

# Applying Wordnet In Teaching The Lexical Semantics Of English Nouns

Trang Thi My Phan<sup>1,2,\*</sup>



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## ABSTRACT

This paper addressed the practical application and potential impact of WordNet as an educational tool for teaching the lexical semantics of English nouns. WordNet, an extensive English lexical database, systematically organizes words into semantically interconnected groups and hierarchical classifications, providing a promising resource for utilizing a computational semantics approach in language education. Using the descriptive research method and the comparative method, the study explored the network of semantic relationships within English nouns, specifically focusing on synonymy, polysemy, hyponymy, and hypernymy. Based on the WordNet description, the paper suggested some practical techniques for teaching and learning lexical semantics within English nouns. These approaches aim to enhance the educational experience for both teachers and students by fostering a deeper understanding of the semantic relationships of English nouns through addressing readability, contextual meanings, and conceptual structures.

**Key words:** WordNet, semantic relations, lexical semantics, English nouns

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Traditional approaches to teaching lexical semantics in English often rely heavily on traditional dictionaries and conventional thesauruses. While these tools are useful, they do not fully exploit the potential of modern computational resources like WordNet. Traditional methods do not provide a comprehensive understanding of the semantic relationships that exist between words, especially in the case of English nouns. WordNet, developed by Princeton University in 1986, serves as a lexical-conceptual model and database, systematically organizing words based on their semantic relationships (Miller et al., 1990)<sup>1</sup>. Within the domain of lexical semantics, WordNet helps clarify the relationships associated with English nouns, offering a structured framework for exploring synonymy, polysemy, hypernymy, hyponymy, etc. The main objectives of this research are as follows:

1. Investigating the semantic relationships of English nouns using WordNet.
2. Evaluating WordNet's lexical data by comparing the semantic relationships and definitions found in WordNet with those in traditional dictionaries and conventional thesauruses.
3. Proposing the pedagogical application of WordNet as an effective tool for teaching and acquiring lexical semantics.

This study seeks to bridge the gap between theoretical linguistic resources and practical language education. This research has practical significance by applying WordNet to deepen understanding of semantic relationships among English nouns.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Overview of WordNet

WordNet<sup>a</sup> is a large English vocabulary database developed by Princeton University in 1986 by a team of scientists, led by psychologist George Armitage Miller (Miller et al., 1990)<sup>1</sup>. WordNet organizes English concepts into groups of words with semantic relations. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in English are grouped into synonym sets, with each group representing a distinct concept. The semantic relationships between words in WordNet include synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, hypernymy, meronymy, holonymy, entailment, and troponymy. Currently, WordNet comprises 117,000 synsets (Fellbaum, 2005)<sup>2</sup>. While WordNet includes parts of speech like nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, this study concentrates on the semantics of nouns. WordNet has been divided into 25 primitive concepts or root senses, covering all English nouns (Miller et al., 1990)<sup>1</sup>. Observing these 25 primitive concepts, we find that some concepts share common semantic features (e.g., {animal}, {person}, {plant} are

<sup>a</sup><https://wordnet.princeton.edu/>

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**Table 1: Organization of Primitive Concepts (Fellbaum, 1998)<sup>3</sup>**

thing, entity	living thing, organism	animal	
		person	
		plant	
	non-living thing, object	artifact	
		natural object	body
		substance	food
	abstraction	attribute	
		quantity	
		relation	communication
		time	
	psychology feature	cognition	
		feeling	
		motivation	
		natural phenomenon	process
		activity	
		event	
		group	
		location	
		possession	
		shape	
		state	

all living things). Therefore, in WordNet, concepts sharing such semantic features are grouped together under a higher-level concept. Following simplification, WordNet retains only 11 primitive concepts (entity, abstraction, psychological feature, natural phenomenon, activity, event, group, location, possession, shape, state). Below is the list of these primitive concepts (reduced from 25 primitive concepts to 11 basic concepts) encompassing all English nouns in WordNet (as shown in Table 1).

