

## “The Analysis of *Koi* and *Usui* as Japanese Polysemic Adjectives”

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### ABSTRACT

Polysemic words or words that have multiple meanings are often found in various languages, including Japanese. If Japanese learners don't have enough knowledge of polysemic words, it can cause difficulties and errors in the use of these words or when translating them into other languages. *Koi* and *Usui* are polysemic adjectives in Japanese and many Japanese learners only know one of the meanings of these adjectives, causing errors in their use and translation into other languages. The purpose of this research is to determine the meanings contained in the adjectives *Koi* and *Usui*, also to know the basic meaning and expansion meanings, as well as the relation between its basic meaning and expansion meanings. This research used a descriptive analytic method and all data were collected from <https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/> which were compiled, classified and analyzed. The relation between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi* and *Usui* is described using three figures of speech, such as metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche, as a part of cognitive linguistic studies. From the research results, it can be concluded that the basic meaning of *Koi* is a thick color, then the meaning extends into seven other meanings, that means: thick objects, firm face shape, strong taste, thick texture, dominant, strong and big amount. Meanwhile, for *Usui* the basic meaning is a thin object, which extends into five other meanings, that means: bland taste, watery texture, pale color, lack of/weak and small amount.

**Keywords:** *adjectives, koi, polysemic, usui*

### INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in human communication and can be interpreted as a series of sounds that have a certain meaning. The series of sounds we know as 'words'. Kridalaksana (Tarigan, 1994: 446) states that vocabulary is (1) a language component that contains information about the meaning and use of words in language; (2) the word richness of a speaker, writer or a language; and (3) a list of words arranged like a dictionary, but with brief and practical explanations. The word in Japanese is called *goi*. *Goi* is one of the linguistic aspects that must be considered and mastered in order to support fluency in communicating with Japanese both in spoken and written. Japanese language learners will not be able to master grammar and sentence structure in Japanese well if it is not supported by adequate mastery of *goi*. Asano Yuriko (Dahidi & Sudjianto, 2004: 97) states that the ultimate goal of teaching Japanese is so that learners can communicate their ideas using Japanese either orally or in writing, one of the supporting factors is adequate mastery of *goi*.

Same as other languages, Japanese also has a very large vocabulary and sometimes there are words that have multiple meanings that are difficult to understand or translate. Words that have more than one meaning are known as polysemy. Polysemous words has two kinds of meanings, that is the basic meaning (*kihon-gi*) and the expansion meanings (*ten-gi*), or also called the prototype meaning and non-prototype meaning. Sutedi (2014: 162) says that the polysemy of a word arises due to various developments that occur in the community that uses the language. In semantics there is the term change of meaning (*imi no henka*) caused by various things. Changes in the meaning of a word, some are broad, some are narrow; or there is also a completely changed from the previous meaning. In addition, some have changed because of the nuances of refinement or because they are no longer suitable for today's conditions. However, most of the change or expansion of meaning occurs because it is used in a figure of speech (*hiyu*).

In Japanese, there are many polysemic words which also the cause of difficulties in learning Japanese, resulting in various errors in terms of usage or translation. The lack of references or lack of clear explanations from the teacher results in a lack of understanding of Japanese language learners towards the meanings contained in polysemic words, so that they are often mistaken when translating or using them in a sentence. Even in Japanese language textbooks, it is difficult to find an explanation of polysemic words so that Japanese language learners often find it difficult to use or translate these polysemic words.

In Japanese, *Koi* and *Usui* is one of polysemic words which have several meanings. Until now, most Japanese learners are not aware that the meanings contained in *Koi* and *Usui* are more than one, causing errors in translation or use in Japanese sentences. This research checked the meaning of the adjectives *Koi* and *Usui* in various dictionaries, including *Nihongo Daijiten* and *Gendai Keiyoushi Youhou Jiten*. In *Gendai Keiyoushi Youhou Jiten* the meaning of *Koi* is three meanings and in *Nihongo Daijiten* there are six meanings. For *Usui* adjectives found four meanings in *Gendai Keiyoushi Youhou Jiten* and also four meanings in *Nihongo Daijiten*. The Japanese adjectives studied, *Koi* and *Usui*, have different meanings for each word when viewed from various example sentences. Examples of the different meanings contained in the *Koi* adjective are as follows:

- (1) 濃い色が、今日のラッキーカラーよ。  
(<http://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Koi iro ga, kyou no rakkii karaa yo.*  
'Dark colors are the lucky colors of the day.'  
(meaning: dark colors, solid colors)
- (2) バッチリ濃い味の味噌ラーメンです。  
(<http://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Bacchiri koi aji no miso raamen desu.*  
'Miso ramen with strong flavour.'  
(meaning: strong flavour)
- (3) かなりゲームの内容が濃いですのでお勧めです。  
(<http://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Kanari geemu no naiyou ga koi desu no de osusume desu.*  
'It is recommended because the content of the game is quite rich.'  
(meaning: rich content)

The three *Koi* adjectives in the examples above have different meanings. The basic meaning of the *Koi* adjective, which is *concentrated* (meaning: dark colors) is seen in the example sentence (1). While in the example sentences (2) and (3) the basic meaning extends to another meaning. The meaning of *Koi* in the example sentence (2) is *strong* (meaning: strong/concentrated taste) while the meaning of *Koi* in the example sentence (3) is *rich* (meaning: a large number, rich content). In addition, *Usui* also has many meanings, for example as follows:

- (4) 壁が薄いのか、ドアの隙間から聞こえてくるのか、あたかも同室しているような音が伝わってくる。  
(<http://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Kabe ga usui no ka, doa no sukima kara kikoete kuru no ka, atakamo doushitsu shite iru you na oto ga tsutawatte kuru.*  
'Whether it's the thin walls or the sound from the gap in the door, I feel like I can hear sounds as if I'm in the same room.'  
(meaning: thin object)
- (5) わずかだが色が薄いのだ。  
(<http://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Wazuka da ga iro ga usui no da.*  
'The color is a bit pale.'  
(meaning: pale colors)

- (6) その辺がやや認識が薄いのではないかというふうに思うわけです。  
 (http://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/)  
*Sono hen ga yaya ninshiki ga usui no dewa nai ka to iu fuu ni omou wake desu.*  
 'I think that area is lack of awareness.'  
 (meaning: lack of something)

*Usui* also has a different meaning if you look at the three example sentences above. In the example sentence (4), the adjective *Usui* contains the basic meaning of *thin* (meaning: thin object). While in the example sentences (5) and (6) the meaning of *Usui* has expanded. In the example sentence (5), *Usui* means *pale* (meaning: pale/light color), while in the example sentence (6) it means *lack of* (meaning: lack of something).

Looking at the examples of sentences (1) to (6) it can be concluded that *Koi* and *Usui* are polysemic words in Japanese. From the meanings of the words contained in *Koi* and *Usui* listed in the example sentences above, it is believed that there are many other meanings that are not yet fully known by Japanese language learners. In fact, these two adjectives often appear in everyday Japanese usage. For this reason, this research is look for the basic meaning (*kihon-gi*) and the expansion meaning (*ten-gi*), then a description of the meanings will be carried out which will produce an accurate conclusion.

In previous research of *Koi* and *Usui* adjectives that written by Backhouse in 2006, there were several shortcomings that still needed to be improved. In that research, not all of the meanings contained in these adjectives were presented. In fact, it is very possible that the meaning of these two adjectives is more than what can be seen in the dictionary. The research that written by Backhouse is only semantic research, so it did not use polysemy structures. That was the part that should be improved.

To avoid mistranslation and use of *Koi* and *Usui*, it is necessary to conduct research on these words which will later produce a theory about what is the basic meaning (*kihon-gi*) and expansion meaning (*ten-gi*) that contained in *Koi* and *Usui*, then how to describe the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings contained in *Koi* and *Usui* in Japanese sentences.

The purpose of this research is to find out the meanings contained in *Koi* and *Usui* and to describe the relation between basic meaning and expansion meanings using polysemy structure so as not to cause errors in using or translating these words in Japanese sentences. The following is a brief example of the research related to *Koi* and *Usui* adjectives that has been carried out by Backhouse (2006).

