Lecture 2 LEXICOGRAPHY

Lexicography

is traditionally defined as the art and science of dictionary — making (compiling). Lexicographers aim at a systematic description of the word's semantic structure, its different meanings.

HISTORICAL OUTLINE

- The first English-Latin dictionary was printed in England in 1440.
- Latin began to lose ground and in the XVIth century appeared English-Italian, English-French and other dictionaries.
- The first "real" English dictionaries appeared in the XVIIth century. They defined English words in terms of other English words.

The first English dictionaries published in the XVIIth century were

- Robert Cawdrey's "Table Alphabetical of Hard Words" (1604),
- John Bullockkar's "An English Expositor" (1616),
- Henry Cockeram's "The English Dictionary" (1623),
- Elisha Coles's "An English Dictionary" (1676).

Dr. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English language:

- It was the most comprehensive dictionary of English with extensive etymologies, complete and clear definitions, followed by quotations from reputable authors illustrating the use of a word, adding important dimensions to definitions.
- Various senses of meanings of the same word were numbered and distinguished.

In November 1857, Richard Chenevix Trench, Dean of Westminster, presented two papers before the Philological Society under the title "On Some Deficiencies in Our English Dictionaries".

"On Some Deficiencies in Our English Dictionaries":

- their failure to include obsolete words,
- inconsistency in presenting families of words,
- shortcomings in describing historical development of words,
- neglecting synonymic differentiation discrepancies in quoting illustrative material,
- a mixture of irrelevant and redundant information - mythological characters, encyclopedia articles.

James A.H. Murray's "A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles":

numbered 15,487 pages, each of which contained three columns of type.

 includes more than 240.000 headwords and, counting subordinate words and combinations, contains about 450 000 entries

Editorial board was expanded by

- Henry Bradley (1888),
- William Alexander Craigie and Charles Talbut Onions (1914).

The Oxford English dictionary is a monumental achievement, without parallel in the English language and in few others. The volumes of the OED were published over a period of forty years, from 1888 to 1928; by the time the last volumes appeared the earliest needed revision, and a supplement was therefore issued in 1933 to record changes in the earlier volumes.

Advanced Learner's dictionary of Current English by A.S. Hornby which had an enormous impact on the English language teaching with its didactic effectiveness.

THE TYPOLOGY OF DICTIONARIES

I. According to the object of description

Encyclopaedic

Linguistic

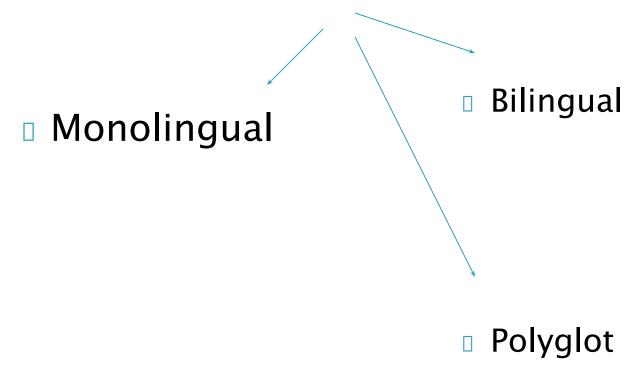
II. According to the number of words (volume)

Big academic dictionaries

Medial-sized dictionaries

Small dictionaries (in one volume)

III. According to the language of description



IV. According to the functional variant of the language

- General literary vocabulary of bookish words
- Technical vocabulary
- Territorial variant
- Social variant
- Slang

V. According to the main unit of description

- Dictionaries of foreign words
- Phraseological dictionaries
- Dictionaries of collocations
- Dictionaries of quotations

VI. According to what part of lexical units is described

- Orthoepic Dictionaries
- Orthographical Dictionaries of frequency
- Dictionaries of word formation
- Rhyming Dictionaries

VII. According to the order of units in it

alphabetical

non-alphabetical (thematic)

CLASSIFICATION OF DICTIONARIES ACCORDING TO THEIR CONTENTS

- General language dictionaries,
- 2. Encyclopaedic dictionaries,
- Translating (or international) dictionaries,
- 4. Monolingual linguistic dictionaries,
- 5. Dialect and regional dictionaries,
- 6. Dictionaries of Slang,
- 7. Dictionaries of Writers' Language,
- 8. Historical Dictionaries,

CLASSIFICATION OF DICTIONARIES ACCORDING TO THEIR CONTENTS

- 9. Dictionaries of Neologism,
- 10. Synonymic Dictionaries,
- 11. Antonymic Dictionaries,
- 12. Phraseological Dictionaries,
- 13. Dictionaries of Collocations,
- 14. Dictionaries of Foreign Words,
- 15. Dictionaries of Abbreviations and Signs,
- 16. Dictionaries of Quotations, Cliches, Proverbs and Sayings,
- 17. Orthoepic Dictionaries
- 18. Orthographic Dictionaries

THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF LEXICOGRAPHY

- 1. The definition of the volume of the semantic structure of words, semantic components of meaning.
- 2. Distinction between meanings which are closely connected.
- 3. Distinction between meaning and extralinguistic correlation.
- 4. The problem of definitions.
- 5. Glosses (everything but definitions and headlines).