**Previous research on WordNet in language education**

WordNet is an extensive lexical database that has attracted attention in educational research for its potential to enhance language learning and teaching, particularly in the areas of lexical semantics. Several studies have investigated the efficacy of WordNet in educational contexts. Redkar et al. (2017)<sup>4</sup> demonstrated how Hindi WordNet was integrated into the Hindi Shabdmitra e-learning tool, significantly en-

hancing language education by helping learners build a wider range of vocabulary and filling gaps in Hindi e-learning resources. The integration of Hindi WordNet into the educational tool provided comprehensive lexical insights. By offering features like native speaker audio, illustrations, and simplified glosses, the tool supported both structured and flexible learning approaches. Similarly, Redkar et al. (2018)<sup>5</sup> detailed the adaptation of Hindi WordNet into a digital resource, emphasizing its effectiveness in improving comprehension, retention, and learner engagement in the classroom. The tool organized vocabulary using cognitive associations and synsets, and provided a multi-sensory learning experience. Initial trials in schools received positive feedback, highlighting the tool's potential to enhance language learning outcomes. Expanding the scope, Kulkarni et al. (2019)<sup>6</sup> introduced Sanskrit Shabdmitra, an educational application utilizing Sanskrit Wordnet, to aid in language acquisition, pronunciation, grammar, and concept comprehension. This integration not only

96 provided a comprehensive e-learning tool but also  
 97 enhanced the accessibility and effectiveness of lan-  
 98 guage education in Sanskrit. The successful applica-  
 99 tion of WordNet in Sanskrit education further cor-  
 100 roborated its role in enhancing lexical richness and  
 101 pedagogical effectiveness. Furthermore, Gonzalez-  
 102 Dios (2019)<sup>7</sup> explored the utilization of WordNet  
 103 in language-for-specific-purpose (LSP) classrooms,  
 104 proposing a textual genre-based approach to incor-  
 105 porate terms into WordNet. This approach helped  
 106 students access specialized knowledge effectively, en-  
 107 riching WordNet with new variants and synsets. Bond  
 108 et al. (2021)<sup>8</sup> discussed a new approach to enhance  
 109 students' learning through sense tagging, which in-  
 110 volved students in annotating corpora and updating  
 111 "wordnets". This interactive approach not only deep-  
 112 ened understanding of lexical semantics but also con-  
 113 tributed to the enrichment of lexical resources. More  
 114 recently, Moskvovetskii et al. (2024)<sup>9</sup> presented Tax-  
 115 oLLaMA, a WordNet-based model designed to solve  
 116 multiple lexical-semantic tasks, achieving state-of-  
 117 the-art results across various tasks. This study un-  
 118 derscored the advanced capabilities of WordNet in  
 119 solving complex semantic problems, indicating its po-  
 120 tential to be integrated into sophisticated educational  
 121 technologies and frameworks.

122 In general, these studies showed the significant po-  
 123 tential of WordNet as an educational tool for teach-  
 124 ing lexical semantics and enhancing lexical acquisi-  
 125 tion in language education settings. However, fur-  
 126 ther research is needed to explore enhanced meth-  
 127 ods for deepening understanding of semantic rela-  
 128 tionships among English nouns through the applica-  
 129 tion of WordNet in teaching, as well as its impact on  
 130 language learning outcomes.

## 131 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 132 Data Collection

133 Data collection for this study primarily involves utiliz-  
 134 ing WordNet to analyze semantic relationships among  
 135 English nouns, including synonymy, polysemy, hy-  
 136 ponymy, and hypernymy. The process begins with ac-  
 137 cessing WordNet online and collecting a dataset con-  
 138 taining English nouns along with their corresponding  
 139 semantic relations. Additionally, relevant data related  
 140 to English nouns will be extracted from traditional  
 141 dictionaries and conventional thesauruses.

