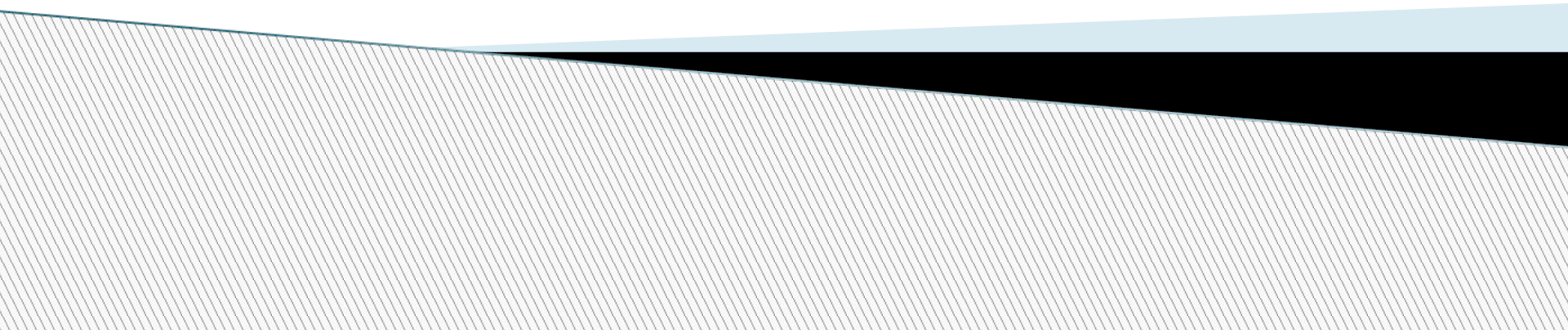


Lecture 1

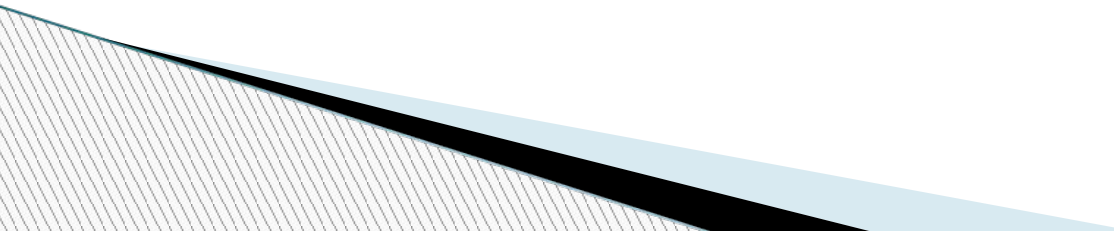
THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY




Lexicology

The term «**lexicology**» is of Greek origin / from «lexis» - «word» and «logos» - «science» /.

Lexicology is the part of linguistics which deals with the vocabulary and characteristic features of words and word-groups.



- The term «**vocabulary**» is used to denote the system of words and word-groups that the language possesses.
 - The term «**word**» denotes the main lexical unit of a language resulting from the association of a group of sounds with a meaning. It is the smallest unit of a language which can stand alone as a complete utterance. A word therefore is simultaneously a semantic, grammatical and phonological unit.
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- The term «**word-group**» denotes a group of words which exists in the language as a ready-made unit, has the unity of meaning, the unity of syntactical function

Lexicology

- ▣ The general study of words and vocabulary, irrespective of the specific features of any particular language, is known as **General Lexicology**
- ▣ **Special Lexicology** describes characteristic peculiarities in the vocabulary of a given language. It goes without saying that every special lexicology is based on the principles of general lexicology, and the latter forms a part of general linguistics.

▣ **Contrastive lexicology**
(контрастивная лингвистика)
establishes facts of similarities and differences of related and non-related languages.

▣ **Comparative lexicology**
(сравнительное языкознание)
studies closely related languages aiming at their typological identity or differentiation.

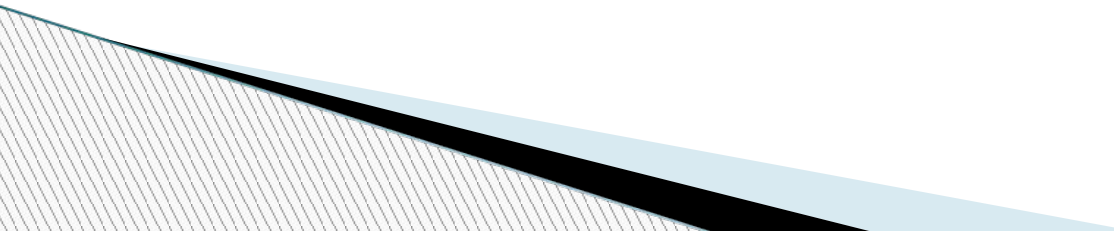
Descriptive Lexicology

(дескриптивная лингвистика)

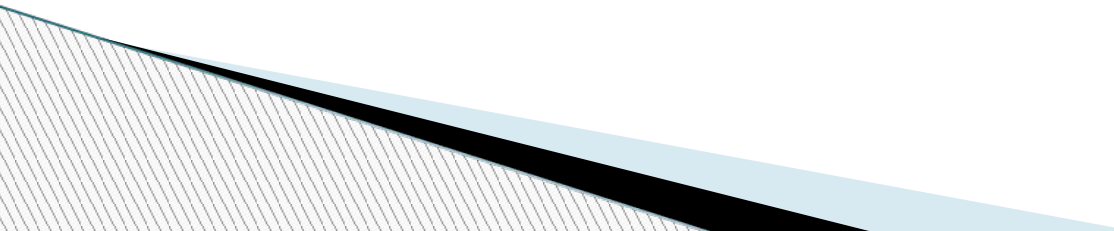
- ▣ deals with the vocabulary of a given language at a given stage of its development. It studies the functions of words and their specific structure as a characteristic inherent in the system. The descriptive lexicology of the English language deals with the English word in its morphological and semantical structures, investigating the interdependence between these two aspects.

