

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ ЖИТОМИРСЬКИЙ
ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ ІМЕНІ ІВАНА ФРАНКА
КАФЕДРА АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ ТА ПЕРЕКЛАДУ

**КУРС ЛЕКЦІЙ З ОСВІТНЬОЇ КОМПОНЕНТИ «ЗАГАЛЬНА
ЛЕКСИКОЛОГІЯ» ДЛЯ ПІДГОТОВКИ ЗДОБУВАЧІВ ПЕРШОГО
(БАКАЛАВРСЬКОГО) РІВНЯ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ**

Галузь знань	03 Гуманітарні науки
Спеціальність	035 Філологія
Предметна спеціальність	–
Спеціалізація	035.10 прикладна лінгвістика
Освітня програма	Прикладна лінгвістика (англійська мова)
ННІ	іноземної філології

Укладач: кандидат філологічних наук, доцент
Світлана ВІСКУШЕНКО
Розглянуто та схвалено на засіданні кафедри
англійської філології та перекладу
Протокол від «06» червня 2023 р. № 15
Завідувач кафедри _____ Наталія БОРИСЕНКО

Житомир 2023

УДК 81'25
ББК 81.07
В 84

Рекомендовано до друку рішенням вченої ради
Житомирського державного університету імені Івана Франка
від 29 червня 2023 року (Протокол № 13)

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В 84 Курс лекцій з освітньої компоненти «Загальна лексикологія» для підготовки здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти. Житомир: Вид-во ЖДУ ім. І. Франка, 2023. 30 с.

Курс лекцій з освітньої компоненти «Загальна лексикологія» для підготовки здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти відповідають освітньо-професійній програмі «Прикладна лінгвістика (англійська мова)».

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ПОЯСНЮВАЛЬНА ЗАПИСКА

Курс лекцій укладено для освітньої компоненти «Загальна лексикологія», викладання якої здійснюється відповідно до освітньо-професійної програми «Прикладна лінгвістика (англійська мова)» для підготовки здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти галузі знань 03 Гуманітарні науки, спеціальності 035 Філологія.

Мета й завдання освітньої компоненти

Метою викладання навчальної дисципліни «Загальна лексикологія» є формування лінгвістичної компетенції у майбутніх фахівців, яка включає розуміння мови як інтегрованої сигніфікативної одиниці, що розвивається, зокрема загальних принципів будови та функціонування лексичної системи, що дозволяють оперувати мовними засобами в процесі іншомовної комунікації.

Основними **завданнями** вивчення освітньої компоненти є:

ознайомлення здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти з базовими поняттями дисципліни, знаннями про фундаментальні напрями досліджень в галузі лексикологічних студій;

сприяти формуванню наукових поглядів на мову, розумінню її функціонування;

оволодіння навичками диференціації лексики за різними ознаками;

набуття здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти навичок встановлювати парадигматичні та синтагматичні зв'язки слів;

сприяння розвитку у здобувачів першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти вміння та навичок користування різними видами словників.

Освітня компонента «Загальна лексикологія» викладається на 1 курсі, в 2 семестрі.

На вивчення освітньої компоненти відводиться 120 годин 4 кредити ECTS.

Форма проведення занять: лекції, семінарські заняття.

Опис освітньої компоненти.

Найменування показників	Галузь знань, спеціальність, ОПП / ОНП рівень вищої освіти	Характеристика освітньої компоненти	
		денна форма навчання	заочна форма навчання
Кількість кредитів – 4	03 Гуманітарні науки	Обов'язкова	
	035 Філологія		
	035.10 прикладна лінгвістика		
Модулів – 1	Прикладна лінгвістика (англійська мова)	Рік підготовки:	
Загальна кількість годин – 120		1-й	
Тижневих годин для денної форми навчання: аудиторних – 2,2 год. самостійної роботи студента – 4,4 год.	перший (бакалаврський) рівень вищої освіти	Лекції	
		20 год.	-
		Практичні/Семінарські	
		20 год.	-
		Лабораторні	
		-	-
		Самостійна робота	
		80 год.	-
		Вид контролю: Екзамен (2 семестр)	

Тематичний план лекційних занять

Тематика	Кількість годин
Fundamentals of General Lexicology	4
The Peculiarities of Word-Formation	4
Fundamentals of Semasiology	4
Functional and Stylistic Differentiation of Words	2
The Etymological Peculiarities of Words	2
Phraseology	2
Fundamentals of Lexicography	2

Fundamentals of General Lexicology

Lecture 1.