### 142 Analysis of Semantic Relationships

143 This research undertakes an examination of the se-  
 144 mantic relationships among English nouns utilizing

the WordNet database. The investigation encom- 145  
 passes an exploration of synonymy, polysemy, hy- 146  
 ponymy, and hypernymy. By analyzing these rela- 147  
 tionships, the study aims to gain valuable insights 148  
 into the interconnectedness of words and deepen our 149  
 understanding of their meanings and connections 150  
 within the WordNet framework. 151

### Comparative Analysis 152

The main goal of a comparative analysis is to contrast 153  
 the semantic relationships and definitions offered by 154  
 WordNet with those present in traditional dictionar- 155  
 ies and conventional thesauruses. This process helps 156  
 students gain a deeper understanding of the connec- 157  
 tions between words and the conceptual structures 158  
 within WordNet's lexical data, thereby enriching their 159  
 comprehension of word meanings and usage. 160

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 161

### Analysis of Semantic Relationships in En- 162 glish Nouns using WordNet 163

The analysis of semantic relationships among En- 164  
 glish nouns utilizing WordNet includes exploring syn- 165  
 onymy, polysemy, hyponymy, and hypernymy. 166

#### Synonymy 167

Synonymy plays a central role in WordNet, where syn- 168  
 onym sets, known as synsets, are connected through 169  
 both conceptual-semantic and lexical relations (Fell- 170  
 baum, 2005)<sup>2</sup>. Analysis of synonymy within Word- 171  
 Net reveals a rich network of words that share sim- 172  
 ilar meanings, aiding educators in illustrating the 173  
 diversity of synonyms available for English nouns. 174  
 Through the analysis of a provided example in Table 2, 175  
 this investigation reveals how the term "car" is syn- 176  
 onymous with various other nouns. 177

#### Polysemy 178

Polysemy is the phenomenon where a word has more 179  
 than one meaning. In English, many words exhibit 180  
 polysemy. Therefore, when we send a query (search 181  
 term) to the Princeton WordNet system, we often re- 182  
 ceive more than one synonym set in return. By exam- 183  
 ining the various senses of "bank" listed in WordNet 184  
 (as shown in Table 3), we can gain insights into the 185  
 complexity of semantic relationships within the En- 186  
 glish language. 187

The results obtained from WordNet reveal ten dis- 188  
 tinct senses of the noun "bank", covering various 189  
 topics such as geographical features, financial insti- 190  
 tutions, and structural arrangements, etc. For in- 191  
 stance, "bank" can refer to a sloping land beside a 192

**Table 2: Illustration of the noun “car” and its synonymy extracted from WordNet source (Fellbaum & Christiane, 2005)<sup>2</sup>**

CAR (Noun)
”S:” = Show Synset (semantic) relations
S: (n) car, auto, automobile, machine, motorcar (a motor vehicle with four wheels; usually propelled by an internal combustion engine) ”he needs a car to get to work”
S: (n) car, railcar, railway car, railroad car (a wheeled vehicle adapted to the rails of railroad) ”three cars had jumped the rails”
S: (n) car, gondola (the compartment that is suspended from an airship and that carries personnel and the cargo and the power plant)
S: (n) car, elevator car (where passengers ride up and down) ”the car was on the top floor”
S: (n) cable car, car (a conveyance for passengers or freight on a cable railway) ”they took a cable car to the top of the mountain”

**Table 3: Illustration of the noun “bank” and its polysemy extracted from WordNet source (Fellbaum & Christiane, 2005)<sup>2</sup>**

Polysemy	BANK (Noun)
No.	”S:” = Show Synset (semantic) relations
1	S: (n) bank (sloping land (especially the slope beside a body of water)) ”they pulled the canoe up on the bank”; ”he sat on the bank of the river and watched the currents”
2	S: (n) depository financial institution, bank, banking concern, banking company (a financial institution that accepts deposits and channels the money into lending activities) ”he cashed a check at the bank”; ”that bank holds the mortgage on my home”
3	S: (n) bank (a long ridge or pile) ”a huge bank of earth”
4	S: (n) bank (an arrangement of similar objects in a row or in tiers) ”he operated a bank of switches”
5	S: (n) bank (a supply or stock held in reserve for future use (especially in emergencies))
6	S: (n) bank (the funds held by a gambling house or the dealer in some gambling games) ”he tried to break the bank at Monte Carlo”
7	S: (n) bank, cant, camber (a slope in the turn of a road or track; the outside is higher than the inside in order to reduce the effects of centrifugal force)
8	S: (n) savings bank, coin bank, money box, bank (a container (usually with a slot in the top) for keeping money at home) ”the coin bank was empty”
9	S: (n) bank, bank building (a building in which the business of banking transacted) ”the bank is on the corner of Nassau and Witherspoon”
10	S: (n) bank (a flight maneuver; aircraft tips laterally about its longitudinal axis (especially in turning)) ”the plane went into a steep bank”

