

## The Classification of Speech Verbs in English

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**Abstract:** This article devoted to the classification of the speech verbs and semantic characteristics of the verbs say, tell in the English language.

**Keywords:** say, tell, transfer of information, expression, expression of thought, give out a secret; to order, to give commands, judge, evaluate something, distinguish, distinguish, to testify, to affect something.

The main speech verbs include the verbs *say, tell, speak, and talk*. Here are their semantic characteristics.

The semantics of verbs belonging to synonymous groups of the verb say is based on the meaning of information transmission. The total number of synonyms of the verb *say* is 92 lexical units, represented in four synonymous rows. Each of the constituents included in the synonymic series conveys a separate differential feature and is characterized by additional semantic coloring.

Thus, the analysis of the semantics of the core of the nominative field, which includes the direct nomination of the concept under study, namely the verb *say*, allowed us to identify the following semantic components:

1. *"Verbally express thoughts; express opinions; give examples; testify, point to something"*.

*Hurstwood grew serious, and he lapsed into quiet thought. He looked up after a time to say: "Come away and leave him." (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 90)*

During the analysis of the semantics of constituents of the near periphery, we have identified the following semes:

2. *Verbs utter, vocalize, pronounce, announce, speak, mouth convey the meaning of "possession of oral speech"*.

*All the time he was wondering what she would say when the boy handed her the envelope. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrie, 144)*

Word and word combination word, put in words, phrase, articulate combined with the meaning of "clear expression of oral speech". During the analysis of the semantics of constituents of the near periphery, we have identified the following semes:

3. *The verbs utter, vocalize, pronounce, announce, speak, mouth convey the meaning of "possession of oral speech"*.

*The captain remained stolid and determined. He talked on, very slowly, uttering the fewest words and with a certain assurance, as though he could not fail (Sister Carrie, 286).*

4. *The words and phrases word, put in words, phrase, articulate are combined with the meaning "clear expression of oral speech"*.

*There was fine furniture, arranged as soothingly as the artistic perception of the occupants warranted. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 53).*

5. *The verbs answer, respond, reply, rejoin, retort they are characterized by the idea of "giving an answer, reacting to something"*.

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*Now Carrie was affected by music. Her nervous composition responded to certain strains, much as certain strings of a harp vibrate when a corresponding key of a piano is struck. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 64).*

Language units *remark, come out with, communicate, convey* convey the meaning of "exchange of information, ideas; to make this information available, known to other people".

6. *The verbs state, declare, tell, impart* they are combined with the meaning "to assert, to report facts".

*She thought how she should like to tell him—what stress and emphasis she would lend her assertions, how she should drive over this whole affair until satisfaction should be rendered her. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 130).*

In constituents *present, mention, add, put, put before* semantic components such as "mention something, add, make your speech more complete, saturated" are highlighted.

*In contrast, Hurstwood appeared strong and sincere. He had no easy manner of putting her off. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 83).*

In the words and phrases *reveal, let out, divulge, disclose, make known, cry, noise abroad*, the following semes can be distinguished: "give out a secret, transmit information that is supposed to be secret", as well as "shout loudly, make noise".

*"Away from here," shouted an officer, hastening to the rescue, and adding, of course, the usual oaths. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 257)*

7. *The verbs breathe, whisper, betray* marked with the meaning "to speak softly, to whisper", however, the verb *betray* in this subgroup of meanings carries this "belief in the truthfulness of the transmitted information". "Here," she said. "It's all I have with me." "All right," he answered, softly. "I'll give it back to you some day." (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrie, 290)

The language units of the second and third synonymous series of the keyword *say* belong to the zone of the far periphery. Here we can distinguish the following semantic components:

8. *The verbs repeat, recite, declare, orate, deliver, rehearse, render* carry this "repeat, repeat" and "officially declare".

*Drouet was reminded of his promise a day or two later by the receipt of a letter announcing that the first rehearsal was set for the following Friday evening, and urging him to kindly forward the young lady's address at once, in order that the part might be delivered to her (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 94).*

The constituents *estimate, predict, predict, speculate, hypothesize, conjecture, hazard a guess* convey the meaning of "assumption or statement without having complete information or knowing such details".

9. *The verbs assume, judge, imagine* they are united with the idea of "forming an opinion".

*When a girl leaves her home at eighteen, she does one of two things. Either she falls into saving hands and becomes better, or she rapidly assumes the cosmopolitan standard of virtue and becomes worse. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier. 3)*

10. *Words and word combinations promise, imply, give the implication or impression that they mean* "to promise, to hint that something is going to happen."

