

Peer Review

Review of: "What's in a Name? On the Problem of Meaning-Change"

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The commentary "What's in a Name? On the Problem of Meaning-Change" provides a philosophically rich and conceptually detailed discussion of semantic change, offering structured classifications of meaning-change and proposing normative precepts for evaluating linguistic evolution, which strengthens its theoretical contribution. However, the article shows notable weaknesses, particularly its heavy reliance on philosophical argumentation and illustrative examples without empirical linguistic data, corpus-based evidence, or interdisciplinary validation from sociolinguistics or cognitive linguistics, which limits its scientific robustness and generalisability. Additionally, some arguments—especially those involving socially sensitive terms—appear normative and potentially biased without a balanced representation of competing linguistic or social perspectives. The manuscript could be improved by incorporating empirical linguistic case studies, cross-cultural semantic change analysis, a clearer methodological structure, and engagement with contemporary linguistic scholarship and discourse analysis frameworks to enhance neutrality and academic rigour.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.