193 body of water, a financial institution that accepts de-  
 194 posits, or a container for keeping money at home. The  
 195 analysis of the different senses of “bank” highlights  
 196 the challenges faced by language learners and natural  
 197 language processing systems in disambiguating word  
 198 meanings. Notably, in WordNet, there is no distinc-  
 199 tion between polysemy and homographs, so WordNet  
 200 recognizes only polysemy. Without contextual cues,  
 201 it becomes difficult to determine the intended sense

of a polysemous word accurately. This paper suggests  
 using polysemy to determine the specific meaning of  
 nouns in each context.

**Hyponymy and Hypernymy**

Hierarchical relationships in WordNet play a crucial  
 role in organizing concepts in a structured manner,  
 facilitating understanding through taxonomic sys-  
 tems. These relationships reflect connections and hi-

210 erarchies between concepts, with the identification  
 211 of semantic relationships between superordinate and  
 212 subordinate levels being essential (Ferschke, 2009)<sup>10</sup>.  
 213 One of the most important relationships in hierarchi-  
 214 cal relationships is the hyponymy and hypernymy re-  
 215 lationship. In the analysis of the examples provided  
 216 in Table 4, the hierarchical relationships illustrate hy-  
 217 ponymy and hypernymy relations. The term “dog”  
 218 has multiple meanings. In this example, “dog” refers  
 219 specifically to the domestic dog, scientifically known  
 220 as *Canis familiaris*.

221 The term “dog” is a hyponym under “domestic ani-  
 222 mal”, which, in turn, is a hyponym under “animal”.  
 223 This hierarchical structure extends further, with “ani-  
 224 mal” as a hyponym of “organism”, and “organism” as  
 225 a hyponym under “living thing”. The chain continues  
 226 with “living thing” being a hyponym of “unit”, which  
 227 is then classified under “physical object”. This hierar-  
 228 chy proceeds with “physical object” as a hyponym of  
 229 “physical entity”, and ultimately, “physical entity” as a  
 230 hyponym under “entity”. Conversely, “entity” serves  
 231 as a hypernym encompassing “physical entity”, which,  
 232 in turn, is a hypernym of “physical object”, with “phys-  
 233 ical object” functioning as a hypernym for “unit”, and  
 234 subsequently, “unit” serving as a hypernym for the  
 235 classification “living thing”. This sequence continues,  
 236 with “living thing” functioning as a hypernym for “or-  
 237 ganism”, and in turn, the term “organism” being clas-  
 238 sified as a hypernym for the category “animal”. This  
 239 hierarchical pattern persists, “animal” is then catego-  
 240 rized as a hypernym of “domestic animal”, and finally,  
 241 the term “domestic animal” is a hypernym of the cat-  
 242 egory “dog”. This paper suggests utilizing hypernyms  
 243 and hyponyms to explain the concept of nouns ac-  
 244 cording to a hierarchical structure which facilitates  
 245 the systematic arrangement of words based on their  
 246 conceptual connections.

247 **Comparing WordNet with traditional dic-**  
 248 **tionaries and conventional thesaurus es**

249 Comparing WordNet to entries found in traditional  
 250 dictionaries and conventional thesauruses highlights  
 251 the advantages of WordNet due to its deep hierarchi-  
 252 cal structure and semantic relationships within its lex-  
 253 ical data.

