

# The Semantic Field of *Triste* Adjectives in French

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**Abstract**—Adjectives describe quantity, adequacy, sequence, order, quality, and word emphasis. Thus, the selection of the proper adjective must begin by finding the criteria which accord with the semantic aspects. In French, adjectives with *triste* 'sad' as the superordinate also have various hyponyms such as *affligé* and *chagrin*. This study examined the similarities and differences in the adjective-meaning *triste* in French, so that learners can use the right words in their expressions of sadness. Qualitatively, the data were taken from the French-Indonesian bilingual dictionary by Lefort and Fatmawati (2016) with reference to *Le Robert de Poche Plus* and were analyzed with the theories of Lehrer semantic field, Nida's (1979) semantic components analysis, and Santangelo's (1995) emotion. The findings showed that, from 21 adjectives describing *triste* in the bilingual dictionary, it was found that there was a great diversity of sad adjectives containing their features and causal factors accompanying a kind of sadness, such as disappointment, sorrow, suffer. Some vocabularies were also used for certain situations, i.e., economic factors, moods, loss.

**Keywords:** *components of meaning, intrinsic features, sad emotion, semantic field, triste*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The vocabulary of each language can be grouped into certain groups whose meanings are interrelated based on the similarity of their semantic characteristics (Chaer, 2007). Each word can also be analyzed for its meaning elements to find out the differences between one word's meaning and another that are in the same group. Words in the same group are commonly words that describe one semantic field of lexical meaning. Each related word has different meaning components so the similarities and differences between words.

Lehrer (1974) explains that a semantic field is a group or number of semantically related words, which are generally covered or shaded by a word that becomes its superordinate with other words which become its subordinate or generally as a hyponym. A group of words will form a semantic field if they contain common and diagnostic components of meaning. Nida (1979) suggests that components of meaning that can connect the meanings of one word with the meanings of other words are common components of meaning. This component is a characteristic that is scattered in all the words that form the basis of shared meanings, especially in lexical devices. The diagnostic components of meaning are components that differentiate one lexical component from another in a lexical

field and are useful for separating meaning from other meanings from a word to a few words.

Research about words has been studied by Jewalani, Laksman-Huntley, and Anjarningsih (2019) who focused on lexical cognitive word associations of Bahasa Indonesia native speakers. Various studies have employed semantic fields in different domains, such as in church sermons (Gitonga, Gathigia, & Nyarigoti, 2018), classification of meaning, lexical meaning, and semantic roles in *menyakiti* verbs in Bahasa Melayu Dialek Sambas (Zulfahita, Yanti, & Purnamawati, 2019) and automatic acquisition of semantic classes for Catalan adjectives (Boleda, Walde, & Badia, 2012).

There are also studies that examine emotions in a diverse way, i.e. emotions in words and words in emotions (Herbert, Ethofer, Falgatter, Walla, & Northoff, 2018), the use of emotions metaphors and how to express them (Ho & Cheng, 2016), the value of ambivalent emotions (Lomas, 2017), and psycholinguistics of emotions (Trnka, Lacey, Balcar, Kuska, & Tavel, 2016), and emotional vocabularies on the list of words of "despair" emotions that enlarge the semantic field in Ukrainian and Russian (Petrenko, 2019). Sad emotions have also been studied in French by Gabriella and Laksman-Huntley (2017) who overcame the problem in translating the French expressions of sadness in the novel, *Bonjour Tristesse*.

Svensen (2009) argues, in a dictionary, entries represent the concepts that are defined, while definitions are verbal explanations or descriptions of concepts. He stated that there are two types of explanations or descriptions of meaning, namely lexicographic definitions and synonymic definitions. The type of definition in this dictionary is similar to Zgusta's (1971) statement: a lexicographic definition contains the main features of the semantic lexical meaning of each word. So, a lexicographic definition only describes the most important or important semantic features of a defined lexical unit, which can distinguish them from other lexical units. Meanwhile, the synonym definition focuses on the sign and paraphrase in terms of designation.

*Triste*'s definition in French, according to LRPP "*qui éprouve un malaise douloureux, habituellement sans gaieté, qui exprime la tristesse, (choses) qui répand la tristesse, (choses) qui fait souffrir, qui raconte ou montre des choses pénibles, qui suscite des jugements pénibles, dont le caractère médiocre ou odieux afflige*". Meanwhile, in KBBP *triste* is (orang) sedih, susah, duka; (muka : terlihat) sedih, tidak

*cerah, mendung, murung, merana; (sesuatu) menyedihkan, menimbulkan rasa sedih, haru, kasihan.* There are differences in the way these two dictionaries present *triste* but it can literally be understood as having the same meaning as a sad emotion.

