Lexical typology and polysemy
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I define lexical typology as the cross-linguistic and typological branch of lexicology, with at least three possible major research foci, illustrated here by examples from the TEMPERATURE domain (http://ling-asv.ling.su.se/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page):

**Onomasiological perspective**: What meanings can or cannot be expressed by a single word in different languages? The primary concern here lies with the issues of categorization within conceptual domains. E.g., the TEMPERATURE domain is cut up differently by different languages: in contrast to English, the Benue-Kongo language Igbo has only two temperature terms – *oku* 'hot/warm' vs. *oji* 'cold/cool'.

**Semasiological perspective**: What different meanings can be expressed by one and the same lexeme, by lexemes within one and the same synchronic word family or by lexemes historically derived from each other? E.g., temperature concepts often serve as sources for metaphors (*hot passion*) and are extended to other perceptional modalities (*hot spices*), but whereas some languages show extensive semantic derivation from the TEMPERATURE domain, others lack it or use it to a limited degree.

**Lexicon-grammar borderline**: What cross-linguistic patterns are there in lexicon-grammar interaction? E.g., temperature terms can belong to different word classes, even within one and the same language (cf. *cold*, *freeze*, *heat*). Word-class attribution of temperature expressions and their possible syntactic constructions are sensitive to their semantics, cf. *Er / Ihm ist kalt*.

Polysemy has obviously a central role in the semasiologically oriented lexical typology, but is likewise important for other lexical-typological research questions. However, the tricky classical distinction between *semantic generality* and *polysemy* becomes even trickier in cross-linguistic comparison. For instance, is *oku* in Igbo vague or polysemous between ‘warm’ and ‘hot’? Or does *kalt* in German have a separate meaning ‘to freeze’, as manifested in the special construction with the Dative Experiencer? In my talk I will discuss empirical, methodological and theoretical aspects of the issue of semantic generality vs. polysemy in lexical typology.