254 **Comparing WordNet with traditional dictio-**  
 255 **naries**

256 WordNet and traditional dictionaries are both valu-  
 257 able linguistic tools, each offering distinct features  
 258 for understanding language. Traditional dictio-  
 259 naries, like the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary (Mur-  
 260 ray,1928)<sup>11</sup>, utilize a alphabetical format, providing

a straightforward means of locating word entries. 261  
 While convenient for resolving issues related to word 262  
 usage or determining the priority of meaning, tradi- 263  
 tional dictionaries neglect questions concerning the 264  
 synchronic organization of lexical knowledge (Miller 265  
 et al., 1990)<sup>1</sup>. Consequently, users often encounter 266  
 limitations and time-consuming searches due to the 267  
 alphabetical organization hindering the exploration 268  
 of lexical connections efficiently. Additionally, some 269  
 traditional dictionaries lack structural coherence and 270  
 may resort to circular definitions, using the word Wa 271  
 to define the word Wb, then in other places using the 272  
 word Wb itself to redefine the word Wa (Miller et al., 273  
 1990)<sup>1</sup>. In contrast, WordNet is based on semantic re- 274  
 lationships rather than mere word forms. Unlike tradi- 275  
 tional dictionaries, WordNet does not contain in- 276  
 formation about pronunciation, etymology, or mean- 277  
 ing explanations with pictures or diagrams. Instead, 278  
 it focuses on the network of semantic relationships 279  
 such as synonymy, polysemy, hyponymy and hyper- 280  
 nymy and so on. The hallmark of WordNet lies in its 281  
 tree-shaped organization, where the root represents a 282  
 very general parent concept. Based on the hypernymy 283  
 relationship, it was divided according to branch into 284  
 more specific child concepts, and then also from these 285  
 child concepts, it was continued to break down into 286  
 more detailed concepts, and so on until there is no 287  
 need to divide anymore (about ten levels on average) 288  
 and the last node is the noun (Miller et al., 1990)<sup>1</sup>. By 289  
 storing only the unique characteristics of each concept 290  
 and inferring additional properties from parent con- 291  
 cepts, WordNet overcomes the redundancy inherent 292  
 in traditional dictionaries, optimizing storage space 293  
 without compromising on completeness. By organiz- 294  
 ing words according to their meanings, WordNet not 295  
 only aids in vocabulary acquisition but also enhances 296  
 retention by anchoring new words to existing ones 297  
 within the network. Moreover, WordNet usually of- 298  
 fers more definitions compared to many traditional 299  
 dictionaries, such as the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary 300  
 (as shown in Table 5). 301

The comparison between the Oxford Learner’s Dic- 302  
 tionary and WordNet for the noun “book” highlights 303  
 the key differences in their approaches. Both tools 304  
 are valuable for defining words, but each has dis- 305  
 tinct strengths and limitations. The Oxford Learner’s 306  
 Dictionary offers a concise set of seven definitions, 307  
 focusing on the most common and straightforward 308  
 uses of the word, such as a physical object for read- 309  
 ing, a written work in printed or electronic form, 310  
 and financial records. These definitions are particu- 311  
 larly user-friendly and suitable for learners seeking 312  
 quick and clear explanations. In contrast, WordNet 313

**Table 4: Illustration of the noun “dog” and its hierarchy extracted from ontology tree of WordNet source (Fellbaum & Christiane, 2005)<sup>2</sup>**

- dog
- Noun (animal) [Canis familiaris, dog, domestic dog] - a member of the genus Canis (probably descended from the common wolf) that has been domesticated by man since prehistoric times; occurs in many breeds
- Noun (animal) [domestic animal, domesticated animal] - any of various animals that have been tamed and made fit for a human environment
- Noun (tops) [animal, animate being, beast, brute, creature, fauna] - a living organism characterized by voluntary movement
- Noun (tops) [being, organism] - a living thing that has (or can develop) the ability to act or function independently
- Noun (tops) [animate thing, living thing] - a living (or once living) entity
- Noun (tops) [unit, whole] - an assemblage of parts that is regarded as a single entity
- Noun (tops) [object, physical object] - a tangible and visible entity; an entity that can cast a shadow
- Noun (tops) [physical entity] - an entity that has physical existence
- Noun (tops) [entity] - that which is perceived or known or inferred to have its own distinct existence (living or nonliving)

