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ology

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Lecture 1



The subject-matter of the contrastive lexicology of English and Ukrainian

*Contrast is the occurrence
of different elements
to create interest*

Plan



- **1. *Fundamentals***
- **1.1. *Object of lexicology.***
- **1.2. *Subdivisions of lexicology.***
- **2. *Tasks of contrastive lexicology. Its theoretical and practical value.***

what language is



Language is many things.....

What are they?

The scope and diversity of human thought and experience place great demand on language. One of the most fundamental claims of modern linguistic analysis is that all languages have some common features....

What are they?

Linguistics



- All languages have means that enable their speakers to express any proposition that the human mind can produce. In terms of this criterion all languages are absolutely equal as instruments of communication and thought.

TASK



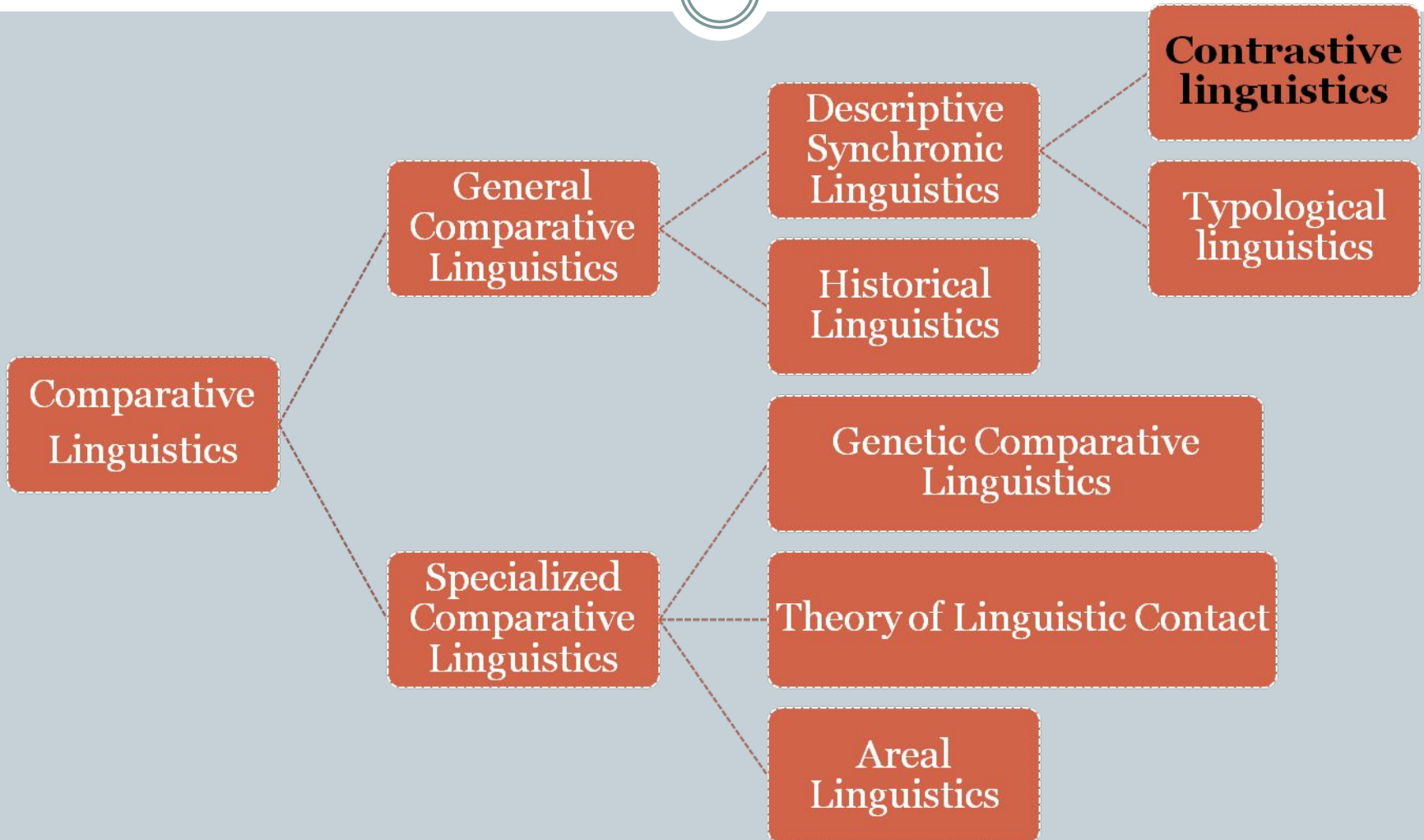
- The principal task of this course is limited to the study of similarities and differences in the lexical systems of English and Ukrainian.
- This task belongs to the field of *contrastive linguistics* or more precisely *contrastive lexicology*.