If we look further from the forming of the microstructures for each lemma in KBBP, there are only a few qualifying requirements. This isn't in accordance with Svensen (2009) which stated: "the microstructure of the dictionary is an internal structure of entries that has four core parts, which must have lemma, formal, semantic-pragmatic and contextual". The structure of indicators for lemma, according to Svensen (2009), is typography, i.e. bold type, with different and larger font size, in capital letters with different colors. The formal part consists of phonetic pronunciation, word class, morphology, part-of-speech. Next, in the semantic-pragmatic part is the meaning of the entry, i.e. equivalent meanings, synonyms, meaning out of context, and meanings with different nuances but still in monosemy. Finally, regarding the contextual part, here, a lemma is translated out of context which follows the semantic-pragmatic part. In a monolingual dictionary, the contextual part consists mostly of idioms presented as examples, in a bilingual dictionary, the contextual part contains the constructs, concatenations of words and idioms that are presented. Following is an example of a microstructural arrangement in the dictionary on the word *lamentable*. As shown in Table I.

TABLE I. LEMMA LAMENTABLE IN DICTIONARY

<i>Kamus Besar Bahasa Prancis</i>	<i>Le Robert de Poche Plus</i>
<b>Lamentable</b> [lamEtabl] adj. Menyedihkan	<b>Lamentable</b> adj 1 littér. Qui est mérite des lamentation → déplorable. 2. Qui exprime une lamentation

Table I shows that *lamentable* in KBBP was successfully defined as sadness, but the explanation was too short and general, and not detailed. The part that qualifies the requirements is only seen in the lemma section, formal and semantic. It lacks a full semantic-pragmatic and contextual part such as giving idioms or examples of word usage. If the entry cannot be defined or translated out of context, there is no semantic-pragmatic part that contains an indication of meaning directly addressed to the entry (Svensen, 2009). Indication of the incomplete meaning can make it difficult for learners to understand the difference between one and another sad word. As can be seen from the microstructure of each entry in KBBP, the information in the entries of each word which has *triste* meaning does not yet appear comprehensive. Therefore, to see the components of meaning in each *triste* words in KBBP, it needs to be further examined through LRPP which is proven from the table to be more qualified to form the microstructure requirements of each lemma.

Based on LRPP, there are approximately 30 adjectives that have meaning elements of *triste*. Meanwhile, of the thirty vocabularies, only 21 words were found in KBBP, i.e. *affligeant, attristant, chagrin, déchirant, désespéré, désolé, douloureux, inconsolable, lamentable, lugubre, malheureux,*

*maussade, mélancolique, misérable, morne, morose, navrant, pénible, pitoyable, sinistre, and sombre.* This shows that some words were missing in KBBP even though it has been referenced in LRPP. When viewed from the macrostructure of KBBP, it is not recorded how many entries are contained in this dictionary, which proves this dictionary is not complete or sufficiently informative.

Continuing on the synonymic definition that has been presented previously, one of the ways used by lexicographers to explain the lexical meaning of entries in the dictionary is synonyms and/or near-synonyms. Synonyms and/or near-synonyms can be presented as additional explanations of a definition (Zgusta, 1971). Svensen (2009) states the explanation of meaning in a dictionary often consists of one or several synonyms or near-synonyms that explain more explicitly the dimensions of the meaning of a sign. Some dictionaries use a combination of explanation's types of meaning which includes definitions followed by synonyms. Based on this, according to LRPP, out of the 21 vocabularies above that has *triste* meaning, 16 of them are synonymous directly with *triste*, while in KBBP only 10 vocabularies identify synonymously. Meanwhile, if the *triste* vocabulary of the two dictionaries is compared, there are only 6 vocabularies synonymous directly with *triste* in both dictionaries, i.e. *attristant, chagrin, douloureux, malheureux, misérable, and sinistre.* That is in line with the theory of social construction from Goddard (2002) through his research which explains that emotions are formed and made from social decisions, cultural values, and other practical cultures. The following is an example of the meaning of the word *lugubre*. As shown in Table II.