**Table 5: Comparison of definitions for the noun “book” extracted from Oxford Learner’s Dictionary (Murray, 1928)<sup>11</sup> and WordNet (Fellbaum & Christiane, 2005)<sup>2</sup>**

Definitions of the noun “book”	
Oxford Learner’s Dictionary[1]	WordNet[2]
1. a set of printed pages that are fastened inside a cover so that you can turn them and read them	1. a written work or composition that has been published (printed on pages bound together)
2. a written work published in printed or electronic form	2. physical objects consisting of a number of pages bound together
3. a set of sheets of paper that are fastened together inside a cover and used for writing in	3. a compilation of the known facts regarding something or someone
4. a set of things that are fastened together like a book	4. a written version of a play or other dramatic composition; used in preparing for a performance
5. the written records of the financial affairs of a business	5. a record in which commercial accounts are recorded
6. a section of a large written work	6. a collection of playing cards satisfying the rules of a card game
7. a record of bets made on whether something will happen, somebody will win a race, etc.	7. a collection of rules or prescribed standards on the basis of which decisions are made
	8. the sacred writings of Islam revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad during his life at Mecca and Medina
	9. the sacred writings of the Christian religions
	10. a major division of a long written composition
	11. a number of sheets (ticket or stamps etc.) bound together on one edge

[1] [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/book\\_1?q=book](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/book_1?q=book)

[2] <http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=book&sub=Search+WordNet&o2=&o0=1&o8=1&o1=1&o7=&o5=&o9=&o6=&o3=&o4=&h=00>

314 offers multiple layers of meaning of “book”, present- 366  
 315 ing eleven distinct meanings that span a broader range 367  
 316 of contexts, including metaphorical, specialized, and 368  
 317 religious uses. WordNet not only covers the tradi- 369  
 318 tional definitions but also includes meanings related 370  
 319 to scripts in theater, collections of playing cards in 371  
 320 games, and sacred religious texts. Moreover, Word- 372  
 321 Net’s emphasis on semantic relationships and hierar- 373  
 322 chical organization provides a richer understanding 374  
 323 of how “book” fits within a broader network of con- 375  
 324 cepts, offering users insights into the word’s various 376  
 325 meanings and their connections. 377

326 **Comparing WordNet with conventional the-** 378  
 327 **saurus es** 379

328 WordNet and conventional thesauruses, like Roget’s 380  
 329 21st Century Thesaurus<sup>12</sup>, both aim to group words 381  
 330 based on their meanings, but they differ significantly 382  
 331 in approach and utility. Conventional thesauruses are 383  
 332 useful for quickly finding word alternatives by pro- 384  
 333 viding lists of synonyms. However, these thesauruses 385  
 334 typically present words in isolation, without offering 386  
 335 meanings, examples, or guidance on how to use the 387  
 336 words in context. This lack of contextual information 388  
 337 can lead learners to use words incorrectly or struggle 389  
 338 to determine appropriate usage in different situations. 390  
 339 WordNet, in contrast, addresses these limitations by 391  
 340 organizing words into synonym sets based on their 392  
 341 semantic relationships. Each synonym set in Word- 393  
 342 Net is accompanied by a brief definition, and many 394  
 343 synonyms are illustrated with examples of their us- 395  
 344 age in sentences. Overall, WordNet differs from con- 396  
 345 ventional thesauruses in two significant ways. Firstly, 397  
 346 WordNet links not only word forms or strings of let- 398  
 347 ters but also specific senses of words, thus distin- 399  
 348 guishing closely related words by meaning. Secondly, 400  
 349 WordNet labels the semantic relationships between 401  
 350 words, whereas the groups of words in a thesaurus 402  
 351 lack a clear pattern other than semantic similarity 403  
 352 (Fellbaum, 2005)<sup>2</sup>. A clear example of these differ- 404  
 353 ences can be seen when comparing the synonyms for 405  
 354 the noun “house” from Thesaurus.com and WordNet 406  
 355 (as shown in Table 6). 407