comparative vs contrastive linguistics

- **Comparative linguistics**

an umbrella term to denote all types of linguistic enterprises founded on the assumption that languages can be compared.

comparative linguistics



DEFINITION



- **Lexicology** (λεξιχόου - словесний, словниковий, λόγος- вчення) as a separate branch of linguistics:
- is concerned with the sign nature, meaning and use of words and word combinations,
- raises some important questions about the interpretation and evaluation of the vocabulary of a language.

Names



- Deep treatment of theory and methods in lexicology can be found in books by
- O.S.Akhmanova, V.N.Yartseva,
- A.A.Ufimtseva, I.V.Arnold,
- N.N.Amosova, G.A.Zhluktenko,
- K.T.Barantsev, F.S.Batsevich,
- A.I.Smirnitskyu, M.A. Zhovtobriuh et al. [*Сучасна укр. літ. мова 1973*]
that are considered classical.

Western European and American linguists



- acknowledge lexicological studies but commonly include them in books on grammar: “The study of words is the business of lexicology, but the regularities in their formation are similar in kind to the regularities of grammar and are closely connected to them” [*Comprehensive Grammar 1985, p.11*].

Historical vs descriptive



- In Ukrainian linguistic tradition lexicology can be specified as **historical lexicology** studying regularities of the formation, development and enrichment of language vocabulary from ancient times and **descriptive lexicology** studying the lexical composition of modern languages

historical lexicology



- vocabularies of all languages are constantly changing. Some of these changes are relatively minor and occur very quickly (for example, the addition of new words such as *spin doctor*, *yuppie*, *chunnel*, *internet*, *yobbocracy*, *able-bodism*, *grunge*, *nuketare* in English or *плеймейкер*, *грант*, *офшорний*, *фітнес*, *памперс* in Ukrainian. Other changes have a more dramatic effect on the overall form of the language and typically take place over a long period of time.

historical lexicology



- The evolution of any vocabulary, as well as of its single elements, forms the object of **historical lexicology**. This branch of linguistics discusses the origin of various words, their change and development, and investigates the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors modifying their form, meaning and usage.

etymology



- historical lexicology is closely connected with **etymology** (ἔτυμολογία - primary meaning of the word, the root word from which others are derived) which deals with the origin of a word by pointing out the root or primitive upon which it is based. I.K.Bilodid considers etymology a part of historical lexicology [*Суч. укр. літ. мова, Київ, 1973*].

Lexicology and culture



- In a wider sense lexicology is intimately related to culture the latter defined as the socially inherited customs of a society that are shared and accepted by people. Speech experience of the people is simultaneously their cultural experience, i.e. “those structures, spheres and means of activity into which speakers are included. It is the whole range of things that influences the understanding and the use of words”

Descriptive lexicology



- deals with the vocabulary of a given language at a given stage of its development
- studies morphological and semantic structures of words investigating the interdependence between these two aspects
- is also concerned with stylistic differentiation of the lexical units of modern languages, their active and passive layers at the present state of functioning.