Backhouse (2006) in his research entitled *Koi and Usui: Multiple Meanings in English and Japanese* conducted research on the meanings contained in *Koi* and *Usui*. This research is not a polysemy research using a cognitive linguistic point of view, but only a semantic research that analyzes the meanings contained in the two adjectives. This is a research that examine every meaning contained in *Koi* and *Usui*. Backhouse refers to the theory proposed by Morita (1977) and Maeda (2004) in this research. This research also compares the meanings of *Koi* and *Usui* with their equivalent in English so that the meanings contained in the two adjectives are easier for readers to understand. The discussion of the research results is presented briefly by only containing the substance needed by the reader from the research. Backhouse (2006) found that *Koi* and *Usui* in Japanese show the following meanings: density of gaseous substances, physical density of hair-like mass, physical consistency of liquids, content concentration of liquids, intensity of tastes and smells, saturation of colors, content concentration of abstract entities.

The research conducted by Backhouse contains the complete meanings of *Koi* and *Usui*, but this research is limited to a semantic study that only contains and explains the meanings of the two adjectives. In this research, the basic meaning, expansion meanings and the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi* and *Usui* are not explained. An explanation of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings in *Koi* and *Usui* is very necessary for Japanese language learners. Therefore, it is necessary to research the polysemy of *Koi* and *Usui* using a cognitive linguistic point of view.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Machida & Momiyama (Sutedi, 2014: 162) suggest several steps that need to be taken in analyzing a polysemy, that is:

- a. Meaning classification (*imi-kubun*);
- b. Basic meaning (prototype) determination (*kihongi no nintei*); and
- c. Description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings in a polysemic structure (*tagi-kouzou no hyouji*)

According to Sutedi (2014: 162) the meaning classification can be done by (1) looking for synonyms, (2) looking for the opposite, (3) looking at the super ordinate relationship of each meaning that exists, or (4) by looking at the variations of the equivalent words in another language. Of course, this is done based on examples of its use in sentences.

The second step is to determine the basic meaning (*kihongi*). In a polysemy there are only two kinds of meaning, there is the basic meaning (*kihon-gi*) and the expansion meaning (*ten-gi*). For native speakers there may be someone who can determine which is the basic meaning and which is the expansion meaning easily. However, for foreigners learning Japanese as a second language may still be difficult, because they do not have the intuitiveness of the language.

Machida and Momiyama (Sutedi, 2014: 164) suggest two ways to determine the basic meaning (*kihon-gi*) of a word. First, by distributing questionnaires to respondents to choose the one that is considered the basic meaning of the various examples of sentences presented; or by asking respondents to make example sentences that are considered to contain the basic meaning of a word. The second way is by examining the linguistic elements. The meanings of words that can be used freely in sentences are considered as basic meanings, while those that require other elements are considered expansion meanings.

Sutedi (2014: 165) says that the two methods proposed by Machida and Momiyama have weaknesses. For example, for the first method, in addition to determine quite number of respondents, it is also necessary to consider the layers of the respondents, both in terms of age, gender, social strata, dialect (*hougen*) or field of expertise. Sutedi (2014: 165) says that another opinion on how to determine the basic meaning is by looking at the dictionary. It is said that the meaning of the word in the dictionary presented at the earliest is the basic meaning. There are two dictionaries that can be considered to meet the criteria for determining the basic meaning, that is *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten* and *Kamus Dasar Bahasa Jepang-Indonesia* although the number of vocabularies is still limited.

The third step in analyzing polysemy is to describe the relationship between meanings. The description of the relationship between these meanings uses a cognitive linguistic point of view. According to Sutedi (2014: 167) adherents of cognitive linguistics began with George Lakoff & Mark Johnson (1980), Ronald W. Langacker (1987), followed by adherents in Japan such as Yamanashi (1995), Kawakami (1996), Yamada, Momiyama and others. They have tried to describe the relationship between meanings in polysemy by using figurative language (*hiyu*) as their point of view.

Figure of speech was originally the object of rhetorical studies and there are many kinds, but cognitive linguists argue that to describe the relationship between meanings in polysemy, it can be represented by only 3 types of figures of speech, there is: metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche. Sutedi (2011: 86) describe that metaphor is a figure of speech that used to express one thing or things (example: A) with other thing/things (example: B), based on the similarity of both things character. And metonymy is a figure of speech used to express one thing or things (example: A) with other thing/things (example: B), based on proximity both in space and time (Sutedi, 2011:88). Meanwhile, synecdoche is a figure of speech that used to express a general thing or things (example: A) with another specific thing (example: B), or vice versa, a specific thing is used to express a general thing (Sutedi, 2011:93).

