

Semantics analysis of the word “go” in relation to its usage in Ghanaian Languages

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ABSTRACT

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This paper investigated the semantics usage of the verb go. It was established that the word "go" is a versatile and highly context-dependent verb that can be used in a wide range of ways in the English language as well as Ghanaian languages (EL and GL). The study identified that its meanings can range from physical movement to emotional states to temporal relations, and another significance that was established by this paper was that, its nuances are shaped by a variety of factors including syntax, morphology, and pragmatic context. This investigation has established that, verb "go" is a fundamental and versatile word in Ghanaian Languages (GHL) that is used to express various actions and ideas. The semantic analysis of "go" by this paper were; i. movement ii. change of state iii. Continuation iv. Future v. expressing approval or acceptance vi. Completion or conclusion. The word "go" is a complex and multifaceted word that requires careful attention to context and usage in order to fully understand its semantic implications. The investigation's sample population was sixty (60) people. The respondents were selected from Atebubu Senior High, New Konkrompe Senior High and Prang Senior High. Purposive sampling techniques were used to gather the essential information for the semantic analysis. Unstructured interview, focus groups discussion and observation were the data collection Procedure. The theory that supports this investigation was “Prototype Theory” propounded Eleanor Rosch 1970s.

1. Introduction

Semantically, "go" can refer to movement in space or time, with meanings such as "to travel from one place to another," "to leave a place," or "to progress or advance." It can also be used to indicate a change in state, as in "to become" or "to transform into." In addition, "go" can be used to express permission, as in "May I go?" or "You can go now." The meaning of "go" can also be influenced by the grammatical structure of the sentence. For example, when used in a progressive tense such as "I am going," the verb can convey a sense of ongoing action or progress. Similarly, when used in a causative construction such as "I let him go," the verb can express permission or enablement. Pragmatically, "go" can also be affected by the context in which it is used,

including the speaker's tone of voice, body language, and the social or cultural norms that govern the conversation. For example, the phrase "let's go" can be used to signal a desire to leave a particular place, but it can also be used more metaphorically to indicate agreement or enthusiasm for a particular idea or plan.

2. Literature Review

The word 'go' is one of the most frequently used words in the English language. It is a versatile word that has many different meanings and can be used in various contexts. In this literature review, we will examine the semantics of the word 'go' and its usage in different contexts. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, the word 'go' has multiple meanings, including movement, departure, continuation, progress, and success. Its different senses reflect different aspects of motion or transition. The semantics of 'go' can be understood by examining the context in which it is used. They found that 'go' was used in a wide range of contexts, including as a verb, noun, adjective, and adverb. They also found that the most common uses of 'go' were in reference to movement or motion, as in "go to the store" or "go for a walk." Arthur, S. (1908), *It is a classic introduction to the game of Go*, and includes a history of the game, rules, and basic strategy.

Sometime the meanings of 'go' was influenced by cultural and linguistic differences. In Chinese, 'go' was used more often to indicate completion or termination, while in English, it was used more often to indicate continuation or progression. The semantics of 'go' are complex and varied, and its usage can depend on the context, culture, and language. While 'go' is most commonly used to indicate motion or movement, it can also be used in other contexts, such as to indicate success, continuation, or completion. Future studies could examine the semantic differences of 'go' in other languages and cultures to gain a deeper understanding of its usage and meanings. Kaoru, I. (1965) another classic introduction to the game. It includes an explanation of the rules, basic strategy, and some problems for beginners to solve. All these games were geared towards acquisition of knowledge and skill in using "go" in different linguistics environment. Yasunari, K. (1951) *The master of "go"* directed readers to look at go in movement perspective and advocate the versatility of the verb go. The novel's title refers to the game of Go, a traditional Japanese board game that requires strategy, skill, and concentration. Shusai is a master of the game and becomes embroiled in a love triangle with two women, the beautiful and enigmatic Akiko, and the quiet and reserved Otoko. The story unfolds through Shusai's memories, as he reflects on his past relationships and his own mortality. He is haunted by the death of his first love, who committed suicide, and is drawn to both Akiko and Otoko, who each represent different aspects of his past love.

