

✓ 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. Fuzzy boundaries.

✓ Section 2. The word and the morpheme

Different approaches to the concept of the word. The definition of the word.

Variability of the word: grammatical and lexical variability. Lexical variability: phonetic, morphological and semantic variants of the word. The word paradigm. Lexeme, type, token.

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

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

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

Analysing words into morphemes. The notion of compositionality. Morphemic analysis: structural analysis, oppositions and correlations and analysis into immediate constituents. Difficulties of morphemic analysis: pseudo-morphemes, unique roots, bound root morphemes.

Historical changeability of the morphemic structure of the word.

✓ Section 3. Word building in Modern English

Introduction. Major factors in the process of word building. Productivity: productive and non-productive types and means of word building in English. The dynamic character of the English vocabulary.

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

Prefixation. The notion of prefixation. Different classifications of prefixes: according to origin, structural and semantic classifications.

Suffixation. The notion of suffixation. Different classifications of suffixes: according to origin, structural and semantic classifications.

Polysemy and homonymy of derivational affixes.

Historical changeability of derivational 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. Productivity of compounds.

Structural and semantic classification of compounds: co-ordinate and subordinate, endocentric and exocentric compounds. Headedness. Reduplicative compounds.

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

Minor ways of word building. Shortening: clipping, blending, graphical abbreviations, alphabetisms, acronyms, back formation. Word building based on phonetic peculiarities: sound interchange and sound imitation (onomatopoeia); distinctive stress.

✓ Section 4. Semasiology (lexical semantics): key notions

Introduction. The role of lexical semantics (semasiology) in the history of linguistics. Synchronic and diachronic semantics.

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.

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

Lexical meaning v grammatical meaning. Grammaticalization.

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

✓ Section 5. Meaning variation. Polysemy and homonymy

The non-isomorphism of a linguistic sign.

Polysemy. The concept of polysemy. Relations between meanings of a polysemous word: primary—secondary, direct—indirect, concrete—abstract. Generalization and specialization. Metonymy and metaphor. Systematic polysemy.

Methods used to distinguish individual meanings of a polysemous word.

The notion of homonymy. Word, affixational, syntactic homonymy. Full and partial homonymy. Homophones and homographs. Sources of homonymy: divergence of meaning, convergence of the sound form.

Homonymy vs polysemy. Translatability.

Paronyms.

✓ Section 6. Sources of the English vocabulary. Change of meaning

Sources of the English vocabulary. Native English vocabulary (Anglo-Saxon and Celtic). Non-native vocabulary.

Borrowing from other languages: Latin and Greek, Scandinavian and other Germanic languages, French etc.

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: specialization (narrowing, restriction) v generalization (widening, extension), elevation (amelioration) v degradation (pejoration); grammaticalization and semantic bleaching.

✓ Section 7. Syntagmatic relations, or word combinability

Background to the field of study. The notion of context. Lexical and grammatical combinability. 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 8. Paradigmatic relations: inclusion, overlapping, exclusion

Inclusion: hyponymy and meronymy. The notions of hyponymy, hierarchy, taxonomy, classification. Entailment test. Folk and scientific taxonomies. Meronymy. Lexical gaps.

Overlapping: synonymy. Substitutability test. Absolute and near synonyms.

Exclusion: opposition and contiguity. Opposition: complements, (gradable) antonyms, converses. Contiguity and semantic fields.

✓ Section 9. Vocabulary variation

The notion of lexicon, vocabulary, dictionary. 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.

Šeškauskienė, I. 2013. *Ways with Words: insights into the English lexicon and some cross-linguistic aspects of study*. Vilnius University Publishing House.