## METHODS

This research uses analytical descriptive method, which is the method of analyzing as well as describing a situation or phenomenon that occurs as it is by using scientific procedures. Using descriptive analytic method, this research focuses on analyzing the meaning of *Koi* and *Usui* as polysemy in Japanese from the perspective of cognitive linguistics.

Sources of data that are used as references for this research are various examples of sentences obtained from the corpus, which is the official website that contains a collection of sentences in Japanese that have been published, Japanese language journals, as well as previous research to complement and strengthen the analysis of this research.

The data collection technique used as a reference in this research is literature study, accompanied by literature review by presenting qualitative data. Various kinds of relevant data were collected from various literature sources related to *Koi* and *Usui*. The data collected will be classified, and generalized to produce a logical and accurate conclusion regarding the basic meaning (*kihon-gi*), expansion meaning (*ten-gi*) and a description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi* and *Usui* as polysemic adjectives in Japanese sentences. To identify the meanings contained in *Koi* and *Usui*, several Japanese dictionaries were used, there is *Nihongo Daijiten*, *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten* and *Gendai Keiyoushi Youhou Jiten*. These dictionaries were chosen because the meanings presented are quite complete to facilitate the process of identifying meaning in this research.

The data to be collected is data from the corpus which contains a collection of published Japanese sentences, as well as relevant previous research. After all the data has been collected, a classification will be held based on the type and context. The data used as reference material to analyze *Koi* and *Usui* adjectives are taken from <https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>. After the data is collected, the things that are done in this research are as follows.

The first step is meaning classification (*imi-kubun*). Meaning classification is to see and determine how many meanings are contained in a word. Meaning classification can be done by looking for equivalent words in the dictionary, looking for synonyms and looking for the opposite of each meaning. We collected 67 sentences which contain *Koi* and *Usui* to classified the meanings, but we only mention 8 sentences for *Koi* and 6 sentences for *Usui*.

The second step that must be done is determining the basic meaning (*kihongi no nintei*). After classifying the meaning, then the basic meaning of *Koi* and *Usui* is determined, then it is also determined what the expansion meanings contained in each word.

The last is to describe the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings in polysemy by using figure of speech (*hiyu*) as a point of view, including using metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche.

After doing all the data analysis, a conclusion will be generated that will refer to one point, so that all the main problems in *Koi* and *Usui* adjectives can be solved accurately, and can provide answers that can enrich scientific insight in Japanese language.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Koi* Polysemy

#### Meaning Classification

Meaning classification is done by looking at the equivalent of words in other languages. From the analysis conducted, eight meanings of *Koi* were found, as follows:

- (1) 黒など濃い色のTシャツは、洗濯するとすぐ白っぽくなってしまいます。  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Kuro nado koi iro no tishatsu wa, sentaku suru to sugu shiropoku natte shimaimasu.*

'Dark color t-shirts like black and so on, if you wash them, they will quickly fade.'

- (2) サイドから光が入らない、少し濃い目のグラスがいい。

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Saido kara hikari ga hairanai, sukoshi koi me no gurasu ga ii.*

'It is better to use thick glass so that light from the side will not enter.'

- (3) 髪型とかちょっと濃い目な顔とか。

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Kamigata to ka chotto koi me na kao to ka.*

'Hairstyle or slightly defined face shape.'

- (4) 味見をして少し濃い目の方が美味しいですよ。

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Ajimi o shite sukoshi koi me no hou ga oishii desu yo.*

'After tasting, it would be better if the taste was a little bit stronger.'

- (5) しかも私は、「多血栓症」とか言って、平均よりは血栓量が多くて、血が濃いのだそうです。

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Shikamo watashi wa, "takessenshou" to ka itte, heikin yori wa kessenryou ga ookute, chi ga koi no da sou desu.*

'But I was said to be "polythrombotic", the platelet count was higher than average and the blood was thick.'

- (6) それともただキャラが濃いのだけですか？

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Sore tomo tada kyara ga koi no dake desuka?*

'Or is it just the dominant character?'

- (7) ここには、もはや、謀略の臭いが濃いのである。

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Koko ni wa, mohaya, bouryaku no nioi ga koi no de aru.*

'Here the smell of strategy is strong.'

