




English Lexicology

8 lectures

13 seminars

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- Seminars– 65
 - Final test – 5
 - Exam – 30

Lexicology as the science of the Vocabulary

- The Object of Lexicology
- The Theoretical and Practical Value of English Lexicology
- The Connection of Lexicology with Other Branches of Linguistics
- Types of Lexical Units
- The Notion of Lexical System

- Арнольд И. В. Лексикология современного английского языка. // Учебники и учебные пособия для ВУЗов - М.: Флинта, 2012 – стр. 7- 26 (§1-21);
- Бабич Г. Н. Lexicology: A Current Guide. Лексикология английского языка. // Учебное пособие. М.: Издательство «Флинта», 2010 – стр. 9 – 18; стр. 133 – 140.

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- Lexicology (from Gr *lexis* 'word' and *logos* 'learning') is the part of linguistics dealing with the vocabulary of the language and the properties of words as the main units of language.



THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- **Vocabulary** - the system formed by the sum total of all the words and word equivalents that the language possesses.

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- The term **word** denotes the basic unit of a given language resulting from the association of a particular meaning with a particular group of sounds capable of a particular grammatical employment. A word therefore is simultaneously a semantic, grammatical and phonological unit.

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- dog
- dogs
- dog' s

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- General lexicology deals with the general study of words and vocabulary, irrespective of the specific features of any particular language.
- Special lexicology devotes its attention to the description of the characteristic peculiarities in the vocabulary of a given language.
- Contrastive lexicology
- Historical lexicology or etymology
- Descriptive lexicology

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- There are two principal approaches in linguistic science to the study of language material, namely the synchronic (*Gr. syn* — ‘together, with’ and **chronos** — ‘time’) and the diachronic (*Gr. dia* — ‘through’) approach.
- The synchronic approach 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.

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- *post* - Low Latin *posta* — *posita* fern. p.p. of Latin *ponere*, *posit*, v. ‘place’
- 16th century it meant ‘one of a number of men stationed with horses along roads at intervals, their duty being to ride forward with the King’s “packet” or other letters, from stage to stage’

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY

- *sack* 1. a large bag of coarse cloth
2. dismiss from service

THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL VALUE OF ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

- vocabulary
- grammar
- phonetics (sound system)

THE CONNECTION OF LEXICOLOGY WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS

■ Lexicology and Phonetics

*(a word is an association of a given group of sounds with
a given meaning)*

hope :: hop :: hoop :: heap :: hip

import :: im'port

blackboard :: black board

whole, heal, hail

THE CONNECTION OF LEXICOLOGY WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS

- Lexicology and Stylistics
- Lexicology and Grammar
 - *brothers :: brethren, people :: peoples*
 - *colours, customs, looks, pictures, works*

TYPES OF LEXICAL UNITS

- A unit is one of the elements into which a whole may be divided or analysed and which possesses the basic properties of this whole.
- The units of a vocabulary or lexical units are two-facet elements possessing form and meaning.



TYPES OF LEXICAL UNITS

- Words
- Morphemes
- Set expressions (groups of words)

TYPES OF LEXICAL UNITS

- Set expressions are word groups consisting of two or more words whose combination is integrated so that they are introduced in speech ready-made as units with a specialised meaning of the whole that is not understood as a mere sum total of the meanings of the elements.



THE NOTION OF LEXICAL SYSTEM

- System denotes a set of elements associated and functioning together according to certain laws.

THE NOTION OF LEXICAL SYSTEM

- On the syntagmatic level, the semantic structure of the word is analysed in its linear relationships with neighbouring words in connected speech. In other words, the semantic characteristics of the word are observed, described and studied on the basis of its typical contexts.

THE NOTION OF LEXICAL SYSTEM

- On the paradigmatic level, the word is studied in its relationships with other words in the vocabulary system. So, a word may be studied in comparison with other words of similar meaning (e. g. *work*, n. — *labour*, n.; *to refuse*, v. — *to reject* v. — *to decline*, v.), of opposite meaning (e. g. *busy*, adj. — *idle*, adj.; *to accept*, v, — *to reject*, v.), of different stylistic characteristics (e. g. *man*, n. — *chap*, n. — *bloke*, n. — *guy*, n.). Consequently, the main problems of paradigmatic studies are synonymy, antonymy, functional styles.