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Validating the Lexical Network of *Take*: A Corpus-based Study

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Kim, Hyung-Sun & Kim, Baeg-seung. 2011. Validating the Lexical Network of Take: A Corpus-based Study. Linguistic Research 28(1), 117-142. The lexical network accounts for the relationship among a number of senses of a polysemous lexeme in the cognitive semantics, where each sense is connected to another by links. This study is an attempt to validate the lexical network of take proposed by Norvig and Lakoff (1987) via newly compiled corpora from an English-only local journal, and the outcome of a sentence-elicitation experiment. Under the assumption that the intuitive model of the lexical network theory would hold more explanatory adequacy in the native use of language than in the non-native one, the data were arranged into two comparable sets accordingly. While the model does not meet linguistic validation by means of measuring the sense frequency, the result of the saliency experiment was in concurrence with the model for the most central sense, take-1 (grab). There was no sign that the "lexical network theory" (LNT) applies differently between the native and non-native use of take. The result of this study which does not concur with the previous studies on the LNT model of take can be attributed to the different decoding of sense distinction in part; thus further clarification is needed to define the nature of centrality. (Chonnam National University)

Key Words polyseme, sense, lexical network theory (LNT), frequency, saliency