1. General lexicology in the system of linguistic sciences.
2. Morpheme, word, lexeme.

Key terms: lexicology, general lexicology, vocabulary, synchronic approach, diachronic approach, morpheme, word, lexeme

Lexicology, a field within linguistics that focuses on the study of language, is derived from two Greek morphemes: "lexis," meaning 'word' or 'phrase,' and "logos," meaning 'learning' or 'department of knowledge.' Thus, the literal meaning of "lexicology" is 'the science of the word.' The broader study of words and vocabulary, regardless of specific language characteristics, is referred to as general lexicology.

Vocabulary refers to the complete collection of words in a language.

Lexicology examines different types of lexical units, including morphemes (the smallest meaningful units), words, variable word-groups, and phraseological units.

A word is not the smallest unit within a language; it is composed of morphemes. A word can be defined as a unit of speech used for human communication. It represents a group of sounds, possesses a meaning, can be used grammatically, and exhibits formal and semantic coherence.

A morpheme, on the other hand, is the smallest meaningful unit with both a sound form and meaning. It only occurs as part of a word during speech.

Morphemes are categorized as either root morphemes or affixational morphemes. The root morpheme is the central lexical component of a word, carrying its semantic core and having no grammatical properties.

Affixational morphemes encompass inflections and derivational affixes. Inflectional morphemes convey solely grammatical meaning, affecting only the formation of word forms. Derivational morphemes, on the other hand, alter the

lexical meaning of the root and create new words. In many cases, they also indicate the part of speech of the root.

Morphemes that can stand alone as independent words are called free morphemes, while those that cannot are called bound morphemes.

Allomorphs are phonemic variations of a specific morpheme.

Monomorphemic refers to root words composed of a single root morpheme, also known as simple words.

Polymorphemic refers to words consisting of at least one root morpheme and one or more derivational affixes, such as derivatives and compounds.

Lecture 2.

1. Motivation as a language universal.
2. Methods of investigation.

Key terms: motivation, phonetical motivation, morphological motivation, semantic motivation, operational analysis, distributional analysis, immediate constituents analysis, componential analysis, transformational analysis, the method of semantic differentiation

The interrelation between the structural pattern of a word and its lexical meaning is called motivation. Words may be subdivided into motivated and non-motivated (or etymologically motivated). There are three main types of motivation: phonetical, morphological and semantic. Phonetical motivation (lexical onomatopoeia) is observed in words, whose sound-clusters imitate the sounds they denote. The morphological motivation remains the major one. It is observed in derived words and non-idiomatic compounds, whose components give a “hint” on the meaning of a lexical item within a word-formation pattern. Semantic motivation is the relationship between the direct and transferred meanings of a word.

There are different methods of investigation can be applied to studying lexicons of the contrasted languages. They are: methods of contrastive analysis, operational analysis, distributional analysis, immediate constituents analysis, componential analysis, transformational analysis, the method of semantic differentiation.

The essence of contrastive analysis is supposed to establish similarities and differences in the lexicons of the languages under analysis.

Distributional analysis establishes the characteristics of the positions that lexical items occupy in a text. This type of analysis in its various forms is commonly used nowadays.

Immediate constituents analysis is based on a binary division of a word into its constituents, aiming to discover the word’s ultimate constituents.

Transformational Analysis provides for a re-patterning of distributional structures to establish similarities and differences between the meanings of practically identical distributional patterns.