- (8) いまは晩秋でさほど緑は濃くないが、それでも街を歩いていると、なんとなくそう感じる。

(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)

*Ima wa banshuu de sahodo midori wa kokunai ga, sore demo machi o aruite iru to, nantonaku sou kanjiru.*

'It's late autumn and there aren't many green trees, but when I walk around the city, I feel like it.'

### Determination of Basic Meaning

For *Koi*, this research used *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten* by Kenbou et al. in 1997 as a reference in determining the basic meaning. In *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten*, the basic meaning of *Koi* is 'deep color' which is listed at number one in the meaning of *Koi* in the dictionary. By using the basic meaning of *Koi* in *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten* as a reference, this research conclude that the basic meaning of *Koi* is meaning 1, which is 'dark color/deep color'. While the rest, from second to eighth meaning is expansion meanings.

### Description of Relationships Between Meanings

In describing the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi*, we compare the basic meaning with expansion meanings using three figures of speech, such as metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche which are part of cognitive linguistics. The following is a description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi*:

Meaning 1 (dark colors) → Basic Meaning

Meaning 2 (thick objects) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metonymy

Thick objects are not only seen, but can be felt by the sense of touch (human skin). For example, when hold thick hair it will be different from holding thin hair. Meanwhile, dark colors cannot be felt by the sense of touch, but can be identified by the sense of sight (human eyes). Therefore, the meaning of meaning 2 shows spatial closeness to the basic meaning so that it can be classified into the meaning of metonymy expansion.

Meaning 3 (firm face shape) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

A deep color tends to be more striking than a lighter or pale color. People with a firm face shape are usually more conspicuous and more easily recognized by others because of their facial appearance. So, it can be concluded that the meaning of meaning 3 shows similarities to the basic meaning so that it can be categorized as an expansion meaning by metaphor.

Meaning 4 (strong flavour) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metonymy

Deep colors, as previously described, can be perceived by the senses of sight or the human eye. While the strong flavour is of course accepted by the sense of taste or the human tongue. Therefore, the meaning of meaning 4 shows spatial proximity to the basic meaning of *Koi*, and it can be classified into the meaning of metonymy expansion.

Meaning 5 (thick texture) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

When someone says dark color, the saturation of the color captured by the human eye is so high that humans identify the color as a deep or dark color. Not only the color that described earlier, high or low concentrations of liquids also affect the texture of objects. This is what shows the resemblance between 'deep color' and 'thick texture'. Therefore, the meaning of meaning 5 of *Koi* adjective can be classified into the expansion meaning by metaphor.

Meaning 6 (dominant) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

A dark or intense color will look more striking than other colors. Something that is dominant will stand out more than the others. Therefore, the meaning of meaning 6 of *Koi*, that is 'dominant' can be classified into the meaning of metaphorical expansion based on its resemblance.

Meaning 7 (strong) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

Strong feelings or strong impressions will appear if these feelings or impressions are constantly in the human heart. If feelings or impressions could be counted in numbers, they would be too many to produce a strong feeling or impression. Likewise, with the basic meaning of *Koi*, dark color can be calculated based on its color saturation. The higher the saturation in a color, the darker the color will be. Therefore, the meaning of the meaning 7 can be classified into the expansion meaning by metaphor.

Meaning 8 (large amount) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

As explained several times above, color saturation greatly affects the color perceived by the human eye. The higher the saturation, the darker the color captured by the human sense of sight, and dark colors are of course more striking to the human eye when compared to light or pale colors. Objects in large amount will certainly be more easily noticed by a group of people than objects that are few in number. Therefore, meaning 8 can be classified into the expansion meaning by metaphor.

Thus, the description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi* that has been carried out by this research using a cognitive linguistic point of view, using three figures of speech consisting of metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche, although in fact there is no expansion meaning of *Koi* which can be classified into a synecdoche expansion meaning. From the descriptions of relation between basic meaning and expansion meanings that have been carried out, it can be concluded that the meanings expand metaphorically are (3), (5), (6), (7) and (8) meanings while the meanings that expand metonymically are (2) and (4) meanings. The description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings for *Koi* in this research can be seen in the following chart.

