

## Interpreting Aspects of Meaning: Denotation, Connotation and Appropriateness

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The meaning of a word is primarily what it refers to in the real world – its Denotation. A less discernible component of the meaning of a word is its Connotation. Associations of the meaning, either positive or negative sentiments evoked by a word are generated via the underlying notion of the word i.e. the connotation. The aim of this study is to examine the role played by the denotation and the connotation during the process of transferring an utterance spoken in source language (Sinhalese) to target language (English). The analysis is conducted with regards to two words in the source language, namely Ballá (dog) which denotes an animal; more specifically, a common, domestic, omnivorous mammal and Atha (hand) in which the denotative meaning suggests the body part at the end of your arm that includes the wrist and fingers. The Context of Situation Theory introduced by Malinowski (1923) is employed in the study to ascertain the connotative meaning of afore mentioned words depending upon the context they appear in the interpretation. Despite of the same denotation, varying connotations are attributed in the target language to transfer the precise meaning with relevant to the context. The choice of term made during the interpretation stands as a testament to the appropriateness of the word in the respective context. Accordingly, in interpretation, pertinent to denotation and connotation, the appropriateness to the context is rather a pivotal element to achieve equivalence of meaning amongst the two languages.

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