The goal of the componential analysis is splitting or decomposing the meaning into its elementary senses that are called semantic features – basic conceptual components of meaning characteristic of any lexical item.

The essence of semantic differentiation comprises that a word has not only one meaning even one word usually implies some additional information which differentiates one word from another.

The Peculiarities of Word-Formation

Lecture 3.

1. Word formation.
2. Affixation.
3. Compounding.
4. Shortening.
5. Conversion.

Key terms: word-formation, affixation, compounding, shortening, conversion

Word building, also known as word formation, involves creating new words using existing elements within a specific language. Each language has its own patterns of word formation, and along with borrowing, word building contributes to the expansion and enrichment of the language's vocabulary.

Affixation is a method of word formation that utilizes derivational affixes to create new words. Affixation can be divided into two types: prefixation and suffixation. Suffixation is more productive compared to prefixation, meaning it is more commonly used.

Word composition is another productive form of word building. It involves combining two or more stems to form new words. A stem is the part of a word that remains unchanged across different forms and serves as the foundation for grammatical inflections and affixes. Most compound words have clear motivations, and the semantic relationship between the two components is transparent.

Conversion is the process of creating new words by changing the part of speech and distribution characteristics of an existing word, without adding any derivational elements. This results in the basic form of the original word and the derived word being homonymous.

Shortening refers to the process of reducing the length of words or word groups. It can occur in written speech as graphical abbreviation or in spoken communication as lexical abbreviation. Lexical abbreviations can be used in both written and spoken language. Lexical abbreviation involves forming a word by

shortening and compounding the initial elements (letters, morphemes) of a word combination simultaneously.

Clipping involves cutting off two or more syllables from a word. When the shortening occurs at the end of a word, it is called apocope. When the shortening occurs at the beginning, it is called aphaeresis. When syllables or sounds are omitted from the middle, it is referred to as syncope. In some cases, a combination of these types of shortening may be observed.

Lecture 4.

1. Blending.
2. Back formation.
3. Sound-imitation and reduplication.
4. Sound and stress interchange.
5. Lexicalization of the plural in nouns.

Key terms: word-formation, blending, sound-imitation, reduplication, sound interchange, stress interchange, lexicalization of the plural in nouns

Blending, also known as blends, fusions, or portmanteau words, refers to the creation of a new word by combining parts of two existing words. In blending, contracted stems can be merged together to form a new word, or a complete stem can be combined with a contracted stem to form a new word. This process is also referred to as telescoping.

Back formation, on the other hand, is a less common type of word formation. It involves deriving new words by removing a suffix or a similar element from an existing word. This piece that appears to be an affix but isn't is taken away to create a new word.

Onomatopoeia, also known as sound imitation or echoism, is the naming of an action or object by closely reproducing the natural sound associated with it. Semantically, onomatopoeic words can be categorized into distinct groups based on the source of the sound. They can represent sounds made by humans during communication or when expressing emotions, sounds produced by animals, birds, and insects, as well as sounds related to water, metallic objects, or forceful motion.

Reduplication is a type of word formation where a word is constructed by partially or completely doubling a stem.

Stress interchange refers to the phenomenon of shifting the stress of a word to a different syllable when forming a new word. This change predominantly occurs in nouns and verbs.

Sound interchange, also known as gradation, involves the creation of a new word through the alteration of the phonemic structure of the root. This alteration can affect the root vowel, consonant, or both. Sound interchange is a characteristic feature of Indo-European languages and can sometimes be accompanied by affixation.

Lexicalization of the plural in nouns occurs when the plural form of certain nouns attains the status of a distinct new lexeme.

Fundamentals of Semasiology

Lecture 5.

1. Semasiology, approaches to lexical meaning.
2. The meaning of signs and kinds of meaning.
3. Polysemy, its causes and types.
4. Semantic field structure.

