## Lecture I. Working Definitions of Principal Concepts



<u>Lexicology</u> 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) <u>"source of borrowing"</u> is applied to the language from which the word was immediately borrowed
- "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

- <u>Assimilation</u> 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:
- Etymologically the vocabulary of the English language is far from being homogeneous
- Borrowed words are words taken over from another language and modified according to the patterns of the receiving language
- 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 communique, cafe the long [e] and [e] are rendered with the help of [ei].
- b. datum pl. data, criterion pl. criteria
- 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