

# **MULTIPLE WORDS (*homonymy*) OR MULTIPLE SENSES (*polysemy*)? EXPLORING THE SEMANTICS OF HELONG**

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This paper describes words in the Helong language with multiple senses (*polysemy*), and words that sound alike but are not related in meaning (*homonymy*). These two phenomena create ambiguities for translation and cross-cultural understanding. In translating to or from the Helong language, a translator must be able to recognise and distinguish similar words as having different but related meanings (*polysemy*) or having unrelated meanings (*homonymy*). The evidence for deciding between multiple senses of the same word or different words is done best with the intuitions of a language-aware native speaker, combined with a corpus of text examples.