Key terms: semasiology, lexical meaning, grammatical meaning, denotation, connotation, polysemy, semantic field

Semasiology, a branch of linguistics, focuses on the study of the meaning of words and their equivalents. It examines various aspects, including types of lexical meaning, polysemy, semantic structure of words, semantic development, changes in word meanings, semantic grouping in vocabulary systems (such as synonyms, antonyms, semantic fields, and thematic groups).

A common feature of referential approaches is the connection between meaning and the referent, which refers to the object of reality indicated by a word. Meaning is understood as an object or phenomenon in the external world that is referred to by a word.

The functional approach to meaning, commonly used in contemporary lexicological analysis, examines words in context, defining them based on their function within phrases or sentences. This approach is utilized in contextual analysis, semantic syntax, and other linguistic branches, where the meaning of a linguistic unit is studied through its relation to other units. Meaning is seen as the function of a word in speech.

Meaning is the mental reflection of objects, phenomena, or relationships, forming part of the linguistic sign's inner facet, while the sound form serves as its outer facet. Grammatical meaning refers to the expression of relationships between words in speech. It is more abstract and generalized than lexical meaning, appearing in identical sets of individual forms across different words, such as the meaning of plurality.

Lexical meaning is the expression of concepts or emotions through a specific language system, according to various authors. Denotation refers to the conceptual content expressed by a word's denotative meaning, serving as a linguistic expression for a concept or as a name for an individual object. Denotational meaning enables communication.

Connotation represents the pragmatic communicative value that a word acquires based on its usage in terms of location, time, manner, speaker, purpose, and context. Four main types of connotations include stylistic, emotional, evaluative, and expressive or intensifying.

A polysemantic word possesses multiple meanings within a language, forming its semantic structure. This structure comprises recurrent variants and shades of meaning that a particular sound complex can assume in different contexts, along with their emotional coloring, stylistic peculiarities, and other typical connotations. The semantic structure of a word is a linguistic fact, developed and established throughout the language's history. More frequent words tend to have a larger number of meanings in their semantic structure.

A lexico-semantic variant refers to one of the meanings of a word. The collection of all lexico-semantic variants forms the semantic structure or semantic paradigm of a word. The challenge in polysemy is understanding the interrelation among different lexico-semantic variants. While there may not be a single common semantic component shared by all variants, each variant shares something in common with at least one other variant.

A semantic field is a closely related group of vocabulary items characterized by a common concept. The members of a semantic field are not synonymous, but they are connected by a shared semantic component, often described as the common denominator of meaning. Examples include the concepts of kinship, color, and parts of the human body.

Thematic or ideographic groups are clusters of words that share common contextual associations within a sentence, reflecting the interconnectedness of objects and events in objective reality.

Hyponymy refers to the semantic relationship of inclusion between elements at various levels. The hyponymic relationship exists between the meaning of general terms and individual terms. A hyperonym is a generic term that represents the general category, while hyponyms refer to more specific terms.

Lecture 6.

1. The main semantic processes.
2. Synonymy, classification of synonyms.
3. Homonymy, classification of homonyms.
4. Antonymy, classification of antonyms.

Key terms: extension of meaning, narrowing of meaning, degradation of meaning, elevation of meaning, synonymy, homonymy, antonymy

Extension, also referred to as the widening of meaning, pertains to the expansion of a word's semantic capacity and the increase in its multiple meanings throughout its historical development.

On the contrary, narrowing of meaning involves the limitation of a word's semantic capacity over time.

Elevation, or amelioration, signifies the semantic change in a word that raises it from a position of lesser importance or humble beginnings to one of greater significance.

In contrast, degradation is a semantic change wherein a word, due to various reasons, loses its esteemed reputation or acquires a derogatory emotional connotation.

Changes in the denotational component of a word lead to the extension or restriction of its meaning, whereas changes in the connotational component can result in the degradation of meaning, whether in a negative or positive sense.

Metaphor entails the transfer of a name based on the association of similarity. It involves using a name or descriptive term to describe an object that is not literally applicable but shares certain similarities.