Edward Sapir (1884–1939)



- Being a collective art of expression each language possesses “aesthetic factors - phonetic, rhythmic, symbolic, morphological - which it does not completely share with any other language” [Sapir].
- Our task is to discover how “the colour and texture of its matrix” can be “carried over without loss of modification” as without that “a work of literary art can never be translated” [E. Sapir].



General vs special



- Speaking about lexicology as a branch of linguistics, I. Arnold [*Arnold 1973, p.9*] and N. Rayevska [p.10] mention that the general study of words and vocabulary, irrespective of the specific features of any particular language is known as **general lexicology** and the description of the characteristic peculiarities in the vocabulary of a given language - as **special lexicology**.

Contrastive linguistics



- There are many differences among English and Ukrainian as even a superficial examination of their sound patterns, vocabularies, and word order reveals. But this does not mean that there are no limits on the type of lexical systems that human beings can acquire and use. Quite to the contrary, current research suggests that there are important lexical principles and tendencies shared by all human languages. Studying these principles contributes to the development of the general linguistic theory and is the main concern of contrastive linguistics.

Theoretical value of contrastive lexicology



- becomes obvious if we realize that it forms the study of one of the three main aspects of language, i.e. its vocabulary, the other two being its grammar and sound system.
- just as the small set of Arabic numerals can be combined to express in writing any natural numbers, so the small set of sounds and letters can be combined to express in speech and writing respectively an indefinitely large number of words.

Practical value of contrastive lexicology



- contrastive lexicology came into being to meet the needs of many different branches of applied linguistics:
- translation,
- lexicography,
- standardization of terminology,
- information processing,
- foreign language teaching,
- literary criticism and others.

stimulates a systematic approach to the facts of the vocabulary and plays a prominent part in the general training of

Interfaces



- The treatment of words in lexicology cannot be divorced from the study of all the other elements in the language system to which words belong
- in the process of communication, *all these elements are interdependent* and stand in definite relations to one another. We separate them for convenience of study but afterwards we should put them back together to achieve a synthesis.

Interfaces



- the lexical level of language system provides the most evident information on regularities of the evolutionary processes in contrasted languages, and therefore should be examined first of all and may be regarded as a clear model for contrastive investigation of other language levels

INTERFACES



- The word is studied in all branches of linguistics.
- It is closely connected with general linguistics, the history of the language, phonetics, grammar, stylistics, psycholinguistics and others.
- *Any subdivision of linguistics has to deal with the vocabulary of a language.*

connection of lexicology with phonology



- Phonologists attempt to make explicit statements about the sound patterns of individual languages in order to discover something about the linguistic knowledge that people must have in order to use these patterns.
- The study of phonology attempts to discover general principles that underlie the patterning of sounds in human language.

connection of lexicology with phonology



- The existence of patterns in language depends on the organization of certain basic elements or units that combine to make up these patterns.
- Some elements are said to contrast (or to be distinctive or to be in opposition) when their presence alone may distinguish forms with different meanings from each other.
- E.g. [s] and [z] contrast in the words *sip* and *zip*, as do the vowels of *hit* and *hate*. Thus they are lexicologically relevant.

connection of lexicology with phonology



- Contrasts are language-specific: sounds that are distinctive in one language will not necessarily be distinctive in another.
- E.g., the difference between the two vowels [e] and [æ] is crucial to Eng., as we can see from minimal pairs *Ben* [ben] and *ban* [bæn]. But in Ukr., this difference in pronunciation is not distinctive and will make no difference to the meaning. Compare *nepo* [pero] and *nepo* [pæro]. Sounds that do not contrast in Ukr., such as long and short vowels are distinctive in Eng.: *bit* [bit] and *beat* [bi:t].

connection of lexicology with phonology



- Historical phonology can be of great use in the diachronic study of synonyms, homonyms and polysemy. When sound changes loosen the ties between members of the same word-family, this is an important factor in facilitating semantic changes.
- e.g. *Whole*, *heal* and *hail* are etymologically related. *Whole* originally meant “unharmed”, “unwounded”. The early verb *whole* meant “to make whole”, hence *heal*. Its sense of „healthy” led to its use as a salutation, as in *hail*.