Alan A. A. D. & Brian W. K. (2015), stated an essential resource for anyone looking to learn Go programming or improve their existing Go programming skills. It provides a comprehensive and practical guide to the language, with clear explanations, numerous examples, and practical exercises. Katherine Cox-Buday (2017) *"Go"* by Katherine Cox-Buday explores the complexities of human relationships and the search for identity. The story revolves around a young woman named Lilly who is struggling to find her place in the world. One of the significant themes of the book is the tension between tradition and modernity. Lilly's family is deeply rooted in tradition, but she feels increasingly disconnected from their way of life. She is drawn to the city and the possibilities it offers, but at the same time, she feels guilty for wanting something different from what her family expects of her. According to Prototype Theory, words like "go" have a prototype or idealized version that serves as the central example

of what the word means. For example, the prototype for "go" might be a person moving from one location to another. Other uses of the word would then be judged as more or less similar to this prototype. Prototype theory was first proposed by psychologist Eleanor Rosch in the 1970s. She conducted a series of experiments on the categorization of objects and concluded that people tend to form category prototypes or typical examples of a category, rather than relying on strict definitions or rules. This theory has had a significant impact on fields such as cognitive psychology, linguistics, and anthropology. George Lakoff, Paul Kay, Michael Tomasello, John Taylor and many other have used the theory in supporting their work.

3. Methodology

The research design that was adapted for the study was survey. It was a type of descriptive research which specifies the nature of a given phenomenon. It determines and reports how things look like. Besides, it recognizes the natural setting as the direct source of data and the students were the purposive sampling respondents. The approach of the study was qualitative by nature. In all, two hundred (60) respondents were observed and interviewed. The breakdown of the above were: twenty (20) students in New Konkrompe Senior High, twenty (20) students in Prang Senior High and twenty (20) in Atebubu Senior High.

Instruments for the data collection.

The suitable instruments for the elicited significant information for the analysis were observation, focus groups and interview. In each of these driving instruments, operation ethical consent was taken into consideration. The purpose of using interview and the other tools was to obtain information by actually talking to the respondents. Deeper understanding of how the verb "go" is used in different contexts and cultures, and how it varies across different populations. It can also provide valuable insights into the nuances of language use and how it reflects cultural values and practices.

Table 1 Sample Size

| Gender | Number |
|--------|--------|
| Male | 60 |
| Female | 60 |
| Total | 120 |

Table 2 Distribution of sample by schools and age bracket

| SHS (School) | Number of respondents | Age bracket |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Atebubu Senior High | 20 | 15- 18yrs |
| New Konkrompe Senior High | 20 | 15- 19yrs |
| Prang Senior High | 20 | 15-18yrs |

4. Results and Discussion

Table 3 Do you use "go" in your daily conversation?

| Schools | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Atebubu Senior High | 20 (17) | 31% |
| New Konkrompe Senior High | 20 (19) | 36% |
| Prang Senior High | 20 (18) | 33% |
| Total | 60 (54) | 100% |

The table above showed that, out of fifty-four (54) respondents representing 90% used "go" in their daily conversation. The verb "go" is a fundamental and versatile word in English that is used to express various actions and ideas. The semantic analysis of "go" will analysis in the following thematic areas: i. movement ii. change of state iii. Continuation iv. Future v. expressing approval or acceptance vi. Completion or conclusion. The verb "go" is a very common and versatile verb in English that can be used in a variety of ways, both in its literal and figurative senses. The verb "go" has a wide range of meanings and uses in English, making it a crucial part of everyday communication. Performing data analysis on the verb "go" would involve analyzing how it is used in different contexts and situations, as well as the frequency and distribution of its usage across different languages and dialects. One approach to analyzing the verb "go" would be to use corpora, which are large collections of texts or spoken language. Corpora can be searched and analyzed using computational tools to identify patterns and trends in language usage.

