

Novitasari, Siti Rachma. 2013. A Study of Semantic Changes of English Nouns for the Entry “A” in the 5th and 8th Editions of Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionaries.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out semantic changes of English nouns for the entry “A” and the dominant semantic change in the 5th and 8th editions of Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionaries. To reach the aims, the writer observed all English nouns for the entry “A” as sample in both editions. The data were analyzed by using the theory of semantic changes from David Crystal which were semantic extension, semantic narrowing, semantic amelioration, and semantic pejoration. In discussion, the writer found 50 English nouns that experienced semantic changes. The results of each type of the semantic changes in percentage were: the English nouns which experienced semantic extension were 66%, the English nouns which experienced semantic narrowing were 32%, and the English nouns which experienced semantic pejoration were 4%. There was no semantic amelioration. The dominant semantic change was semantic extension. From the result of finding, the writer concludes that there are many English nouns that experience semantic changes, especially semantic extension because a word is not only used in one aspect but it is also used in many aspects. Thus, the meaning is getting broader over time.

Keywords: David Crystal; English Nouns; Semantic Changes