

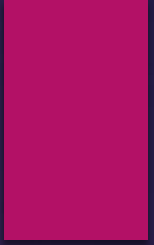
Lecture I. Working Definitions of Principal Concepts

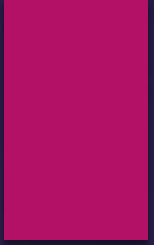


- ▶ Lexicology is a branch of linguistics, the science of language.
- ▶ All branches also take account of words in one way or another approaching them from different angles.
- ▶ Phonetics - study of the outer sound form of the word
- ▶ Grammar is concerned with the various means of expressing grammatical relations between words and with the patterns after which words are combined into word-groups and sentences



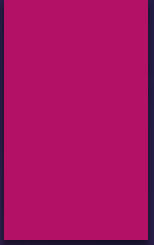
- ▶ Lexicology as a branch of linguistics has its own aims and methods of scientific research, its basic task being a study and systematic description of vocabulary in respect to its origin, development and current use. Lexicology is concerned with words, variable word-groups, phraseological units, and with morphemes which make up words.

- 
- ▶ There are two principal approaches in linguistic science to the study of language material, namely:
 - ▶ The synchronic is concerned with the vocabulary of a language as it exists at a given time
 - ▶ The diachronic approach deals with the changes and the development of vocabulary in the course of time

- 
- ▶ Lexicology studies various lexical units: morphemes, words, variable word-groups and phraseological units.
 - ▶ Word is the basic unit of language system, the largest on the morphologic and the smallest on the syntactic plane of linguistic analysis.

- ▶ Etymologically the vocabulary of the English language is far from being homogeneous. It consists of two layers - the native stock of words and the borrowed stock of words.
- ▶ Borrowed words (or loan words or borrowings) are words taken over from another language and modified according to the patterns of the receiving language.
- ▶ In many cases a borrowed word especially one borrowed long ago is practically indistinguishable from a native word

street, school, face

- 
- ▶ When analysing borrowed words one must distinguish between the two terms:
 - 1) "source of borrowing" is applied to the language from which the word was immediately borrowed
 - 2) "origin of borrowing" is applied to the language to which the word may be ultimately traced

e.g. *table* - source of borrowing - French, origin of borrowing - Latin

Ways of classifying the borrowed stock of words.

The borrowed stock of words may be classified according to:

- 1) the nature of the borrowing itself as borrowings proper,
- 2) translation loans

the moment of truth - sp. el momento de la verdad

- 3) semantic loans

shock brigade - "аварийная бригада" (Russian)

▶ **Russian - English lexical correlations**

- ▶ Assimilation is the process of changing the adopted word. It includes changes in sound form of morphological structure, grammar characteristics, meaning and usage.
- ▶ Phonetic assimilation comprises changes in sound form and stress.
- ▶ Grammatical adaption
- ▶ *datum* pl. *data*, *criterion* - pl. *criteria*
- ▶ Completely assimilated borrowings are the words, which have undergone all types of assimilation.
- ▶ Partially assimilated borrowings are the words which lack one of the types of assimilation (*shah*, *rajah*, *datum* – *data*, *machine*, *camouflage*)


► Test

1) Lexicology studies:

- a. Words
- b. Sounds
- c. Sentences
- d. Prosodic units

2) The diachronic approach of lexicology deals with

- a. the vocabulary of a language as it exists at a given time
- b. the vocabulary of a language as it exists at a not specified period of time
- c. the changes and the development of vocabulary in the course of time
- d. the changes and the development of prosody in the course of time

- 
- ▶ 3) What statement is **not** true:
- a. Etymologically the vocabulary of the English language is far from being homogeneous
 - b. Borrowed words are words taken over from another language and modified according to the patterns of the receiving language
 - c. Source of borrowing is applied to the language to which the word may be ultimately traced
 - d. In many cases a borrowed word especially one borrowed long ago is practically indistinguishable from a native word without a thorough etymological analysis

- ▶ 4) What is an example of phonetic assimilation?
 - a. In the recent French borrowings *communiqué*, *café* the long [e] and [e] are rendered with the help of [ei].
 - b. datum pl. data, criterion - pl. criteria
 - c. narrowing of meanings (usually polysemantic words are borrowed in one of the meanings)
 - d. specialisation or generalisation of meanings

5) What is an example of completely assimilated borrowing?

- a. ballet, buffet
- b. bourgeois, prestige
- c. crisis – crises
- d. husband, face

Answers

- ▶ 1. a
- ▶ 2. c
- ▶ 3. c
- ▶ 4. a
- ▶ 5. d