LEXICOLOGY AND ITS OBJECT

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15662359

Abstract. *This article explores the definition, scope, and relevance of lexicology within linguistics and language learning. It examines the structural, semantic, and historical aspects of words, emphasizing their role in theoretical and applied linguistics. Connections between lexicology and related fields such as phonetics, stylistics, and grammar are analyzed. Special attention is given to word motivation and how lexicological principles assist in vocabulary acquisition, dictionary creation, and semantic understanding.*
Key words: *lexicology, phonetics, meaning, structure, fundamental unit, borrowed, words, vocabulary.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье рассматриваются определение, область и значимость лексикологии в рамках лингвистики и изучения языков. Анализируются структурные, семантические и исторические аспекты слов, подчеркивая их роль в теоретической и прикладной лингвистике. Особое внимание уделяется связям лексикологии с такими областями, как фонетика, стилистика и грамматика. Также рассматривается мотивация слов и то, как лексикологические принципы способствуют усвоению словарного запаса, составлению словарей и пониманию значений.*
Ключевые слова: *лексикология, фонетика, значение, структура, основная единица, заимствованные, слова, словарный запас.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada leksikologiyaning ta’rifi, doirasi va tilshunoslik hamda til o‘rganishdagi ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. So‘zlarning tuzilishi, semantikasi va tarixiy taraqqiyoti yoritilib, leksikologiyaning nazariy va amaliy tilshunoslikdagi o‘rni ko‘rsatib beriladi. Fonetika, uslubiyat va grammatika bilan bog‘liqligi hamda so‘z motivatsiyasi haqida fikr yuritiladi. Leksikologik tamoyillar lug‘at boyligini egallash, lug‘atlar tuzish va ma’nolarni chuqur anglashda qanday yordam berishi ko‘rsatilgan.*
Kalit so‘zlar: *leksikologiya, fonetika, ma'no, tuzilish, asosiy birlik, o‘zlashtirilgan, so‘zlar, lug‘at.*

Introduction

Lexicology, as a subfield of linguistics, is dedicated to the study of words—their origin, structure, meaning, and use within a language. Derived from the Greek words *lexis* (word) and *logos* (study), lexicology encompasses both theoretical and practical dimensions of language analysis. It investigates how words function as the basic units of communication and how they

interact with other linguistic components such as phonetics, grammar, and stylistics. In an age of growing multilingualism and digital communication, understanding the nature of words has become increasingly significant for both linguists and language learners [1].

This article provides a comprehensive exploration of lexicology’s definition, scope, and relevance. It delves into the structural, semantic, and historical aspects of words while analyzing the interconnections between lexicology and related linguistic fields. Special attention is paid to the concept of word motivation and its implications for vocabulary acquisition, dictionary compilation, and semantic analysis. By bridging theoretical perspectives with practical applications, this study highlights the central role lexicology plays in both linguistic research and language education.

Lexicology’s role and relationships

Lexicology, as a distinct branch of linguistics, has been extensively studied from various theoretical and applied perspectives. Foundational works by Jackson and Amvela (2000) define lexicology as the study of the lexical system of a language, emphasizing the nature, structure, and use of words. Bauer expands this understanding by highlighting lexicology’s role in describing and explaining the evolution and organization of vocabulary across languages [2]. Lipka further explores how lexicology intersects with morphology, semantics, and etymology, providing insights into word formation processes such as neologisms and loanwords [7]. The field is traditionally divided into general and special lexicology, where the former studies vocabulary universally, and the latter focuses on the lexicon of specific languages, including historical and descriptive approaches [6]. This bifurcation underscores the complexity and depth of lexicological study.

Lexicology’s relationships with other linguistic subfields such as phonetics, stylistics, and grammar are well documented. Scholars note that phonemes form the acoustic basis of words, while stylistics examines vocabulary choices in context, and grammar links words to syntactic structures [5]. The concept of motivation, critical to lexicology, explains how phonetic, morphological, and semantic factors influence word meaning and formation [8]. Examples such as onomatopoeic words ("hiss," "bang") and metaphorical extensions ("mouth" of a river) illustrate these motivational types. Applied lexicology plays a pivotal role in language learning and lexicography. Nation emphasizes that understanding word formation and semantic relations enhances vocabulary acquisition and teaching [8]. Cowie stresses that lexicological theories provide essential frameworks for dictionary compilation, guiding decisions about definitions, usage, and grammatical properties [3].

While these studies offer comprehensive insights, ongoing research continues to explore how lexicology adapts to evolving linguistic phenomena such as digital communication and cross-linguistic influences. This article aims to synthesize these perspectives and highlight lexicology’s enduring relevance in both theoretical linguistics and practical language education. The study focuses on synthesizing theoretical frameworks and empirical observations from previous research to present a cohesive understanding of lexicology. Key linguistic concepts such as word structure, motivation, and interrelations with phonetics, stylistics, and grammar are examined through comparative analysis of existing literature. No primary data collection or experimental procedures were conducted; instead, the emphasis is on evaluating and integrating the findings and theories proposed by established experts in the field. The research scope primarily addresses lexicology within English language studies but draws on examples and insights applicable to other languages to demonstrate general principles. Limitations of the

methodology include its reliance on existing literature, which may omit emerging or less-documented phenomena in lexicology. Nonetheless, this approach allows for a thorough theoretical discussion that informs both academic inquiry and applied linguistics, especially in vocabulary teaching and lexicography.

Definition and scope of lexicology

Lexicology is recognized as the systematic study of words, encompassing their structure, meaning, and evolution. It is traditionally divided into general lexicology, which examines vocabulary across languages, and special lexicology, which focuses on the vocabulary of a specific language [6]. These dual approach allows for both comparative and descriptive analyses, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of lexical systems. When using interdisciplinary connections, lexicology intersects with various linguistic subfields, notably phonetics, grammar, and stylistics. Phonetics provides insights into the sound structures of words, essential for understanding pronunciation and acoustic patterns. Grammar relates words to syntactic structures, influencing their morphological forms and syntactic behavior. Stylistics examines how word choice varies across different contexts, contributing to the expressive function of language [3]. When it comes to word motivation, the concept of word motivation explores the relationship between a word's form and its meaning. Phonetic motivation is evident in onomatopoeic words like "buzz" and "hiss," where the sound imitates the source. Morphological motivation is observed in derived forms such as "rethink," where the structure indicates a semantic shift. Semantic motivation involves metaphorical extensions, as in the word "mouth," which denotes both a facial feature and an opening like the mouth of a river [4]. Also, applied relevance in language learning, lexicology plays a pivotal role in language education and lexicography. Understanding word formation processes and semantic relationships aids in vocabulary acquisition, enabling learners to infer meanings of unfamiliar words and expand their lexical knowledge efficiently. In lexicography, lexicological principles guide the systematic description of word meanings, usage, and grammatical properties, ensuring the creation of comprehensive and user-friendly dictionaries [4].

Future directions also important while lexicology has established foundational principles, emerging linguistic phenomena such as digital communication, language contact, and globalization-induced borrowing present new challenges and opportunities. Future research should explore these areas to adapt lexicological theories to the evolving linguistic landscape, ensuring their continued relevance in understanding and teaching language.

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