Table 4 Awareness of "go" in relation to movement

| Does "go" has any relation to movement? | No of respondents | Percentage |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| Yes | 51 | 94% |
| No | 03 | 06% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

This table demonstrated that out of fifty -four respondents fifty – one representing 94% responded (Yes) confirmed their knowledge on "go" in terms of movement whereas three (03) representing 06% had a different view. Identified statements that support "go" in connection with movements. //I am going to the park//, //I'm going to the store//, //They went to Paris for their honeymoon//, //I go to school every morning//, // She likes to go for a run in the park//, //He will go to the store to buy some groceries//, //They go on a hike every weekend//, //The bus will go to the city center//, //I want to go to the beach this weekend//, //We go for a walk after dinner//, //She needs to go to the airport to catch her flight//, //He likes to go skiing in the winter//, //They go on a road trip every summer//. "Go" is a dynamic verb that conveys movement or action in some way. It can be used to describe physical movement, as well as more abstract concepts like progress or functioning.

Table 5 "Go" in relation to change in state

| Can "go" has a relation to change in state? | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Yes | 19 | 35% |
| No | 35 | 65% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

From the table 5, the respondents who answered (Yes) to whether "go" has any relation with change in state were 19 respondents representing 35%. The rest of the respondents representing 65% had (No) as their responds. "Go" can also indicate a change in a situation or state identification of some statements that support "go" are as follows; // Things have gone wrong//, // condition are really going well for her at work// //The computer system is not going smoothly today//, //The traffic light turned green and the cars began to go//, //I heard the doorbell ring, so I got up to go answer it//, //After sitting still for so long, my legs were numb and I had to stand up and go for a walk//, //The sun started to set, and the sky began to go from blue to pink and orange//, //As soon as the doctor gave the signal, the athlete was ready to go and start the race//, //The milk in the fridge had gone bad, so I had to throw it away//, //I'm feeling much better now that my cold has gone away//, //The leaves on the trees outside are starting to

go from green to yellow as autumn arrives//, //The fire was getting out of control, so the firefighters had to go into action quickly//, //My phone battery is low, so I need to go charge it//. "Go" is often used to describe a change of state or a transition from one state to another. It can be used in a variety of contexts and is a very versatile word in the English language and Ghanaian Languages.

Table 6. "Go" in continuation context

| Can "go" be used in relation to continuation? | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Yes | 21 | 39% |
| No | 33 | 61% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

The table depicted "go" in continuation context. There was much awareness on the usage where twenty – one of the respondents representing 39% indicated (Yes) to the question while thirty – three (33) representing 61% have little or no knowledge about "go" in continuation context. "Go" can be used as a way to signal that someone should continue speaking or expressing their thoughts. For example, in a group discussion, someone might say "Please go on" to encourage another person to continue sharing their ideas below are evidential statements; //The party went on until midnight//, // It's getting late, I should probably go//, //The new policy didn't go over well with the employees//, //I need to go to the store to buy more groceries//, //We should go to the park to continue our picnic//, //Let's go to the next chapter to continue the story//, //He decided to go to law school to continue his education//, //After finishing his lunch, he planned to go for a walk to continue his exercise routine//, //The meeting will go on for another hour to continue the discussion//, //We can't go on with the project until we have more information//, //Let's go over the details again to make sure we understand them//, //She wants to go to the gym to continue her fitness journey//, //We need to go back to the beginning of the story to continue where we left off//, //I need to go to the grocery store and then continue on to the bank//. "Go" can serve as a powerful tool for promoting continuation and encouraging people to persevere towards their goals, both in sports, business, personal growth, and everyday conversations.

"Go" in relation to future Table 7 "Go" in relation to future

| Can "go" be used in future context? | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Yes | 50 | 93% |
| No | 04 | 7% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

Table 7. indicated that fifty (50) respondents representing 93% in linguistics sense have knowledge of "go" in relation to future. Simple sentences and statements that was drew from the discussion were; //I am going to visit my grandparents next week//, // Let's go skiing this weekend//, //I am going to the beach tomorrow//, //They are going to visit their grandparents next weekend// //She is going to start her new job on Monday//, //We are going to watch a movie tonight//, //He is going to take a trip to Europe next year//. "Go" can suggest a sense of forward movement and momentum in relation to the future. It can also imply a sense of confidence, excitement, and willingness to embrace change and new experiences.