Metonymy, on the other hand, involves the transfer of a name based on the association of contiguity. It is a common linguistic device where the name of one thing is substituted with that of another, which is closely related or associated with it.

Synonymy denotes the fundamental similarity in meaning between words, even though they may have different connotations and stylistic characteristics. Synonyms are words that belong to the same part of speech and share identical or nearly identical denotational meanings, allowing for interchangeability in specific contexts. However, they are distinguished by nuances in meaning, connotations, and stylistic features. The synonymic dominant refers to the most general term that encompasses the specific features represented by all other members of the synonymic group.

Based on differences in the denotational or connotational components, synonyms can be classified as ideographic or stylistic. Ideographic synonyms represent different shades of meaning or degrees of a given quality. While they may be nearly identical in one or more denotational meanings and interchangeable in certain contexts, stylistic synonyms differ more in emotive value or the specific stylistic contexts in which they are used. In literary language, poetic words or archaisms are often used as stylistic alternatives to neutral words.

Total, or absolute, synonyms are rare and refer to members of a synonymic group that can replace each other in any context without any change in denotative meaning or emotional connotations.

Contextual or context-dependent synonyms are similar in meaning only under specific distributional conditions.

Homonyms are words that have the same form but differ in meaning. The term "same form" implies identity in sound form or spelling, considering all three aspects: sound-form, graphic form, and meaning.

Homonyms proper, or perfect homonyms, are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings.

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spelling and meaning.

Homographs are words that have different sound and meaning but accidentally share the same spelling.

From an origin perspective, homonyms are sometimes classified as historical or etymological. Historical homonyms result from the split of polysemy, where one word with multiple meanings splits into two or more separate words.

Etymological homonyms are words of different origins that become similar in sound or spelling (and may have both identical written and pronounced forms).

Paronyms are words that have similar forms but differ in meaning and usage. They are susceptible to being confused and sometimes mistakenly interchanged.

Antonyms are words of the same part of speech that differ in sound and are characterized by the semantic opposition of their denotational meanings. Antonyms can be subdivided into antonyms proper, complete antonyms, and conversives, based on the nature of their semantic opposition.

In antonyms proper, the semantic polarity is subjective, and the opposition between the words is gradual, encompassing multiple elements with varying degrees of the same characteristic. They always imply a comparison between the opposing terms.

Complementaries are words that exhibit a binary opposition, consisting of only two members. The denial or negation of one member implies the affirmation or assertion of the other.

Conversives are words that refer to the same entity but from different perspectives or viewpoints, specifically those of the subject and the object. Morphologically, antonyms can be divided into root (absolute) antonyms and derivational antonyms based on their word formation processes.

Functional and Stylistic Differentiation of Words

Lecture 7.

1. Functional style.
2. Stylistically-neutral words.
3. Stylistically-marked words.

Key terms: functional style, stylistically-neutral words, stylistically-marked words, formal vocabulary, informal vocabulary

The style of speech is determined by the social context in which it occurs. Styles refer to variations of a literary language that are employed in different communication situations. The term "style" originates from the Greek word "stylos," which denotes a sharp stick made of bone, wood, or metal used for writing on wax tablets. The vocabulary can be broadly divided into two categories: stylistically-neutral words and stylistically-marked words.

Functional style represents a coherent system of language features that serve specific communicative purposes. The following functional styles exist:

- Official or formal style.
- Scientific style.
- Publicistic or mass-media style.
- Belles-lettres style or fiction style.
- Informal style.
- Colloquial style (informal style).
- Slang.

Each style can be manifested both orally and in written form. The appropriateness or inappropriateness of a word in a particular situation depends on its stylistic characteristics or, in other words, the functional style it represents. Functional style is defined as a set of expressive means particular to a specific sphere of communication.

The term "sphere of communication" refers to the circumstances surrounding the process of speech in a given case, such as professional communication, a lecture, an informal conversation, or a formal letter. These circumstances can be classified as either formal or informal.

