and we can say Farah is 6 feet tall, but not Jonah is 5 feet short.

For example, the opposites of:  
 beautiful/ handsome - ugly  
 hot - cold  
 thick - thin

### III. Synonymy in A·we (Garo)

#### 3.1 Examples of Synonymy in A·we (Garo)

Table 3.1: Examples of Synonymy in A·we

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning in English/A·chikku(Garo)</i>
<b><i>Katta</i></b>	<b><i>Miksongani/Mangsongani</i></b>
a·a a·mang a·ki	earth/mud
ekgrika watgrika	to part with
duk saknaa a·sel	pain and sorrow
aganjojoa mitaka	to gossip
a·kuang a·dram dare	steep place or cliff
abo ambi	grandma
agalmaka asiroka	to perform jhum ceremony
agangrika betbeta golpo ka·a	to talk
alna jaksrama	generous
amchaka man·chaka chakna man·a	to be strong enough
an·pila re·pila	to go back
brea ra·a	to buy
chakata chadenga re·chaa	to stand
changa sapa uia	to know
chea ama man·a	to win
che·epa chonnika mikchepa dakchepa	to insult
chiboa chibola tapola	to blister
cho·a kita	to dig

konga	
de·epa depa kongdepa	dent
chong·a dandoa dandaka	to pile up
den·a gitaka	to cut
intango ja·mano	later on
inchaka aganchaka	to give curt reply
sila daknanga	beautiful/handsome
dal·nika gamchatnika	to value
bi·sa de	child
saldoa salchaa salchaoa songchaa	to lift

Table 3.1 displays the few examples of synonymy which can be found in A·we (Garo). Here, we can observe that there is no restriction in synonymy of various semantic domains such as kinship terms, earth, nature, household items, Categories of Grammar such as Noun, Verb, Adjective etc.

#### IV. Antonymy in A·we (Garo)

##### 4.1 Examples of Antonymy in A·we (Garo)

Table 4.1: Examples of Antonymy in A·we

<i>Katta/ Word</i>	<i>Bikpil ong·gipa katta/ Opposites</i>
dambe/young	bria/old
ding·a/hot	sin·a or ka·sina/cold
chata/thick	ba·a/thin
brea/to buy	pala/sell
seng·a/clever or wise	jada/ dumb or foolish
kosak/ up	ka·ma/down
chi·a/sweet	ka·a/bitter
oa/open	chipa/close
mikchipa/to close one's eye	mikraka/to open one's eye
tua/to sleep	chakata/to wake up or to get up
on·a/ give	ra·a/take
me·asa/male	me·chik/female
sia/dead	tanga/alive
cha·a/ to eat	cha·ja/ to not eat
okkria/hungry	okkaa/full
asonga/sit	chadenga/stand
jak/hand	ja·a/leg
arata/bored	aratja/an·saoa/excited or not bored
mikkang/face or to look at the present	ki·sang/ buttocks or to look to the future
saa/sick	an·senga/healthy
ta·raka/fast	ta·rakja/slow
neng·a/tired	bilaka/fresh
depante/son	demechik/daughter
donmitapa/hide or conceal	paraka/open or blunt
duk/sad or sadness	kusi/happy or happiness
sila/ good-looking	silja/ugly
mila/fat	ram·a.thin
senga/to wait	sengja/ to be impatient
ho·e or am/yes	ihing/no
dal·a/big	chona/small
changroa/tall	tom·beta/short
ro·a/tall or long	kan·dika/short

nama/good	namja/bad
ka·saa/love	ka·saja or nidika/hate
namnika/like	namnikja or nidika/dislike
nomil/spinster or bachelorette	me·chikma/married woman
pante/bachelor	me·apa/ married man
apsan/same	dingtang/different
tol·a/lie	kakket/truth

Table 4.1 displays the few examples of antonymy which can be found in A·we (Garo). Here, we can also observe that there is no restriction in synonymy of various semantic domains such as kinship terms, earth, nature, household items, Categories of Grammar such as Noun, Verb, Adjective etc.

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