356 A conventional thesaurus, such as Thesaurus.com, 408  
 357 might list words like “apartment”, “building”, and 409  
 358 “condo” as synonyms for “house”, presenting them in 410  
 359 a flat, isolated manner without providing any context 411  
 360 or guidance on how to use these synonyms correctly. 412  
 361 This approach can be limiting, as it leaves the user to 413  
 362 figure out which synonym is most appropriate in a 414  
 363 given context. For instance, while “apartment” and 415  
 364 “house” are both dwellings, they are not always in- 416  
 365 terchangeable due to differences in connotation and

usage. WordNet, on the other hand, organizes these 366  
 synonyms according to specific senses of the word 367  
 “house”, such as “a dwelling”, “a business firm”, or “an 368  
 audience in a theater”. Each sense is defined and il- 369  
 lustrated with example sentences, providing a deeper 370  
 understanding of how each synonym can be applied in 371  
 various situations. Furthermore, WordNet’s emphasis 372  
 on semantic relationships including synonymy, poly- 373  
 semy, hyponymy, and hypernymy provides a struc- 374  
 tured framework for understanding lexical seman- 375  
 tics. This structured and detailed approach supports 376  
 deeper learning and retention, making WordNet a 377  
 more effective tool for lexical acquisition compared to 378  
 conventional thesauruses, which often present words 379  
 without sufficient context or usage guidance. 380

381 **Practical Applications for Teaching and** 382  
 383 **Learning** 384

385 The study’s findings carry significant implications for 386  
 387 teaching lexical semantics. WordNet stands out as a 388  
 389 valuable resource for teachers, aiding in the clarifica- 390  
 391 tion of word meanings and relationships in the En- 392  
 393 glish language. One practical application involves us- 394  
 395 ing WordNet to create vocabulary exercises that help 396  
 397 students explore and understand synonyms. Teachers 398  
 399 can design activities where students use WordNet to 400  
 401 find synonyms for a given word and then create sen- 402  
 403 tences using these synonyms in different contexts. For 404  
 405 example, students can use WordNet to explore vari- 406  
 407 ous synonyms of the noun “forest”, such as “wood- 408  
 409 land”, “timberland”, and “jungle”. Each term refers to a 410  
 411 large area covered chiefly with trees and undergrowth, 412  
 413 but with different implications regarding size, density, 414  
 415 and geographic location. This activity helps students 416  
 grasp the slight differences in meaning and appro-  
 priate usage of these synonyms. Additionally, Word-  
 Net’s capability to illustrate polysemy can be utilized  
 to teach students about words with multiple mean-  
 ings. In a lesson focusing on the word “bank”, students  
 would use WordNet to identify its various meanings,  
 such as a financial institution, the side of a river, and  
 a place to store money at home. They would then cre-  
 ate sentences for each meaning, fostering a deeper un-  
 derstanding of how context determines word mean-  
 ing. WordNet’s hierarchical structure of hyponyms  
 and hypernyms can also be used to teach students  
 about categorical relationships between words. For  
 example, a lesson on animals might involve students  
 using WordNet to trace the hypernym “animal” down  
 to specific hyponyms like “dog” and “cat”. This exer-  
 cise helps students understand how specific terms fit  
 within broader categories, enhancing their conceptual

**Table 6: Illustration of synonyms for the noun “house” extracted from Thesaurus. com (Roget, 2013)<sup>12</sup> and WordNet (Fellbaum & Christiane, 2005)<sup>2</sup>**