TABLE II. DEFINITION OF LUGUBRE

Word	<i>Kamus Besar Bahasa Prancis</i>	<i>Le Robert de Poche Plus</i>
<i>Lugubre</i>	1. Tanda berkabung, berduka. 2. Murung, muram, suram.	1. qui est signe de deuil 2. D'une profonde tristesse, triste

In table II explicitly LRPP gives the meaning of the word *lugubre* as a synonym to *triste*, but KBBP does not give the synonymy meaning of sad. If one of the definitions of *lugubre* in KBBP is taken, e.g. *duka*, according to KBBI, *duka* can be interpreted as *susah hati; sedih hati; nestapa; sedih yang amat sangat* or e.g. *murung*, according to KBBI that is *sedih; masygul*, it can be seen that the word *lugubre* still has *triste*'s meaning elements. This is due to the Indonesian language culture which implicitly knows that *duka* or *murung* shows sad emotions.

This shows that the meaning of an entry contained between two dictionaries, the French monolingual dictionary and the bilingual dictionary demand an understanding of the language culture of each of the speaker's community. Furthermore, synonymy is not just one element that decides if the word has the same meaning as *triste*, the vocabulary of 21 *triste* adjectives which has been found, have a semantic element of *triste* that can be seen explicitly or implicitly

through each word's intrinsic element. We will look deeper into all the 21 *triste* vocabularies to find out how to use each word and see their differences despite them all containing sad emotions.

## II. METHOD

The existence of various expressions of sad emotions '*triste*' which is used in the communication of French people and other people who are learning French, can create difficulties and ambiguity in their expression. The research aims to reduce the level of mistake and ambiguity in a speech that is formed in the expression of sad emotions in a French communication. In line with previous research, this semantic field study of *triste* adjectives in French examines adjective vocabulary which has sad emotional meaning elements which seen through its semantic aspects uncovers differences in each word.

This qualitative research will be devoted to French adjective vocabulary which has the meaning of sad emotions as data and bilingual dictionary Kamus Besar Bahasa Prancis (KBBP) by Lefort and Fatmawati (2016) as data corpus. The bilingual dictionary is used so that researchers can see how each *triste* adjective is presented by the dictionary in two different language points of view. The entries contained in KBBP are sourced from the French dictionary, Le Robert de Poche Plus or LRPP (2012). This study also uses Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) to ensure the meaning of sad words from an Indonesian perspective.

To see the contrast between one word and another in the semantic field, an analysis of the meaning components is needed. According to Leech (2003), "the analysis of meaning components is often seen as a process of breaking down the understanding of a word into its minimum special features, into components that contrast with other components". Analysis of meaning components can be done by analyzing each word based on common components and diagnostic components.

The application of the method of determining the components of meaning expressed by Leech is in line with the theory of Nida (1979) which explains that there are procedures that facilitate the process of analyzing the components of meaning, i.e. naming, paraphrasing, defining, and classifying. At the naming stage, what is done is collecting data in the form of vocabulary which is interpreted as the word *triste* or feeling sad in French, which lexically contains elements of *triste* or sad feelings. This process produces 21 vocabularies that have been mentioned in the previous chapter.

The next analysis procedure is the paraphrase, by listing the core (lexical) meanings of each vocabulary that contains *triste*'s meaning elements. The core meanings obtained are a combination of lexical meanings in KBBP. This stage begins to show a contrast between 21 vocabularies where we found that 17 adjective words are vocabulary words to describe a deep sadness and 4 of them are not depictions of deep sadness. Furthermore, this stage shows that 9 of them describe profound deep sadness caused by the emergence of other emotions such as feelings of disappointment, sorrow, and suffering, while 8 of them are depictions of deep sadness that

are purely caused by the emotions of sadness itself. The difference between the 8 deep sadness adjectives lies in the intensity of the depth of sadness.

Based on the next stage of defining, it is the overall difference in the word *triste* found in the paraphrase stage that will then be described, so that it can be seen how to use the words *triste* in an actual situation. Furthermore, later in the classification stage, words will be grouped based on the components of meaning they have, by grouping the common meaning components contained between the words, separating words that have different meanings from other words, then determining the basis for the group of sadness.

The results of this meaning-components analysis procedure will show how to express sadness in each vocabulary of *triste* adjectives that will be seen in the next chapter.