*A tailor might have secured hints on suit measurements, a shoemaker on proper lasts and colours, a hatter on hats. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 186).*

The zone of the extreme periphery includes words and phrases of the fourth synonymous series. The analysis of their definitions gives us the opportunity to distinguish the following semes: the verbs *report, allege, asseverate, aver, avow, avouch* convey the meaning of "to repeat, to officially speak out about their rightness", the language units *attest, certify, certify, vouch* carry this "to confirm the



*correctness of your speech with facts, examples, to be sure of truthfulness his statements*", words and phrases *depone, bear witness, give evidence, give one's word, warrant* are combined with the meaning "to warn, to speak with evidence", in the verbs *profess, claim, purport, pretend* is distinguished by the semantic component "to pass something off as the truth".

*Hurstwood pretended not to see him. He kept his eyes straight on before and opened the lever wide. The voice had something appealing in it.*(T.Dreiser. *Sister Carrier*, 257).

The verbs *impute, insinuate* mean "to speak cryptically, allegorically". The constituents *cite, name, attribute, assign, ascribe* convey the meaning "to attribute some quality, to testify about something".

The words and phrases *adduce, advance, bring forward, bring to attention, introduce* can be combined with the phrase "spread, give facts, reasons". The last three verbs *offer, propose, plead* convey the meaning of "offer, support".

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*"Huh! There's a lot back there yet," said a man farther up, leaning out and looking back at the applicants for whom the captain was pleading* (T.Dreiser. *Sister Carrier*, 285).

Thus, the semantic description of the meanings of the linguistic units included in the nominative field "speaking" with the keyword-representative SAY, allows for a cognitive interpretation of these constituents.

So, in the core of the nominative field with the keyword say, it is possible to single out a single cognitive feature "possession of oral speech". The near periphery is characterized by the signs "way of expression", "manner of speaking", "and disclosure of the secret". The zone of the far periphery is defined by the cognitive signs "official report", "speaking as a hint". The extreme periphery is interpreted as "lying", "speaking as persuasion".

The verb *tells* mainly represents the content of the transmitted message. According to the interpretation of the definitions of the presented verb, we can distinguish the following groups of meanings:

1. transfer of information;
2. expression, expression of thought;
3. give out a secret;
4. to order, to give commands;
5. judge, evaluate something;
6. distinguish, distinguish;
7. To testify, to affect something.

The analysis of synonymic series shows that the total number of synonyms of the verb *tell* is 120 verbs and verb combinations, which are divided into 7 synonymic series, each of which carries its own differential sign.

The study of the semantics of the core of the nominative field, which includes the direct nomination of the concept under study, namely the verb *tell*, allowed us to identify the following semantic components: *to inform, to transmit a message; to order; to judge something, someone:*

*"Tell me," he said, richly, drawing her so close that their lips were near together. He pressed her hand warmly, and then released it to touch her cheek.*(T. Dreiser. *Sister Carrie*. 80)



The near periphery, which includes 50 constituents, has the following semantic components: the verbs *narrate, relate, report, recount, rehearse, recite* are united by the meaning "to tell, to tell (especially what you know, saw or heard)", the verbs *describe, portray, depict, detail, explain* convey the general meaning "to describe in words, impressions, emotions; explain, go into details":

*She could not for the moment explain it, for in the next glance or the next move of the hand there was seeming indifference, mingled only with the kindest attention.* (T.Dreiser. *Sister Carrie*. 68)

The verbs *delineate, sketch, picture, paint* carry this "generalize, superficially convey information". The exception is the verb *delineates*, which conveys the meaning "to describe something in detail". In this synonymous series, the verb *romance* seems interesting, since it is the only verb that has the meaning "to tell stories that are not true or to describe everything in a way that makes it seem more exciting and interesting than in reality". The words and phrases *vociferate, voice, give mouth, air, vent, ventilate, communicate, let be known* are united by the meaning "to speak publicly, to express oneself, to speak loudly".

Constituents such as *impart, inform, tip off, utter, declare, discover, break the news, convey* the meaning of "officially declare, report important information":

*"This hand," resumed Mrs. Morgan, glancing up at Mr. Bamberger and down at her book, as the lines proceeded, "my mother grasped in her own, and so tight that a small, feeble voice uttered an exclamation of pain.* (T.Dreiser. *Sister Carrie*, 102)

The phrase *break the news* is defined by the meaning of "the first to convey bad news to someone". The language units *reveal, make known, disclose, divulge, bring out, bring out into the open, bring to light* are defined by the general meaning "to reveal a secret, to make information available to a wide range of people".

The verbs *release, break, report, and publish, divulgate, print* carry the same "to spread about your feelings, emotions, also knowledge and information possessed":

*He began to waver in his resolution, when a patrol wagon rolled up and more officers dismounted. Now the track was quickly cleared and the release effected* (T.Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*, 257).

The verbs *advertise, broadcast, proclaim, announce, herald, trumpet* are combined with the meaning "officially keep the speech":

*Polished brass or nickel signs at the square stone entrances announced the firm and the nature of the business in rather neat and reserved terms.* (T.Dreiser. *Sister Carrier*, 12).