connection of lexicology with grammar



- is conditioned by the manifold ties between the object of their study.
- Even isolated words as presented in a dictionary bear a definite relation to the grammatical system of the language because they belong to some part of speech and conform to some lexico-grammatical characteristic of the word class to which they belong.
- Words must be combined into larger units, and grammar encompasses a complex set of rules specifying such combinations. Therefore, alongside with their *lexical meaning* words possess some *grammatical meaning*.

connection of lexicology with grammar

- Certain grammatical functions and meanings are possible only for the words whose lexical meaning makes them fit for these functions, and, on the other hand, some lexical meanings in some words occur only in definite grammatical functions and forms and in the definite grammatical patterns.
- For example, the verb *go* when in the continuous tenses, followed by *to* and infinitive serves to express an action in the near or immediate future, or an intention of future action: *I am going to be very strict*. And participle II of the same verb following the link verb *be* denotes absence: *The house is gone*.

Syntagmatic and paradygmatic relations

- the former are based on the linear character of speech i.e. on the influence of context.
- context is defined as the minimum stretch of speech necessary and sufficient to determine which of the possible meanings of a word is used., e.g. *blue eyes – to feel blue; вільна країна – вільне місце.*
- Syntagmatic relationships are studied by means of contextual, valency, distributional, transformational and other types of analysis.
- Paradygmatic relationships carry our attention to: (a) the interdependence of elements within words, (b) the interdependence of words within the vocabulary.

lexicology and morphology

- Words have an internal structure consisting of smaller units organized with respect to each other in a particular way.
- The most important component of word structure is **the morpheme**, the smallest unit of language that carries information about meaning or function.
- Contrastive lexicology aims at comparing Eng. words and Ukr. words as ***structures described in terms of morphemes and patterns in which morphemes are arranged.***

lexicology and morphology

- Not every semantic contrast morphologically expressed in Eng. will also be manifested in Ukr.
- E.g., there is no equivalent for Eng. *the* and *a* in Ukr
- some contrasts expressed in Ukr. are not manifested in Eng., e.g. gender oppositions like *кравець – кравчиня*. When morphology deals with words as lexical units it is concerned with their structural modification. We can therefore speak of lexical morphology or word-building and grammatical morphology or form-building.

lexicology and morphology

- Morphological indicators often help to differentiate the variant meanings of words. Plural forms, for instance, can serve to form special lexical meanings:
- *damage – injury, damages - compensation;*
- *вік - тривалість життя; віки – довгий час.*
- Recurrent designs of form-building viewed in terms of their relevance to the most general lexical categories present a major linguistic interest. The regularities of such formation give every reason to refer coinages of this type to lexico-morphological categories.

lexicology and syntax



- Interactions between vocabulary and grammar have their own peculiarities in syntax. These are revealed in actual use of syntactic patterns of different types. E.g. the distinction between semantic and syntactic transitivity:
 - **Intransitive use**
 - (a) *The child jumped with joy.*
 - (b) *He jumped ten pages of the book.*
 - **Transitive use**
 - (a) *He breathed freely.*
 - (b) *He couldn't breathe a word.*

lexicology and syntax

- To find out what particular class a given word belongs to it is often not enough to study an isolated form. E.g. *round*:
- *He took his daily rounds* - noun
- *a round table* – adjective,
- *He failed to round the lamp-post* – verb,
- *Come round tomorrow* – adverb,
- *He walked round the house* – preposition.