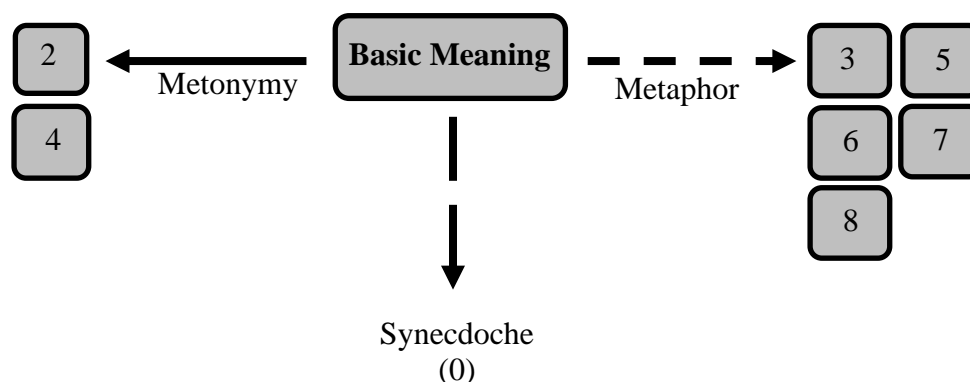


Chart 1: Structure of the relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi*.

The description of the chart above can be seen in the following table:

Basic Meaning	Expansion Meaning by Metaphor	Expansion Meaning by Metonymy	Expansion Meaning by Synecdoche
1. Dark/deep colors	3. Firm face shape	2. Thick objects	-
	5. Thick texture	4. Strong flavours	
	6. Dominant		
	7. Strong		
	8. Large amount		

Table 1: Explanation of the relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi*.

The chart and table above can be read from the basic meaning of *Koi*, which is 'deep colors'. Deep colors are captured by the human sense of sight (human eyes), and usually have high saturation. The basic meaning extends metonymically to number (2) which is 'thick objects' because of the closeness of space. Thick objects can also be felt by the human senses, that is sense of touch (human skin), because the sensations received by humans when holding thin objects with thick objects are certainly different. Then it extends again metaphorically to number (3) which is 'firm face shape' because of the resemblance. The shape of a person's face that is assertive is usually easy to recognize and easy to remember by others. Then the basic meaning extends metonymically to number (4) because of the closeness of space. The taste of food or drink is also received by the human sense of taste (human tongue). The basic meaning extends metaphorically to number (5) which is 'thick texture' because of the resemblance. The texture of a thick



liquid usually occurs because of the high substance contained in the liquid, so that the texture is denser or thicker than other liquids. The basic meaning extends again metaphorically to number (6) which is 'dominant' because of the resemblance. Something that is dominant usually attracts the attention of others, so a group of people will focus more on something that is dominant. The basic meaning extends metaphorically to number (7) which is 'strong' because of similarities. Strong referred in this meaning is intended for something abstract or something intangible, for example feelings, relationships, impressions and so on. For example, strong feelings show how big and many feelings a person has if those abstract feelings could be counted or measured with numbers. Finally, the basic meaning of *Koi* extends metaphorically to number (8) which is 'large amount' because of the similarity. An object with a large number will be more easily recognized by a group of people than an object with a small number.

## Usui Polysemy

### Meaning Classification

Same as *Koi*, *Usui* meaning classification is done by looking at the equivalent words in other languages. From the analysis conducted, there are six meanings of *Usui*. The following is meaning classification for *Usui*:

- (9) 「テキストはできるだけ薄いものを使う」のです。  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*"Tekisuto wa dekiru dake usui mono o tsukau" no desu.*  
'As much as possible use a thin textbook.'
- (10) 炒飯の味が薄いのは、病院食だから仕方ないですね。  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Chaahan no aji ga usui no wa, byouinshoku dakara shikata nai desu yo ne.*  
'What can I do, the fried rice tastes bland because this is hospital food.'
- (11) 血が薄いような気がするので、あまったら戻して欲しいといつも思っています。  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Chi ga usui you na ki ga suru no de, amattara modoshite hoshii to itsumo omotte imasu.*  
'Since I feel my blood is watery, I always want you to return it if it's enough.'
- (12) 薄いピンクの花が、葉っぱに隠れるように咲いていました。  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Usui pinku no hana ga, happa ni kakureru you ni saite imashita.*  
'Pale pink flowers bloom covered with leaves.'
- (13) もしかして、幸せがうすいのは、それが原因なの...?  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Moshikashite, shiawase ga usui no wa, sore ga genin na no...?*  
'Maybe that was the reason why he is lack of happiness ...?'
- (14) 最近、活動が薄いですね。  
(<https://nlb.ninjal.ac.jp/>)  
*Saikin, katsudou ga usui desune.*  
'There's been a bit of activity lately.'