Finding synonyms of the noun “house”	
Thesaurus. com[1]	WordNet[2]
<p>*Strongest matches: apartment box building condo condominium dwelling home mansion residence shack</p> <p>*Strong matches: abode; castle; cave; co-op; coop; crib; cubbyhole; den; diggings; digs; domicile; dump; edifice; flat; flophouse; habitation; homestead; joint; kennel; layout; lean-to; pad; pigpen; pigsty; rack; residency; roof; roost; setup; shanty; turf</p> <p>*Weak matches: bullpen; commorancy; crash pad; hole in the wall; home plate; pied-à-terre</p>	<p>S: (n) house (a dwelling that serves as living quarters for one or more families) ”he has a house on Cape Cod”; ”she felt she had to get out of the house”</p> <p>S: (n) firm, house, business firm (the members of a business organization that owns or operates one or more establishments) ”he worked for a brokerage house”</p> <p>S: (n) house (the members of a religious community living together)</p> <p>S: (n) house (the audience gathered together in a theatre or cinema) ”the house applauded”; ”he counted the house”</p> <p>S: (n) house (an official assembly having legislative powers) ”a bicameral legislature has two houses”</p> <p>S: (n) house (aristocratic family line) ”the House of York”</p> <p>S: (n) house (play in which children take the roles of father or mother or children and pretend to interact like adults) ”the children were playing house”</p> <p>S: (n) sign of the zodiac, star sign, sign, mansion, house, planetary house ((astrology) one of 12 equal areas into which the zodiac is divided)</p> <p>S: (n) house (the management of a gambling house or casino) ”the house gets a percentage of every bet”</p> <p>S: (n) family, household, house, home, menage (a social unit living together) ”he moved his family to Virginia”; ”It was a good Christian household”; ”I waited until the whole house was asleep”; ”the teacher asked how many people made up his home”; ”the family refused to accept his will”</p> <p>S: (n) theater, theatre, house (a building where theatrical performances or motion-picture shows can be presented) ”the house was full”</p> <p>S: (n) house (a building in which something is sheltered or located) ”they had a large carriage house”</p>

[1]<https://www.thesaurus.com/browse/house>  
 [2]<http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=house&sub=Search+WordNet&o2=&o0=1&o8=1&o1=1&o7=&o5=&o9=&o6=&o3=&o4=&h=0000>

417 understanding of language. Furthermore, WordNet  
 418 supports teachers in teaching about semantic fields.  
 419 Teachers can guide students to explore groups of related  
 420 nouns, for instance, “vehicle” including “car”,  
 421 “truck”, “bicycle”, and “motorcycle”. This approach  
 422 enables learners to understand how nouns within a  
 423 semantic domain share common characteristics and  
 424 functions. By engaging in such exercises, students  
 425 develop a deeper appreciation for the meaning and  
 426 usage within specific categories of nouns. In summary,  
 427 WordNet is an invaluable tool for teaching lexical  
 428 semantics, offering teachers resources to enhance  
 429 students’ understanding of word meanings, relationships,  
 430 and semantic categorizations in the English language.  
 431

## CONCLUSION

432 Overall, the study emphasizes WordNet’s potential as  
 433 a valuable tool for teaching and learning lexical semantics  
 434 in English nouns, offering valuable insights into semantic  
 435 relationships like synonymy, polysemy, hyponymy and  
 436 hypernymy. Practical applications of WordNet in the  
 437 classroom, such as vocabulary exercises, context-based  
 438 learning, and hierarchical categorization, have improved  
 439 language acquisition and comprehension among students.  
 440 The findings suggest that WordNet can improve lexical  
 441 instruction by using synonyms to match varying readability  
 442 levels, employing polysemy to clarify noun meanings in  
 443 different contexts, and integrating hypernyms and  
 444 hyponyms to illustrate hierarchical relationships among  
 445



447 nouns. Notably, WordNet offers a more extensive  
 448 array of definitions compared to other dictionaries,  
 449 such as the Oxford Learner's Dictionary. Incorporat-  
 450 ing WordNet in teaching and studying enhances stu-  
 451 dents' language acquisition and comprehension skills,  
 452 fostering a deeper understanding of word meanings  
 453 and relationships within the English language. While  
 454 this study offers valuable insights, it also has limita-  
 455 tions, including the scope of the dataset and the focus  
 456 on nouns only. Future research should explore the ap-  
 457 plication of WordNet across different parts of speech  
 458 and in diverse educational settings.

## 459 BIODATA

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