

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РФ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ
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**Практикум по лексикологии
современного английского языка**

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

В основу предлагаемого пособия положена действующая программа по теоретическому курсу лексикологии современного английского языка для филологических факультетов университетов. Пособие предназначено для самостоятельной аудиторной и внеаудиторной работы студентов 3 курса английского отделений (специальности: 022600 «Теория и методика преподавания иностранных языков и культур», 022900 «Перевод и переводоведение») всех форм обучения, а также студентов кафедры иностранных языков СОФ ВГУ.

В нем нашли отражение основные теоретические вопросы лексикологии: этимологические основы словарного состава английского языка, семаσιология, семантическая структура слова, стилистическая дифференциация лексики, словообразование, фразеология, лексикография.

Пособие включает тестовые вопросы, целью которых является контроль усвоения студентами теоретического материала, а также более 300 тренировочных упражнений по всем разделам программы курса лексикологии современного английского языка. Упражнения построены на материале художественных произведений современных английских и американских авторов, газетно-публицистических текстах, извлеченных из базы Интернета.

Предлагаемые в пособии задания и упражнения призваны помочь студентам глубже усвоить теоретический материал, ознакомить их с основными особенностями лексического строя английского языка, обеспечить сознательный подход к практическому овладению лексикой, предотвратить некоторые типичные ошибки в речи и способствовать развитию языковой догадки. Пособие позволит подготовить студентов к более успешному восприятию других теоретических курсов – стилистики, истории языка, практики перевода и т.д., а также способствовать развитию навыков исследовательской работы.

Lexicology: Basic Terminology

Language, a semiological system serving as the main and basic means of human communication.

Vocabulary, the totality of words in a language.

Diachrony, the historical development of the system of language as the object of linguistic investigation. **Diachronic**, historical.

Synchrony, a conventional isolation of a certain stage in the development of language as the object of linguistic investigation. **Synchronic**, representing one conventional historical stage in the development of language.

Sociolinguistics, branch of linguistics studying causation between language and the life of the speaking community.

Lexicology is a branch of linguistics which deals with the 'lexis', i.e. the study and analysis of words. Its basic task is a systematic description of the vocabulary of some particular language in respect to its origin, development and current use. Lexicology, therefore, is concerned with words and complex word-equivalents as recurrent and ready-made units of language.

The word, a basic unit of language system, the largest on the morphological and the smallest on the syntactic level of linguistic analysis. It is a two-faced unit, having a sound-form and meaning as its inner facet.

Lexeme, a word in all its meanings and forms, i.e. a word as a structural element of language (invariant).

Allotex, a word as a member of speech, i.e. a variant of a lexeme in a given speech-event.

Speech, the activity of man using language to communicate with other men, i.e. the use of different linguistic means to convey certain content.

Paradigm, the system of the grammatical forms of a word.

Paradigmatics, 1) associative relationship of words in language as distinct from linear relationship of words in speech (syntagmatics); 2) an approach to language when the elements of its system are regarded as associated units joined by oppositional relationship.

Syntagmatics, linear (simultaneous) relationship of words in speech as distinct from associative relationship of words in language (paradigmatics).

Motivation, the relationship between the form or structure of the word and its meaning.

Phonetic motivation, the connection between the sound form of the word and its meaning.

Morphological motivation, a direct connection between the lexical meaning of the component morphemes.

Semantic motivation, the relationship between the central and marginal meanings of the word.

Paradigmatic relations, relations based on the interrelations of words within the vocabulary system.

Syntagmatic relations, relations based on the linear character of speech.

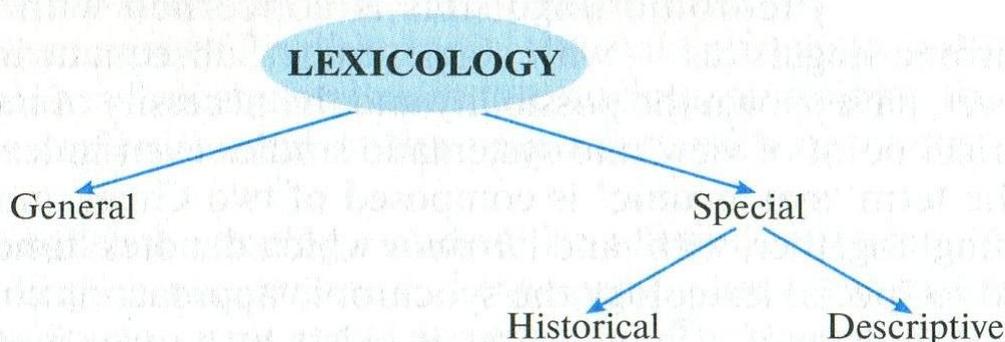
The Object and the Aim of Lexicology

Lexicology is the branch of Linguistics that deals with the vocabulary of a language. Unlike Phonetics, Grammar and Stylistics Lexicology aims at studying and systematic description of vocabulary as regards to its origin, development and current use.