The zone of the far periphery includes 40 constituents included in the third and fourth synonymous series. This zone mainly includes verbs, phraseological units and phrasal verbs used in informal communication and slang. So, the language units *disbosom, disembosom, get off one's chest, make a clean breast of, unburden oneself, confess, fess up, own up, admit, acknowledge* are united by the meaning "to talk about the sore, to speak out, to confess":

*There came a night when he confessed to Carrie that the business was not doing as well this month as it had the month before.* (T.Dreiser. *Sister Carrier*, 198).

Constituents such as *blurt out, blab, leak, give away, let out, let slip, let the cat out of bag, spill the beans, blow the lid off* convey the meaning of "insert, give something". Phraseological units and the phrasal verb *give away the whole show, spill one's guts, open up* convey the meaning of "speak out". The constituents *betray, blow the whistle on, pull the plug on, pull the rug out from underneath* carry the meaning of "convince of the truth". The verbs *tattle, tattletale, squeal, squeak, rat, fink, stool, peach, related to informal speech*, are united by the meaning "gossip, gossip, complain". The verbs *discern, make out, espy, perceive* are defined by the common meaning "to distinguish, to recognize". The verbs *recognize, identify* have the meaning "to recognize, to identify".

The zone of the extreme periphery, which includes the language units of the fifth, sixth and seventh synonymous series, is also characterized by separate differential signs. Thus, the verbs *command*,





*order, direct, charge, adjust, instruct, dictate* are united by the common meaning of "command, direct":

*Naturally, Hurstwood, who was a little above the order of mind which accepted this standard as perfect, who had shrewdness and much assumption of dignity, who held an imposing and authoritative position, and commanded friendship by intuitive tact in handling people, was quite a figure. (Sister Carrier, 109)*

The words and phrases *require, demand, lay down the law, give orders, determine* convey the meaning of "demand, force":

*They demanded immediate acceptance of these terms, which the various trolley companies refused (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrie. 244).*

The verbs *bid, request* are characterized by the general meaning "to ask permission, permission". Constituents such as *count, enumerate, number* convey the meaning of "count, recalculate": *He never moved but what, if there was any danger of his conduct being misconstrued or ill-reported, he looked carefully about him and counted the cost of every inch of conspiracy (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 70).*

The language units *compute, reckon, calculate, tally, cast, sum up, estimate* carry this "generalize, form an estimate, evaluate": *She conceived a true estimate of Drouet. To her, and indeed to all the world, he was a nice, good-hearted man. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrie, 40).*

The words and phrases *weigh, carry weight, have force, be influential* are combined with the meaning "to influence, to have weight".

The words and phrases *require, demand, lay down the law, give orders, determine* convey the meaning of "demand, force":

*"Yes, but it also says," the director remarked, "that you are to look shocked. Now, say it again, and see if you can't look shocked."*

*"Explain!" demanded Mr. Bamberger vigorously (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrie. 101).*

The verbs *bid, request* are characterized by the general meaning "to ask permission, permission". Constituents such as *count, enumerate, number* transmit the value "count, recalculate":

*He never moved but what, if there was any danger of his conduct being misconstrued or ill-reported, he looked carefully about him and counted the cost of every inch of conspicuity (Sister Carrier, 70).*

The language units *compute, reckon, calculate, tally, cast, sum up, estimate* carry this "generalize, form an estimate, evaluate": *She conceived a true estimate of Drouet. To her, and indeed to all the world, he was a nice, good-hearted man. (T.Dreiser. Sister Carrier, 40).*

The words and phrases *weigh, carry weight, have force, be influential* are combined with the meaning "to influence, to have weight".

The analysis of the semantics of phraseological units included in the nominative field with the key word-representative *tell*, allows us to identify a number of signs characterizing the process of speaking as a whole: *give mouth – to speak, to speak, to tell; break the news – to be the first to convey bad news; bring to light – to bring to light; get off one's chest – to facilitate soul; make a clean breast of – frankly admit, frankly tell everything; let slip – accidentally let slip, make a reservation; let the cat out of bag – blab, blab; spill the beans – give out a secret, blab; blow the lid off – to expose someone; give away the whole show – to blab, to spill a secret; spill one's guts – to speak out, to speak out; blow the whistle on – to inform on someone;*

So, in the core of the nominative field with the keyword *tell*, the following single cognitive feature "expression of opinion" can be distinguished. Semantic components of the near periphery can be unified as "eloquence", "public speaking", "and disclosure of a secret". The zone of the far periphery of the nominative field with the keyword *tells* is determined by the single cognitive signs "relief of the



*soul*", "spreading gossip". The zone of the extreme periphery has the cognitive sign "speaking as an order" and "speaking as an assessment".

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