Formal style is used in formal communication and encompasses words related to professional discourse and learned vocabulary. Learned words, also known as bookish words, can be further categorized into words used in scientific writing, official style words, literary words, and poetic words.

Informal vocabulary is employed within one's immediate social circle, including family, relatives, and friends. Informal style is used in casual settings or when one feels at ease. Informal words and word combinations can be divided into colloquial language, slang, dialect words, and idiomatic expressions.

The Etymological Peculiarities of Words

Lecture 8.

1. Etymology as a branch of lexicology.
2. Words of native origin and borrowings.
3. Assimilation of borrowings.

Key terms: etymology, native words, borrowed words, translation loan, semantic loan, assimilation, international words, etymological doublets

From the etymological standpoint, the vocabulary of a language is not uniform. It consists of two layers: native words and borrowed ones. Numerically, borrowed words surpass native words by a significant margin. Native words exhibit a broader range of lexical and grammatical valency, displaying high levels of polysemy and productivity in forming word clusters and set expressions.

Borrowed words, also known as loan words or borrowings, are words adopted from another language and modified to fit the patterns of the receiving language. In many cases, a borrowed word, especially those borrowed long ago, is virtually indistinguishable from a native word without a thorough etymological analysis.

The presence of borrowings in a language's vocabulary and their significance are determined by the historical development of the speaking community. The most common form of borrowing is direct borrowing from another language through contact with its people or literature. However, words can also be borrowed indirectly, not directly from the source language, but through another intermediate language.

When analyzing borrowed words, it is important to differentiate between the "source of borrowing" and the "origin of borrowing." The former refers to the immediate language from which the word was borrowed, while the latter pertains to the language from which the word can ultimately be traced. The closer the structural similarity between the interacting languages, the easier it is for words from one language to enter the other.

Translation loans are words or expressions formed in the language based on the patterns of the source language, resulting in a word-for-word translation. Semantic loans involve borrowing a new meaning for a word that already exists in the language.

Etymological doublets are two or more words in the same language that originate from the same basic word but arrived through different routes. They exhibit differences in form, meaning, and current usage to some extent.

International words have the same origin and appear in multiple languages due to simultaneous or successive borrowings from a common source.

Assimilation refers to the process of partially or fully conforming borrowed words to the phonetic, graphic, and morphological standards of the receiving language and its semantic system.

Completely assimilated borrowings are words that have undergone all types of assimilation. They are commonly used and have a stylistically neutral nature. They may even become dominant words within a synonymic group and actively participate in word formation. Partially assimilated borrowings lack one or more types of assimilation and can be further categorized into groups based on their lack of semantic, grammatical, phonetic, or graphic assimilation.

Barbarisms are words from other languages used by people in conversation or writing without any assimilation to the receiving language, lacking corresponding equivalents.

Phraseology

Lecture 9.

1. Phraseology as a branch of lexicology.
2. The criteria for distinguishing phraseological units.
3. Classifications of phraseological units.
4. Phraseological homonymy, synonymy, antonymy.

Key terms: phraseology, free word-combination, phraseological unit, synonyms in phraseology, antonyms in phraseology

Phraseological units, commonly referred to as idioms, represent the most vivid, colorful, and expressive part of a language's vocabulary. A phraseological unit is a fixed word-group that cannot be freely created in speech but is used as a pre-established unit.

Reproducibility refers to the regular use of phraseological units in speech as unalterable collocations.

Idiomaticity characterizes the quality of a phraseological unit in which the meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from the sum of the meanings of its parts.

Stability of a phraseological unit means that it exists as a pre-established linguistic unit, allowing no variation in its lexical components or grammatical structure.

In English and American linguistics, there is no specific field of study dedicated to phraseology, and the term "phraseology" has a stylistic connotation, defined by Webster's dictionary as the "mode of expression" or the distinctive choice and arrangement of words and phrases characteristic of a particular author or literary work.

The essential features of phraseological units include:

- a) lack of semantic motivation;
- b) lexical and grammatical stability.