## III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The profundity of a deep sadness emotion can be seen from whether or not it can be controlled or if it can cause tears. Markam (1992) citing Pramanik (2005) explains that the duration of sad emotions can be felt for one hour to one day, even days depending on the completion of the emergence of sad emotions. Based on this, it can be assumed that the 17 *triste* adjectives found and described in the previous chapter are appropriate to be used in the expression of sadness for someone who has experienced long-term deep sadness, of more than one hour and perhaps for several days that might or might not be controlled with the possibility of tears. *Triste* adjectives referred to are *affligeant*, *attristant*, *chagrin*, *déchirant*, *désespéré*, *désolé*, *dououreux*, *inconsolable*, *lamentable*, *lugubre*, *malheureux*, *mélancolique*, *miserable*, *morne*, *morose*, *navrant*, and *pénible*.

The contrast between each adjective word can also be seen in how the emotion occurs and how it is expressed. Suswandi (2015) quotes Santangelo (1995) and his emotional theory explaining "emotions or moods and states of mind can be transmitted through (a) facial expressions, (b) behaviour or actions, and (3) traits". As well as sad vocabulary adjectives in French, each word has a different way of how to express it.

### A. *Triste* with Other Emotions

Among the 17 adjectives that describe deep sadness, 9 of them are a profoundly deep sadness caused by the emergence of other emotions such as feelings of disappointment, sorrow, and suffering. The French adjectives word which describes the deep sadness caused by disappointment are *désespéré* and *désolé*, sorrow is *chagrin*, *lugubre*, and *morne*, lastly the feelings of suffering are *dououreux*, *pénible*, *malheureux*, and *miserable*.

#### 1. Disappointment

Pramanik (2005) states that disappointment arises when someone hears unexpected news, sees something unexpected, and loses something that is expected, whereas according to KBBI disappointment is *kecil hati*, *tidak puas karena tidak terakumul harapannya*; *tidak senang*. In this case, the word *désespéré* is more appropriate to be used when a person describes his disappointment at losing something expected

and dissatisfied because the something expected is not in accordance with ones wishes. Slightly different, the word *désolé* is more reflective of the discouragement that results from seeing or hearing unexpected news, which arises in a person when he sees someone's unhappy condition. e.g., the word *désespéré* is used for the disclosure of someone who is disappointed with himself because he did not pass an exam, and word *désolé* is used for the disclosure of someone who was discouraged because his friend did not pass the exam. Based on its intensity, the word *désespéré* is higher in the depth of deep sadness than the word *désolé*, because *désespéré* is a condition of disappointment due to broken expectations of ourselves so that it is more difficult to control and lasts longer than *désolé* which is only because of a disheartening expression for others.

## 2. Sorrow

According to KBBI sorrow is *sedih hati, susah hati dan berkabung*. The meaning context of sorrow is in line with the words *chagrin, lugubre, and morne*, each expresses sadness due to sorrow or grief associated with grim information in an atmosphere of death. Here, the three adjective words have the same meaning with the same intensity, which is for long duration and is difficult to control. These three adjectives can be used to express someone who mourns and has a grim expression due to someone's death. These three words can also express the grim situation that results from death, e.g., *il est lugubre;chagrin;morne* 'he was grim (due to mourning)' and *Une atmosphère lugubre;chagrine;morne* 'gloomy atmosphere (due to mourning)'.

## 3. Suffer

According to KBBI, suffer is *sesuatu yang menyusahkan yang ditanggung dalam hati; menanggung sesuatu yang tidak menyenangkan; rasa sakit dan kesengsaraan; keadaan yang menyedihkan yang harus ditanggung*. In this case, *triste* adjectives that are in line with the suffering are *dououreux, pénible, malheureux, and misérable*. These three adjective words can describe a situation of someone who experiences pain due to suffering. The word *dououreux* and *pénible* have the same meaning, which describes the suffering that is caused by the pain from an illness and also the pain due to being left by someone. The word *malheureux* is more for describing the situation of someone who is experiencing unhappiness due to misfortune and misery in life. Furthermore, the word *misérable* has almost the same meaning as the word *malheureux* but is more detailed, the misfortune and misery reflected by this adjective is as a result of economic factors such as suffering due to poverty. When viewed from the intensity of the depth of sadness, these three adjectives are at the same level, a depiction of a deep sadness because the emotions are felt over a long duration that are difficult to control.

### B. *Triste Without Other Emotions*

There are 8 *triste* adjective words that depict deep sadness purely caused by the emotions of sadness itself and without the presence of other emotions. The differences in each vocabulary can be seen from the intensity of the depth of sadness and how it is expressed. The adjectives referred to i.e.,

*affligeant, attristant, déchirant, inconsolable, lamentable, mélancolique, morose, and navrant*. According to the components of meaning contained in KBBP which refers to LRPP, the proper adjective for someone who feels a very deep level of sadness, the highest intensity that is most appropriate for the saddest expression is found in the word *déchirant*. The word *déchirant* shows an expression of unmanageable sadness accompanied by crying for a long duration as if happiness can no longer be obtained. *Déchirant* is a word that indicates a condition of the heart that seems to be cut and torn apart.

