



Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics



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Lexicology

(from Greek "lexis" – "слово, речь",

"lexicos" – concerning words;

"logos" – "учение")

studies the vocabulary of the language as
a complex of its constituent elements.



Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics

Vocabulary - the system of lexical units of the language:

- *words*
- *word combinations*
- *morphemes*

Lexical units – bilateral units



Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics

Linguistic ladder:

5. sentences
4. word-combinations
3. words
2. morphemes
1. phonemes



Branches of Lexicology

- **Etymology**
- **Word formation**
- **Semasiology**
- **Phraseology**
- **Lexicography**
- **Territorial and social peculiarities of lexical units**
- **Neology**



Synchronic and diachronic approaches

The vocabulary of the language can be studied:

- ***Synchronically*** – at a given stage of the language's development;
- ***Diachronically*** – in the context of the processes through which it grew and developed.



English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries

1. According to **the object of description:**

- *Encyclopedic* – thing books:

E.g. The Encyclopedia Britannica (24 volumes);
The Encyclopedia Americana (30 volumes);

- *Linguistic* – word books – they deal with the words of the language;



English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries

2. According to **the number of words:**

- *Big academic dictionaries*; E.g. The New English Dictionary on Historical Principles; 470, 000 entries;
- *Medial-sized dictionaries*; E.g. The New English-Russian Dictionary in 2 volumes (I.R. Galperin); 150, 000 entries;
- *Small dictionaries (in one volume)*; E.g. English-Russian Dictionary (V.K. Müller); 53, 000 entries.

English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries



3. According to **the language of description**:

- *Monolingual* – explanatory (general) dictionaries; the most common type of dictionaries; all the properties of the word are presented – grammatical, stylistic, etymological, spelling, pronunciation; Webster's New World Dictionary in one volume, 160, 000 entries;
- *Bilingual* } these dictionaries give equivalent words in two or more languages,
- *Polyglot* } they do not define the words they list.



English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries

Unilingual dictionaries are further subdivided with regard to **the time**.

- *Diachronic dictionaries* reflect the development of the English vocabulary by recording the history of form and meaning for every word registered. E.g. The Oxford English Dictionary;
- *Synchronic or descriptive dictionaries of current English*



English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries

Both bilingual and monolingual dictionaries can be *general* and *special*.

- *General dictionaries* represent the vocabulary as a whole;
- *Special dictionaries* cover only a certain specific part of the vocabulary.



English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries

4. According to **the functional variant of the language:**
- *General literary vocabulary* (bookish words);
 - *Technical vocabulary*; specialized dictionaries that register and explain technical terms for various branches of knowledge, art and trade; monolingual dictionaries of this type are called *glossaries*.
 - *Territorial variant*; E.g. J. Wright *The English Dialect Dictionary*. 6 vols Oxford 1898-1905; N. Wentworth *American Dialect Dictionary* NY, Crowell, 1944; M.A. Mathews *Dictionary of Americanisms on Historical Principles*. Chicago Univ. 1951;
 - *Social variant (slang)*; E. Partridge *Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* 2 vols. Lnd Routledge; H. Wentworth and S.B. Flexner *Dictionary of American Slang* NY Crowell, 1975;
 - *Concordances*, dictionaries recording the complete vocabulary of some author;



English Lexicography. The typology of dictionaries

5. According to **the main unit of description:**

- *Dictionaries of foreign words;*
- *Phraseological dictionaries;* English-Russian Dictionary by A.V. Kunin;
- *Dictionaries of collocations;*
- *Dictionaries of quotations;*
- *Dictionaries of Synonyms;* English-Russian Synonymic Dictionary (under the supervision of A.I. Rosenman and academician Yu. Der. Apresiayn);
- Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms;
- *Dictionaries of Antonyms;* Комиссаров В.И. Словарь антонимов современного английского языка. М., 1964.



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6. According to **what part of lexical units is described:**
- *Orphoepic dictionaries*; Jones D. An English Pronouncing Dictionary;
 - *Orphographical dictionaries*; Lewis N. Dictionary of Correct Spelling NY, 1962;
 - *Dictionaries of frequency*; Thorndike E.L., Lorge I. The Teacher's Word Book of 30, 000 Words. NY, 1941.
 - *Dictionaries of word formation*;
 - *Rhyming dictionaries*;



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7. According to **the order of units in it:**

- *Alphabetical;*
- *Non-alphabetical (thematic, ideographic, thesaurus Latin 'treasury');*

Roget P.M. Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases Classified and Arranged so as to facilitate the Expression of Ideas and Assist in Literary Composition. Lnd., 1852;

Laird Ch. Webster's New World Thesaurus. NY, New American Library, 1971.