## Determination of Basic Meaning

For *Usui*, this research also uses one of the dictionaries to determine the basic meaning and expansion meanings. The dictionary used as a reference to determine the basic meaning of *Usui* is the same as the dictionary used as a reference to determine the basic meaning of *Koi*, that is *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten* by Kenbou et al. in 1997. In *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten*, the basic meaning of *Usui* is 'thin object' which is presented at number one in the meaning of *Usui* in the dictionary. By using the basic meaning of *Usui* in *Sanseidou Kokugo Jiten* as a reference, this research can conclude that the basic meaning of *Usui* is meaning 1, which is 'thin object'. While the rest, from the second to fifth meanings are expansion meanings.

## Description of Relationships Between Meanings

After finish determining the basic meaning and expansion meanings, the next step in polysemy research is to describe the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings. In the description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui*, we compare the basic meaning with expansion meanings using three figures of speech, such as metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche which are cognitive linguistics point of view. The following is a description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui*:

Meaning 1 (thin objects) → Basic Meaning

Meaning 2 (bland taste) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metonymy

An object, especially if it is a solid object, can be felt thin or thick using the sense of touch (human skin) as well as the sense of sight (human eyes). For example, a thick book when carried will certainly feel different from carrying or holding a thin book. Thin books will feel lighter and easier to carry. Meanwhile, 'bland taste' can also be accepted by the sense of taste (human tongue). The taste of bland dishes is usually caused by a lack of the amount of spices that are put into the dish, thus making the less taste of the dish, or in other words, bland. So, in the basic meaning of *Usui* and meaning 2, human senses are needed to identify it. Therefore, meaning 2 can be classified into the expansion meaning by metonymy because of the closeness of space.

Meaning 3 (watery texture) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

The basic meaning of *Usui*, which is 'thin object' indicates that in the object there is only a small amount of content, so that the object becomes thin. 'Watery texture' denotes the very light texture of a liquid, as opposed to thick texture. For example, watery coffee is also caused by a small amount of coffee extract, or a small amount of coffee grounds, so that the coffee will not become thick, even coffee with a watery texture will affect the taste as well. Because of the similarity that exists in meaning 3 with the basic meaning of *Usui*, meaning 3 can be classified as an expansion meaning by metaphor.

Meaning 4 (pale colors) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metonymy

As explained above that the thickness of an object can be felt by the sense of touch (human skin). Thin objects will be easier to hold or carry than thicker objects. Meanwhile, for the meaning 4 which means 'pale colors', the sense of sight (human eye) also plays an important role in determining it. Therefore, the meaning 4 can be categorized as the expansion meaning by metonymy.

Meaning 5 (lack of/weak) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

Meaning 5 shows something that is abstract in a small amount and is considered lacking or weak. If someone says lack of awareness, it means that the existing awareness is considered to be in a small amount or even lack of awareness. This is the similarity with *Usui* basic meaning which is 'thin object'. A thin object will have less content in it than a thick object, so usually when carried it will be much lighter than a thick object. Therefore, meaning 5 of *Usui* that is 'lack of/weak' can be classified as a metaphorical expansion meaning.

Meaning 6 (small amount) → Extending from the Basic Meaning use metaphor

Thin objects are usually less conspicuous when compared to thick objects, sometimes it almost unnoticed. Something in small amount is also not very noticeable. Therefore, meaning 6 can be classified as expansion meaning by metaphor.

Thus, the description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui* that has been carried out by this research using a cognitive linguistic point of view, using three figures of speech consisting metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche, even though there is actually no expansion meaning of *Usui* that can be classified into synecdoche expansion meaning. From the descriptions of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings that have been carried out by this research, it can be concluded that the meanings that expand metaphorically are (3), (5) and (6) meanings while the meanings that expand metonymically are (2) and (4) meanings. The description of the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings for *Usui* in this research can be seen in the following chart.