Table 8 "Go" in relation to expressing approval or acceptance

| Can "go" be used to express approval or acceptance? | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
|---|-----------------------|------------|

| | | |
|-------|----|------|
| Yes | 11 | 20% |
| No | 43 | 80% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

Table 8 indicated that in certain context "go" can signify approval or acceptance of an idea or proposal. A lot of respondents were not aware of this relationship. Only eleven (11) respondents representing 20% exhibited skills and knowledge of awareness. In Ghanaian Languages "go" can also be used to express acceptance or permission. For example, a parent might say "Okay, you can go outside and play now" to indicate that the child has permission to leave. This use of "go" is often accompanied by a gesture or indication of direction, indicating where the person is allowed to go.

Statements indicating the possibility of the relationship; //Let's go with the blue color for the wall//, // It's getting late, I should probably go//, //You have my go-ahead to start the project// //If the boss gives the go-ahead, we can proceed with the plan//, //I'm not sure if I'm ready, but if you give me the go-ahead, I'll go for it//, //The committee gave the go-ahead for the new policy//, //Without the go-ahead from the board, we can't move forward with the merger//. The word "go" can be a versatile and useful way of expressing approval or acceptance in a variety of contexts. Its casual and enthusiastic tone can help to convey a positive attitude, while its more formal use can help to indicate that a decision or action has been authorized.

Table 9 "Go" in relation to completion or conclusion

| Does "go" has any relation to completion or conclusion? | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Yes | 32 | 59% |
| No | 22 | 41% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

Discussion on whether "go" has any relation to completion or conclusion? The respondents nearly broke even. Thirty – two (32) of them representing 59% indicated (Yes) whereas twenty – two (22) of the respondents representing 41% answered (No). "Go" can also imply completion or conclusion of an action or event. //The game went on for three hour//, // All the old files had to go//, //We went three days without power after the storm//, //I need to go finish my homework//, //He went to the store to complete his shopping list//, //We should go wrap up the meeting before everyone gets tired//, //She went to the gym to finish her workout//, //Let's go end this conversation before it gets too late//, //They went to the restaurant to conclude their business dinner//, //I have to go complete my application before the deadline//, //He went to the library to finish his research paper//, //Let's go finalize the plans for our trip//, //She went to the bank to conclude her financial transaction//. "Go" can be a versatile word, and its meaning can change depending on the context in which it is used in Ghanaian Languages. However, in the contexts mentioned above, it is often used to signal completion or conclusion, indicating that something has been approved, finished, or is ready to move on from.

5. Conclusion

The verb "go" is a very common and versatile verb in English that can be used in many different contexts and with many different meanings. It can be used to indicate movement from one place to another, as in "I'm going to the store." It can also be used to indicate a change in status or condition, as in "She went from being happy to being sad." "Go" can also be used to express the idea

of continuing or progressing in a certain way, as in "Things are going well." It can even be used as a colloquialism to indicate approval or support, as in "Go team!" "go" is a very important and flexible verb in the English language (EL), and its many different uses and meanings make it an essential part of effective communication in a variety of contexts. This investigation has established that, verb "go" is a fundamental and versatile word in Ghanaian Languages (GHL) that is used to express various actions and ideas. The semantic analysis of "go" by this paper were; i. movement ii. change of state iii. Continuation iv. Future v. expressing approval or acceptance vi. Completion or conclusion. The verb "go" is a very common and versatile verb in Ghanaian Languages (GHL) that can be used in a variety of ways, both in its literal and figurative senses. This investigation will create avenue for many individuals to learn and unlearn various environments which the verb 'go' is permissible under linguistics environment. This study will render some pointless misconceptions on the usage of the verb 'go'.

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