In terms of semantic motivation, phraseological units can vary from motivated (by the simple addition of denotational meaning) to partially motivated (when one of the words is used in a non-literal sense) or completely unmotivated.

Lexical and grammatical stability of phraseological units is demonstrated by the fact that no substitution of any elements is possible within these fixed (unchangeable) expressions, which differ in many other aspects.

The semantic approach emphasizes the importance of idiomaticity, functional-syntactic inseparability, and contextual stability, combined with idiomaticity. Three types of phraseological units are suggested based on their motivation: phraseological combinations, phraseological unities, and phraseological fusions.

A.V. Koonin's classification is based on the functions these units fulfill in speech. They may serve as nominating, interjectional, or nominating-communicative expressions. Further classification into subclasses depends on whether the units are changeable or unchangeable and whether the meaning of one element remains independent, as well as on the interrelationship between the meanings of the elements and the meaning of the entire set expression.

Fundamentals of Lexicography

Lecture 10.

1. Lexicography, its main issues, tasks, significance.
2. Types of dictionaries.

Key terms: lexicography, headword, entry, dictionary, encyclopaedic dictionary, linguistic dictionary

Lexicography, an important field of linguistics, encompasses the theory and practice of creating dictionaries.

The challenges in lexicography are associated with selecting headwords, determining the number, structure, and content of vocabulary entries in different types of dictionaries. The initial set of lexicographical issues pertains to selection.

Firstly, there is a question of whether a general descriptive dictionary, whether monolingual or bilingual, should provide historical information about a word.

Secondly, when compiling a dictionary that should not be overly bulky, the selection between scientific and technical terms is crucial.

Thirdly, there is a debate about whether a monolingual explanatory dictionary should strive to include all the words of the language, including neologisms, nonce words, slang, etc., and objectively document all words actually used by people, or if it should be prescriptive or even prohibitive.

Dictionary compilers should aim to enhance and standardize the vocabulary of a language based on exemplary classical usage and guide readers on preferred usage. An increasingly modern criterion for entry selection is the frequency of words to be included, particularly for practical purposes in creating graded elementary textbooks.

Another problem relates to determining which selected units deserve separate entries and which should be included under a single headword. These issues concern the distinctiveness and commonality of words. The former addresses the syntagmatic boundaries of word units and resolves questions like whether "each other" is a pair

of separate words to be treated independently under the headwords "each" and "other," or if "each other" is a unit deserving its own dedicated entry.

The third set of problems pertains to the structure and content of dictionary entries in different types of dictionaries. Historical dictionaries primarily focus on tracing the development of a language's vocabulary. They arrange various senses chronologically, starting with etymology and followed by the earliest meanings marked as "obs." (obsolete). Etymologies can be comparative or limited to a single language. The evolution of the word is illustrated through quotations, spanning from the oldest to the most recent usage.

Descriptive dictionaries, which deal with present-day usage, face their own specific challenges. They prioritize the most important meanings of words. Synchronic dictionaries should also indicate the distribution of each word. Traditionally, this is done by labeling words with their part of speech and noting grammatically or lexically bound meanings.

The third group of lexicographic challenges revolves around defining words in a monolingual dictionary. While explaining meaning, a group of synonyms can provide a reasonably general idea, but a single synonym is never sufficient as absolute synonyms do not exist. Furthermore, relying solely on synonyms for explanation would lead the reader into a circular pattern of synonymic references, without actually explaining any word. Definitions serve this purpose more effectively.

Unilingual or explanatory dictionaries are those where words and their definitions belong to the same language, while bilingual or translation dictionaries provide equivalents in another language to explain words.

Both bilingual and unilingual dictionaries can be classified as general or special.

General dictionaries cover the vocabulary as a whole, while special dictionaries focus on specific parts of the vocabulary.

Special dictionaries can be further categorized based on whether words are selected according to the field of human activity in which they are used (e.g.,

technical dictionaries), the type of units themselves (e.g., phraseological dictionaries), or the relationships between them (e.g., dictionaries of synonyms).

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