Distinction is made between General Lexicology and Special Lexicology.

The evolution of any vocabulary as well as of its single elements forms the object of Historical Lexicology. In the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries Linguistics was mainly based on historical principles.

Descriptive Lexicology is concerned with the lexical system of a language as it exists at the present time. Numerous varieties and schools of Descriptive Linguistics have contributed, among other things, to the methods of vocabulary research, the main being the analysis into immediate constituents, distributional analysis, the method of linguistic opposition and the statistical method.



Closely connected with Historical Lexicology is Contrastive and Comparative Lexicology, whose aims are to study the correlation between the vocabularies of two or more languages. Contrastive analysis is of great importance in class-room teaching of foreign languages and in translation as it calls for a detailed comparison of the structure of the foreign language with that of the mother tongue.

Lexicology is inseparable from Phonetics, Grammar, Stylistics and the History of the Language.

Lexicology to a greater extent than Phonetics or Grammar is a sociolinguistic science, for in the vocabulary of a language are reflected, recorded and fixed the results of man's knowledge of the world, the concepts and categories which his mind has evolved, e.g. the study of the shifts of meaning in different words shows that the content of words reflected the changes that were taking place in life.

Variations in language depending on social, geographical, educational, sex, age etc. stratification, social evaluation of speech habits, correlation of linguistic facts with the life and attitudes of the speaking community also constitute a large part of problems dealt within Lexicology.

The theoretical importance of Lexicology is determined by the fact that it studies one of the three main aspects of language - its vocabulary.

Practical Lexicology meets the needs of such branches of applied Linguistics as lexicography, language teaching, translation, etc.

The term 'vocabulary' has at least two meanings: 1) a correlation of words in a

dictionary, i.e. the national vocabulary; 2) the number of words an individual has at his disposal, i.e. an individual vocabulary.

Lexicology is concerned with the national vocabulary. The total vocabulary of Modern English is immense and runs to about half a million items.

The vocabulary of a language is not just a collection of words, but as it is now generally agreed, a collection of elements which are related and interconnected in different ways.

The relationships existing between language units may be either paradigmatic and syntagmatic.

Paradigmatic (associative, non-simultaneous) relations are based on the interdependence of words within the vocabulary and manifest themselves in the morphemic composition of the word and in various possible groupings of words (word families, synonymic groups, hyponymic groups, stylistically marked - stylistically non-marked words, new words - obsolete and archaic words, etc.).

Syntagmatic (simultaneous) relations are based on the linear character of speech and manifest themselves through context, e.g. *green fields* and *green years*; *the head of the table* and *his head ached*, etc. Each language is distinguished by its own system of interrelations. This is the reason why vocabulary systems, covering the same field of objective reality and human experience do not always coincide: cf. *рука* - *hand*, *arm*; *мизинец* - *little finger*; *большой палец* - *thumb*.

The units of vocabulary are words, parts of words (morphemes) and set expressions.

Even the simplest one-syllable word is a complex unit in which different aspects of the language interact.

A word has a sound form and a fixed morphological structure. A word has a definite paradigm, and, last but not least, a definite meaning.

The precise linguistic definition of a word is not easy to state. In the course of the development of Lexicology as a science there have been made many attempts to define the term 'word'. It has been defined syntactically (H. Sweet, L. Bloomfield), semantically (Stephan Ullmann), phonologically (Ch. Hockett), and by combining various approaches (E. Sepir, John Lyons, A. Gardiner, etc.). But so far, no exhaustive definition of the word has been given by linguists.

Most linguists hold that for a comprehensive word theory a description seems more appropriate than a definition. The description of the word based on the results of investigations carried out in Russia by eminent scholars such as V.V. Vinogradov, A.I. Smirnitsky, O.S. Ahmanova, L.V. Scerba, M.D. Stepanova - to name but a few - may be summarised as follows:

- 1) the word is a dialectical unity of form and content;
- 2) the word is a structural and semantic entity within the language system, e.g. it exists within the latter as a system and unity of all its forms and variants;
- 3) the word is a basic unit of language system, the largest on morphological and the smallest on the syntactic plane of linguistic analysis.

As compared with words phonemes and morphemes are language units that form words; the phoneme has no meaning of its own; the morpheme cannot be functioning alone.