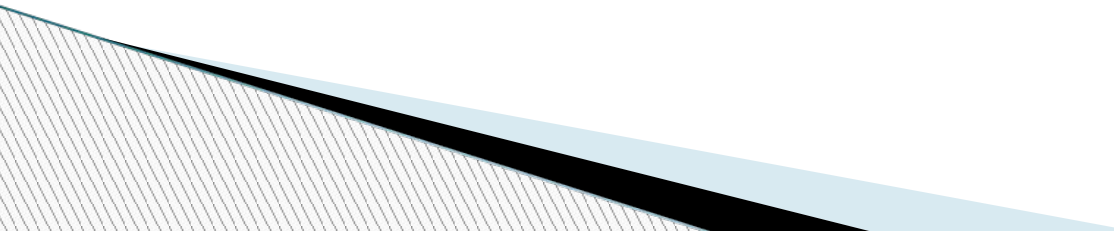
Applied Lexicology (прикладная лингвистика)

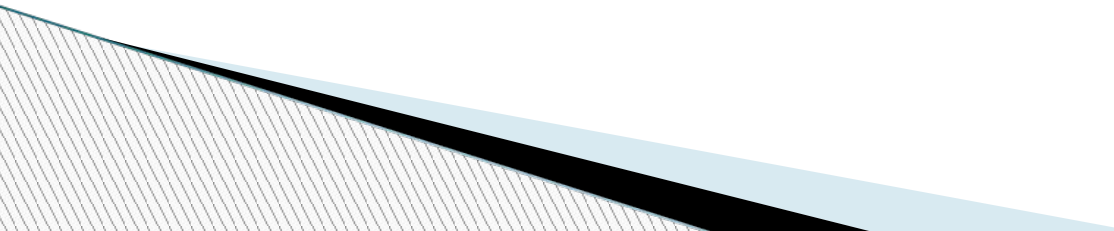
- ▣ includes terminology, lexicography, translation, linguodidactics, pragmatics of speech.

- The distinction between the two basically different ways in which language may be viewed is the **historical** or **diachronic** (Gr *dia* ‘through’ and *chronos* ‘time’) and
 - **the descriptive or synchronic** (Gr *syn* ‘together’, ‘with’). We may study the language synchronically at a given stage of the language’s development or diachronically in the context of the processes through which it develops.
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Historical Lexicology or Etymology

- ▣ deals with historic development of the vocabulary against its socio-cultural background. This branch of linguistics discusses the origin of various words, their change and development, and investigates the linguistic and extra-linguistic forces modifying their structure, meaning and usage.
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- The branch of linguistics, dealing with causal relations between the way the language works and develops, on the one hand, and the facts of social life, on the other, is termed **sociolinguistics**. Some scholars use this term in a narrower sense, and maintain that it is the analysis of speech behaviour in small social groups that is the focal point of sociolinguistic analysis.
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- ▣ **The lexicology of present-day English**, therefore, although having aims of its own, different from those of its historical counterpart, cannot be divorced from the latter. In what follows not only the present status of the English vocabulary is discussed: the description would have been sadly incomplete if we did not pay attention to the historical aspect of the problem — the ways and tendencies of vocabulary development.
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THE CONNECTION OF LEXICOLOGY WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS

- The importance of the connection between **lexicology** and **phonetics** stands explained if we remember that a word is an association of a given group of sounds with a given meaning, so that *top* is one word, and *tip* is another. Phonemes have no meaning of their own but they serve to distinguish between meanings. Their function is building up morphemes, and it is on the level of morphemes that the form-meaning unity is introduced into language. We may say therefore that **phonemes participate in signification.**

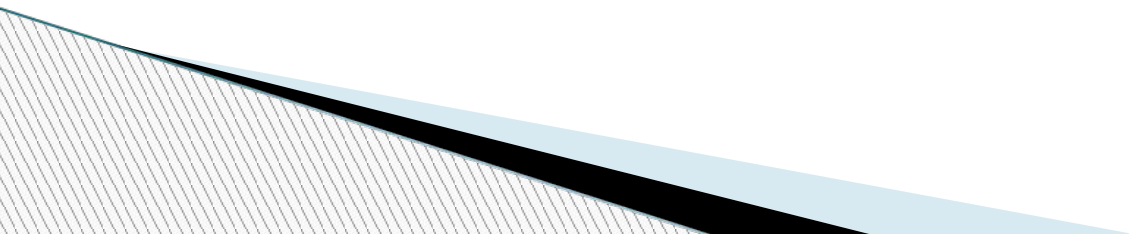
▣ **Paralinguistics** — the study of non-verbal means of communication (gestures, facial expressions, eye-contact, etc.).

▣ **Pragmalinguistics** — the branch of linguistics concerned with the relation of speech and its users and the influence of speech upon listeners.

- ▣ **Historical phonetics** and historical phonology can be of great use in the diachronic study of synonyms, homonyms and polysemy. When sound changes loosen the ties between members of the same word-family, this is an important factor in facilitating semantic changes.

Stylistics

studies many problems treated in lexicology. These are the problems of meaning, connotations, synonymy, functional differentiation of vocabulary according to the sphere of communication and some other issues.



A close connection between lexicology and **grammar** is conditioned by the manifold and inseparable ties between the objects of their study. Even isolated words as presented in a dictionary bear a definite relation to the grammatical system of the language because they belong to some part of speech and conform to some lexico-grammatical characteristics of the word class to which they belong.