The intensity of *triste* adjectives at the second-highest level is *navrant* and *inconsolable*. These two words are only slightly lower than the word *déchirant*. These words are precisely for someone who wants to express his uncontrolled sadness which can be accompanied by crying over a fairly long period of time. The differences between these two words are that the word *inconsolable* is used for the expression of someone so sad that they literally cannot be entertained nor comforted, whereas *navrant* is more appropriate to describe something or someone who has a heartbreaking condition and literally contains the meaning of 'heartbroken' in the word, e.g. *ils ont perdu leur fils, ils sont inconsolables* – 'they lost their son, they could not be comforted' and *c'est une histoire navrante* – 'a heartbreaking story'.

Next, the intensity of the third level *triste*, i.e. *affligeant, attristant, and lamentable*. These three words can describe the expression of sadness that is of a fairly long duration that sometimes can be controlled and that will sometimes bring tears. The context of meaning which these three words have is the same; to explain something that is in a pathetic condition, e.g. *nouvelles lamentables; affligéants; attristants* – 'sad news'. Finally, the intensity of the fourth level of *triste*, is a depiction of a mediocre sadness, i.e. *mélancolique* and *morose*. Both of these words describe the expression of sadness over a situation of something or someone who is experiencing wistfulness and sadness. Both words are appropriate for the expression of a sad emotion that can be controlled within a short duration and without crying.

### C. *Triste as Non Profound Sadness*

It has been mentioned that there are 4 adjective words of *triste* which are not expressions of deep sadness, i.e. *maussade, pitoyable, sinistre, and sombre*. In this case, the four adjective words are appropriate for the expression of sadness that can be controlled, without tears, over a duration of less than one hour. The difference between them lies in the use of each word. The word *maussade* and *sombre* is for facial expressions that are released from an emotion of sadness by someone, literally these words describe a grim and gloomy expression. However, these words are not the only ones used for facial expressions, the word *sombre* also describes the condition of a sad thing, the meaning of which is also equivalent to the word *sinistre*, e.g. *la soirée a été sinistre; sombre* – 'the evening was sinister; gloomy'. Meanwhile, the word *pitoyable* is the disclosure of the condition of someone or something to be pitied, e.g. *après son accident, il était dans son état pitoyable* – 'after his accident, he was in a pitiful condition'.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This study found a variety of French adjective words in the expression of *triste* or sadness emotions. Each vocabulary can be said to have a *triste* meaning-element that can be seen through each definition in the dictionary, it is not only seen explicitly but can also be seen implicitly which requires a review of the use of words from both Indonesian and French language perspectives. Both of these perspectives can be obtained by looking at the definition of each word again through a monolingual and bilingual dictionary. Differences in French culture or habits in expressing emotions, especially sadness, between the Indonesian-speaking Indonesian community and the native French-speaking community, can be the reason for the differences in the depiction of sadness that exists between the French monolingual dictionary and the bilingual French-Indonesian dictionary.

This study questions the accuracy of the use of vocabulary in the expression of sad emotions in French, and through this research, Indonesian people who speak French and who are learning French can use the proper adjective when they want to express the sadness of some kind. In this case, the use of an adjective word in the expression of sadness requires the speaker to pay attention to which targets are sad, whether the sadness depicts for us the sadness describing the condition of others, or whether it is for someone or something. The use of the proper words also requires knowledge of the depth of the level of sadness experienced, which takes into account the duration of the sadness, whether or not the sadness can be controlled, or if the sadness causes tears.

We found that not all the adjectives words of sad expression indicate that a person will cry, as Gabriella and Laksman-Huntley (2017) stated. Rather, in this study, it was found that the presence of tears depends on the level of intensity of the depth of the sadness we experience. This study also shows the suitable words for someone being sad with tears, namely by using words that contain the element of deep sadness with the highest intensity. Adjectives of *triste* in French also have been shown to have a depiction for someone who is sad because of disappointment, sorrow, and suffering. Then the sadness emitted not only involves the state of the heart, but also the physical state as it does through facial expressions as stated by Santangelo (1995).

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