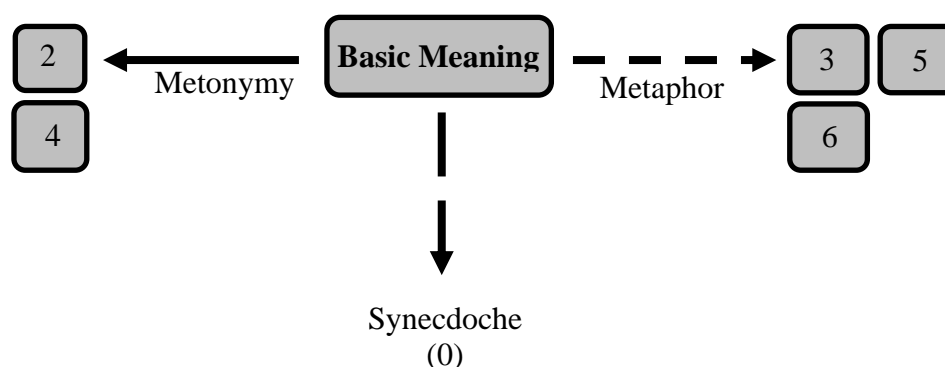


Chart 2: Structure of the relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui*.

The description of the chart above can be seen in the following table:

Basic Meaning	Expansion Meaning by Metaphor	Expansion Meaning by Metonymy	Expansion Meaning by Synecdoche
1. Thin objects	3. Watery texture 5. Lack of/weak 6. Small amount	2. Bland taste 4. Pale colors	-

Table 2: Explanation of the relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui*.

The chart and table above can be read that the basic meaning of *Usui* is 'thin object'. Thin objects usually have little content so that when they are touched or grasped, thick objects will be more conspicuous. Thin objects can be felt by the human sense of touch (human skin). The basic meaning extends metonymically to number (2), that is 'bland taste' due to spatial proximity. The taste of bland food or drink can also be felt by human sense of taste (human tongue). Then it expands again metaphorically to number (3) which is 'watery texture' because of the resemblance. The watery texture of a liquid is due to the small quantity of substances present in the liquid. Then the basic meaning extends metonymically to number (4), which is 'pale color' due to spatial proximity. Pale or light colors are also received by the human sense of sight (human eye). The basic meaning extends metaphorically to number (5) which is 'lack of/weak' because of

the similarity. This meaning is used to describe something intangible or abstract objects such as feelings, impressions, influences and so on. The basic meaning extends again metaphorically to number (6) which is 'a small amount' because of the resemblance. An object with a small number is usually unnoticeable by a group of people compared to a large number of objects.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis described in the previous chapter regarding the polysemy of *Koi* and *Usui*, it can be concluded as follows:

### **The basic meaning, expansion meanings and the relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi*.**

- a. The basic meaning of *Koi* is 'dark colors' (indicating color saturation).
- b. The expansion meaning of *Koi* has seven meanings, there is: thick objects, firm face shape, strong flavour, thick texture, dominant, strong and large amount.
- c. The relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi* is described using metaphor and metonymy, as follows:

Expansion meaning by metaphor → meaning (3) firm face shape  
 meaning (5) thick texture  
 meaning (6) dominant  
 meaning (7) strong  
 meaning (8) large amount

Expansion meaning by metonymy → meaning (2) thick texture  
 meaning (4) strong flavor

### **The basic meaning, expansion meanings and the relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui*.**

- a. The basic meaning of *Usui* is 'thin object' (to express the thickness of an object).
- b. The expansion meaning of *Usui* has five meanings, there is: bland taste, watery texture, pale colors, lack of/weak and small amount.
- c. The relationship between the basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Usui* is described using metaphor and metonymy, as follows:

Expansion meaning by metaphor → meaning (3) watery texture  
 meaning (5) lack of/weak  
 meaning (6) small amount

Expansion meaning by metonymy → meaning (2) bland taste  
 meaning (4) pale colors

With the discussion about polysemy in Japanese language learning, hope that it can provide sufficient insight into polysemy for Japanese language learners and can minimize errors in usage and translation of polysemic Japanese vocabulary in the future.

This study only describes the basic meaning, expansion meanings and the relationship between basic meaning and expansion meanings of *Koi* and *Usui*. In addition to polysemy research, it would be better if a

contrastive research was conducted between the two adjectives and their equivalents in other language such as English. Research like this can enrich scientific treasures both in Japanese and other languages.

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