When such paradigmatic homonymy occurs syntactic relations between words make the necessary meaning clear.

lexicology and syntax

- A shift of voice in verb phrases containing modal auxiliaries may be accompanied with a shift of modal meaning:
- *John cannot do it. – It cannot be done (by John).*
- *John can't be taught - She can't teach John*
- *Winston Churchill has twice visited Harvard. - Harvard has twice been visited by Winston Churchill.*

lexicology and syntax



- Some difference between the meaning of an active sentence and its passive counterpart has also been noted in examples where both subject and object of the active sentence are generic:
- *Beavers build dams. - Dams are built by beavers.*
- *Excessive drinking causes high blood pressure. - High blood pressure is caused by excessive drinking.*

lexicology and semasiology

- Meaning relations in the language system are the business of **semantics or semasiology** (from the Greek word *sēmasia* - “signification”, which in turn is derived from “*sēma*” – “sign” and *sēmantikos* – “significant”). The part of semasiology that deals with the meaning of morphemes and words, namely lexical semasiology, is actually a part of general lexicology.

lexicology and semasiology

- **Lexicalization** - the process whereby concepts are encoded in the words of a language.
- though the focus of linguistic analysis is on the system of knowledge that makes it possible to speak and understand a language, there are lexicalization differences whose properties can shed light on how linguistic systems express meaning.

lexicology and pragmatics



- The meaning of linguistic expressions when uttered within particular types of situations is dealt with in **pragmatics, which is concerned with the communicative force of linguistic utterances.** G.Leech in his “Principles of Pragmatics” points out that “the problem of distinguishing ‘language’ (langue) and ‘language use’ (parole) has centred on a boundary dispute between semantics and pragmatics. Both fields are concerned with meaning, but the difference between them can be traced on two different uses of the verb *to mean*:
- [1] What does X mean? 2] What did you mean by X?

lexicology and pragmatics



- Semantics traditionally deals with meaning as a dyadic relation as in [1]
- pragmatics deals with meaning as a triadic relation as in [2]
- Thus meaning in pragmatics is defined relative to a speaker or user of the language, whereas meaning in semantics is defined purely as a property of expressions in a given language, in abstraction from particular situations, speakers or hearers” (G. Leech).

lexicology and pragmatics



- the study of various factors involved in appropriate use and understanding of language, such as the following:
 - the speaker's intentions and how they are surmised by the addressee,
 - the speaker's and addressee's background attitudes and beliefs,
 - their understanding of the context in which the utterance is made, and their knowledge of how language can be used for a variety of purposes
- is inseparably connected with contrastive lexicological studies.*

lexicology and stylistics



- *Stylistics as a branch of linguistic study* is concerned not with the elements of language as such but with their expressive potential.
- “Stylistics of the word” explores the expressive resources available in the vocabulary of a language, investigates the stylistic implications of such phenomena as word-formation, synonymy, ambiguity, or the contrast between vague and precise, abstract and concrete, rare and common terms etc.

lexicology and psych linguistics



- Psycholinguists study how word, sentence and discourse meaning are represented and computed in the mind. They study how complex words and sentences are composed in speech and how they are broken down into their constituent parts during listening and reading. In short, psycholinguists seek to understand how language is done.
- The lexicological study seeks to characterize the system of categories and rules involved in word-formation and interpretation. The psycholinguistic study of morphological processing seeks to understand how this word structure plays a role in language processing.

lexicology and sociolinguistics



- Research of language in social context ranges from the very limited and localized context of a single conversation to studies of language use by the whole populations.
- The locus of all sociolinguistic investigation is the speech community. The important characteristics of a speech community are that its members share a particular language (or variety of a language) as well as the norms (or rules) for the appropriate use of their language in social context, and that these speakers be distinguished from other comparable groups by similar socio-linguistic criteria.

lexicology and speech varieties

- The term *speech variety* is the label given to that language (or form of language) used by any group of speakers. This term refers to the basic vocabulary, phonology, morphology and syntax shared by members of the group or to the speech used by members of the group in particular situations.

lexicology and speech varieties



- Speech varieties are of several types:
- the standard language,
- social speech varieties,
- regional speech varieties
- functional speech varieties.
- varieties according to attitude, namely the choice of linguistic form that proceeds from our attitude to the hearer (or reader), to the topic, and to the purpose of our communication.