

✓ Section 1. Introduction

The object of lexicology. Basic lexical units: morphemes, words and word groups.

Main branches and problems of lexicology.

The systemic nature of English vocabulary: paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations; the notion of morphological and semantic distinctive features; study of the vocabulary in terms of sets, oppositions and correlations.

Lexicology and other branches of language study: phonology, morphology and syntax, lexicography etc.

✓ Section 2. The Word and the Morpheme

Different approaches to the concept of the word. The definition of the word. The paradigm. The word as the basic unit of language representing the unity of form and content.

Variability of the word: phonetic and morphological variants of the word.

The definition of the morpheme. The morpheme and the word.

Types of morphemes: free and bound, root and non-root morphemes. Allomorphs.

Analysis of the morphemic structure of words: structural analysis, oppositions and correlations and analysis into immediate constituents. Difficulties of morphemic analysis: unique roots, pseudo-morphemes.

Structural (or morphemic) types of words: monomorphemic and polymorphemic words.

Historical changeability of the morphemic structure of the word.

✓ Section 3. Word Building in Modern English

Introduction. Principal types of word building in English. Productive and non-productive types and means of word building in English.

Derivation (affixation). Derivational and functional affixes. Derivational affixes: class-maintaining and class-changing affixes. The stem and the base.

Suffixation. Classification of suffixes according to (a) meaning, (b) bases they are added to and (c) parts of speech they produce (nominal, verbal, adjectival suffixes).

Prefixation. Classification of prefixes according to (a) meaning and (b) parts of speech they produce.

Polysemy and homonymy of derivational affixes. Productivity of affixes.

Historical changeability of affixes. Origin of affixes. Hybrids.

Conversion and related processes. Definition. Different conceptions of conversion. Directionality. Conversion as a characteristic type of coining new words in Modern English. Productivity of conversion. Basic types of conversion. Regularities in the semantic relationship of converted pairs.

Conversion and substantivation. Fully and partially substantivised adjectives.

Conversion and adjectivation. Stone wall problem.

Word composition/Compounding. Definition. Specific features of English compounds.

Compounds proper and derivational compounds. Means of linking two stems in a compound.

Classification of compounds by the part of speech of their constituents.

Classification of compounds according to meaning and structure: co-ordinate and subordinate, endocentric and exocentric compounds. Reduplicative compounds.

Compounds v phrases. Phonological, morphological, syntactical, semantic and graphic criteria used to distinguish compounds from phrases.

Shortening: clipping, blending, graphical abbreviations, back formation, alphabetisms, acronyms.

Sound interchange. Sound imitation (onomatopoeia). Distinctive stress.

✓ Section 4. Semasiology (semantics)

Introduction. The role of semasiology in the history of linguistics. Synchronic and diachronic semasiology.

Definition of meaning. Triangle of signification. Meaning and reference. Denotation. The role of concept.

Approaches to meaning: referential v functional, extensional v intensional. Structural and conceptual approach.

Types of meaning. Conceptual (referential, denotative) meaning. Composition of conceptual meaning.

Componential analysis of meaning. Distinctive and inferential features/components.

Denotation and connotation. Connotative meaning. Affective meaning. Stylistic meaning.

Lexical meaning v grammatical meaning.

Word meaning and motivation: phonological, morphological and semantic motivation.

✓ Section 5. The Semantic Structure of the English Word

Non-isomorphism between the expression plane and the content plane: polysemy, homonymy, synonymy.

The notion of compositionality.

Polysemy. The concept of polysemy. Relations between meanings of a polysemous word: linear—non-linear, primary—secondary, abstract—concrete, narrow—extended etc. Systematic polysemy.

Methods used to distinguish individual meanings of a polysemous word.

The semantic structure of a polysemous word in different languages.

Change of meaning. Causes of semantic change: linguistic causes and non-linguistic causes. Nature of semantic change: metaphoric and metonymic change of meaning. Results of semantic change, acquisition and loss of senses: specialisation (narrowing, restriction) v generalisation (widening, extension), elevation (amelioration) v degradation (pejoration).

Sources of the English vocabulary. Native English vocabulary (Anglo-Saxon and Celtic). Borrowing from other languages: Latin and Greek, Scandinavian and other Germanic languages, French etc.

✓ Section 6. Syntagmatic Characterisation of the English Vocabulary

The notion of context. Lexical and grammatical relations. Valency and transitivity. Syntactic and semantic roles. Obligatory and optional valencies. Monovalent, polyvalent verbs.

Lexical combinability and idiomaticity. Collocations and idioms. Cross-linguistic features of lexical combinability. Language corpora.

✓ Section 7. Paradigmatic Characterisation of the English Vocabulary

Classification of English vocabulary based on relatedness of meaning. Semantic relations in English vocabulary.

Inclusion: hyponymy and meronymy. Entailment test. Lexical gaps. Overlapping: synonymy. Absolute and near synonyms.

Exclusion: oppositeness. Complements, (gradable) antonyms, converses. Contiguity and semantic fields.

Classification of English vocabulary based on similarity of form. Homonymy. Homonyms as a characteristic feature of English. Word homonymy, affixational homonymy, syntactic homonymy. Partial homonyms. Full homonyms. Homographs, homophones. Sources of homonymy: divergence of meaning, convergence of the sound form.

Methods used to distinguish homonymy and polysemy: diachronic basis of distinction, synchronic basis of distinction. Lexicographic practice of treating homonyms. Paronyms.

✓ Section 8. Vocabulary Variation

Core and specialist vocabulary. Variation by location: national and regional vocabulary. Variation by occupation, social and cultural affiliation; jargon. Variation by text type and situation: register.

Resource books

Arnold, I. 1986. *The English Word*. Moscow.

Cruse, A. 2000. *Meaning in Language. An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. OUP.

Ginzburg, R. S. 1979. *A Course in Modern English Lexicology*. Moscow.

Jackson, H. & E. Z. Amvela. 2000. *Words, Meaning and Vocabulary. An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology*. Cassell.

Lipka, L. 2002. *English Lexicology*. Tübingen: Narr.

Palmer, F. R. 1981. *Semantics*. CUP. Second edition.

Plag, I. 2003. *Word-formation in English*. CUP.