

CONNOTATION

&

DENOTATION

Connotation and Denotation

Connotation:

- Connotations are **perceptions or feelings a word conveys**, which are **distinct** from the **actual meaning** of the words.
- Connotations **are the feelings or emotions associated with a word**. It goes beyond the actual meaning of the word and **paints a picture or invokes a feeling**.

Connotation

- As connotations express feelings, they may be **positive, negative, or neutral** depending on the **context**.
- A **positive connotation** makes people feel good.
- **Negative connotations** evoke a sad or negative psychological feeling.
- Finally, **neutral connotations** have no emotional reactions.

For example, I am feeling very **blue** today.

Connotation Examples

- "The politician's speech was a **breath of fresh air** in the stale world of politics." - In this sentence, "**breath of fresh air**" has a positive connotation, suggesting something new and invigorating.
- "Her laughter was **music to his ears**." - Here, "**music to his ears**" conveys a pleasant connotation, implying that her laughter brought joy and happiness.
- "The old house had **character and charm**, unlike the sterile modern buildings." - In this sentence, "**character and charm**" have positive connotations, indicating uniqueness and warmth.
- "The stormy relationship finally reached its **breaking point**." - The phrase "**breaking point**" carries a negative connotation, suggesting a moment of crisis or collapse.
- "The weather today is **average** for this time of year." The phrase "**average**" carries a neutral connotation indicating a weather that is neither good or bad.

Connotation and Denotation

Denotation:

- Denotations in grammar refer to the **literal or dictionary definition of a word**, as opposed to its connotation or implied meaning.
- Denotations are important in understanding the **precise meaning of a word** in a sentence.

Denotation Examples

Sentence: "The old house has character."

- **Denotation:** The denotation of "old house" refers to a building that has been standing for a long time.
- **Connotation:** The connotation of "old house" may imply charm, history, or uniqueness, suggesting positive qualities associated with age and character.

Sentence: "He is economical."

- **Denotation:** The denotation of "economical" is being efficient with money or resources.
- **Connotation:** The connotation of "economical" may imply being thrifty or frugal, which can have positive or negative connotations depending on the context.

Sentence: "She is a dove."

- **Denotation:** The denotation of "dove" is a type of bird known for its gentle and peaceful nature.
- **Connotation:** The connotation of calling someone "dove" may imply that they are kind, gentle, or peaceful, emphasizing positive qualities associated with the bird.