

LEXICOLOGY

The term «**Lexicology**» is of Greek origin / from «lexis» - «word» and «logos» - «science»

The ~~literal meaning of the term~~
LEXICOLOGY is 'the science of the word'

LEXICOLOGY is the part of linguistics which deals with the vocabulary and characteristic features of words and word-groups

The basic task of LEXICOLOGY is 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

Words, their component parts — morphemes — and various types of word-groups, are subjected to **structural** and **semantic** analysis primarily from the synchronic angle.

Modern English Lexicology investigates
the problems of word-structure and
word-formation in Modern English,

- the semantic structure of English words,

- the main principles underlying the classification of vocabulary units into various groupings

- the laws governing the replenishment of the vocabulary with new vocabulary units.

the relations existing between
various lexical layers of the English
vocabulary,

- the specific laws and regulations that govern its development at the present time.

- the source and growth of the English vocabulary, the changes it has undergone in its history.

THERE ARE CERTAIN BRANCHES:

- Semasiology and semantic classifications of words;
- Word-groups and phraseological units;
- Word-structure;
- Word-formation;
- Etymology of the English word-stock;
- Replenishment of Modern English word-stock;
- Variants and dialects of Modern English;
- Lexicography;
- Methods and Procedures of Lexicological Analysis.

- The term «**vocabulary**» is used to denote the system of words and word-groups that the language possesses.

- V O C A B U L A R Y is used to denote the system formed by the sum total of all the words and word equivalents that the language possesses

- The term «word» denotes the main lexical unit of a language resulting from the association of a group of sounds with a meaning.

- Vocabulary of every particular language is not a chaos of diversified phenomena but a **homogeneous whole**, a **system** constituted by interdependent elements related in certain specific ways.

Types of LEXICOLOGY

- The general study of words and vocabulary, irrespective of the specific features of any particular language, is known as **general lexicology**.

- Linguistic phenomena and properties common to all languages are generally referred to as **language universals**.

- **Special lexicology** devotes its attention to the description of the characteristic peculiarities in the vocabulary of a **given language**.

- A great deal has been written in recent years to provide a theoretical basis on which the vocabularies of different languages can be compared and described.

- This branch of study is called **contrastive lexicology**. Most obviously, we shall be particularly concerned with comparing English and Russian words

- The evolution of any vocabulary, as well as of its single elements, forms the object of **historical lexicology or etymology**.

- **Etymology** discusses the origin of various words, their change and development, and investigates the linguistic and extra-linguistic forces modifying their structure, meaning and usage.

- **Descriptive lexicology** deals with the vocabulary of a given language at a given stage of its development.
- It studies the functions of words and their specific structure as a characteristic inherent in the system.

- The descriptive lexicology of the English language deals with the English word in its morphological and semantic structures, investigating the interdependence between these two aspects.

- The distinction between the two basically different ways in which language may be viewed, the historical or diachronic (Gr *dia* 'through' and *chronos* 'time') and the descriptive or synchronic (Gr *syn* 'together', 'with'), is a methodological distinction, a difference of approach, artificially separating for the purpose of study what in real language is inseparable, because actually every linguistic structure and system exists in a state of constant development. The distinction between a synchronic and a diachronic approach is due to the Swiss philologist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913)

- The branch of linguistics, dealing with causal relations between the way the language works and develops, on the one hand, and the facts of social life, on the other, is termed **sociolinguistics**.

- A. D. Schweitzer claimed:

Studying the connection of the language with the society should take into consideration such factors as the effect of mass media, the system of education, language planning, etc. An analysis of the social stratification of languages takes into account the stratification of society as a whole.

Homework:

1. To learn the basic definitions and concepts.
2. I. Arnold English Word. TO READ: Fundamentals. The connection of lexicology with stylistics, phonetics and grammar.
3. Мультиязыковой проект ильи франка www.franklang.ru (1986) 14-18.