Types of dictionaries
Points to discuss

• Translating dictionaries, their functions and peculiar features
• Encyclopaedic dictionaries and their peculiarities
• Thesaurus as a special type of ideographic dictionary
Translating dictionaries, their functions and peculiar features

- Bilingual lexicography: types of translating dictionaries
- Problems of bilingual dictionaries
Translating dictionary

a reference book

in which sense of words are interpreted

with the help of another language

or some foreign languages
Translating dictionary

• Why are they useful?
• Whom are they designated for?
Translating dictionary

2 types:
• bilingual
• multilingual/polyglot
Translating dictionary

- **bilingual dictionary** is a reference book which has 2 languages in use
- **multilingual dictionary** covers several foreign languages
choose bilingual dictionary for some reasons:

• it is easy to browse

• a piece of information may be fully represented in this type of dictionary
Multilingual dictionaries

The sphere of usage is limited to some extent:
- to define the term, to compare it in many languages
Translating dictionary

The **native-to-foreign** and **foreign-to-native** dictionaries:

- meet different requirements
- supply information for different types of work
Translating dictionary

A good dictionary is one where you can quickly find what you are looking for.
Problems of bilingual lexicography

Scientists outline 3 problems of bilingual lexicography:

• word-list
• word choice
• alphabetic arrangement of material
Word-list (nomenclature)

a total sum of words included into this dictionary

(Y. D. Apresyan’s the New English-Russian Dictionary, 300 thousand entries. Despite of all advantages it can’t embrace all English lexis)
Word choice

This problem arises inevitably while compiling any dictionary for no dictionary can register all the words of a given languages. It includes only some groups of lexis leaving aside another ones.
Arrangement of words

Alphabetical arrangement is not an ideal because:

• some words that being not correlated are put together
• some words that being semantically related are dispersed in different parts of dictionary
Arrangement of words

Alphabetical arrangement is not an ideal because:

• you can’t follow properly the structure of the language lexical system

• you can’t find words signifying one notion or some relative notions in alphabetically arranged dictionary
Disadvantages

• such alphabetic reference books are only translating ones for they explain word’s meaning only through equivalents of another language

• bilingual, translating dictionaries show extremely rare words’ distribution, i.e. that typical verbal surrounding, that syntactical model in which the given meaning of the word only may realize
Encyclopaedic dictionaries and their peculiarities

- The history of encyclopaedias in England
- Modern encyclopaedias in English-speaking countries
- Linguistic Encyclopaedias, their type and function
Encyclopaedia

a reference work in one or more volumes which presents extensive information in all branches of knowledge
Origin

The word “encyclopaedia” is a modern coinage derived from a Greek phrase, “enkukl Lion paideia”, which means literally “education within a circle”, i.e. those elements of learning which constitute a complete education.
Encyclopaedia

The Governorie (1531),

by Sir Thomas Elyot,

the English scholar and diplomat
Sir Thomas Elyot
Encyclopaedia

The earliest encyclopaedias (before XVII c.) were not intended to be compendiums or digests of the knowledge of their times, but rather anthologies of the works of the most regarded authors.
Encyclopaedia

From the 17th century to the present, the word “encyclopaedia” has taken on the meaning of a unified work which presents all the various branches of knowledge.
Encyclopaedia

“The Lexicon technicum or A Universal English Dictionary of Arts and Sciences”
(1704)

by John Harris (1667 – 1719)
Lexicon Technicum: or, an Universal
English Dictionary of
ARTS and SCIENCES:
Explaining not only the Terms of ART, but the ARTS Themselves.

VOL. I
By JOHN HARIES, D.D. and F.R.S.

LONDON:
Printed for Ben. Bragge, Ben. Galway, John Miller,
Benj. Motte, Ben. Fagge, John Wollaston, John Nourse,
John Baskett, and John Bridge.
MDCCXLVII.
Encyclopaedia

“Cyclopaedia” or
“Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences”, 1728
by Ephraim Chambers (1680 – 1740)
Cyclopaedia: or an Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences; containing The Definitions of the Terms, and Accounts of The Things signified thereby, in the several Arts, both Liberal and Mechanical, and the several Sciences, Human and Divine: The Figures, Kinds, Properties, Productions, Preparations, and Uses of Things Natural and Artificial, The Rise, Progress, and State of Things Ecclesiastical, Civil, Military, and Commercial; with the several Systems, Sects, Opinions, &c. among Philosophers, Divines, Mathematicians, Physicists, Antiquaries, Critics, &c. The Work intended as a Cours de Avance and Modern Learning, Compiled from the best Authors, Dictionaries, Journals, Memoirs, Travels, &c. in several Languages, In Two Volumes. By E. Chambers Gent. Fertitque aut ipsi in fabere amnis eiren. Quam mi Lucert. Volume the First.

“Cyclopaedia”

- originally published in 2 folio volumes,
- prefaced by an elaborate scheme of the divisions and subdivisions of knowledge
“Cyclopaedia”

- contained a particular abundance of medical and pharmaceutical terms, but lacked geographical, historical and biographical information
- illustrated by 21 large plates devoted to such subjects as heraldy, surveying, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and navigation
Encyclopaedia

- The French Encyclopedie (1751 – 1772) 28 vol
“The Encyclopaedia Britannica. A New Survey of Universal Knowledge”

- the most reliable and famous
- the first two numbers appeared in December 1768
- the second edition of it included 10 volumes (1784)
- the 14th edition included 24 volumes (1929)
Germany

“Frauenzimmerlexikon” (an encyclopaedia for women), 1796
by German publisher Gotthelf Renatus Lobel

Brockhaus Enzyklopaedie (1966 – 1976),
the 17th edition, in 20 volumes
Encyclopaedia Americana

(1829 – 1833, 13 volumes)

Francis Lieber (1800 – 1872), German immigrant, historian and economist

1902 - published in 16 volumes

1920 - contained 30 volumes

Nowadays - consists of 950 pages, nearly 320,000 entries
American encyclopaedias

• The World Book Encyclopaedia in 26 vv
• Collier’s Encyclopaedia in 20 vv published for students and schoolteachers
• American People’s Encyclopaedia in 20 vv
• Encyclopaedia International in 20 vv
The World Book Encyclopaedia in 26 vv
Collier’s Encyclopaedia
British encyclopaedias:

• Britannica Junior in 15 vv
• Britannica for Children in 20 vv
• Chamber’s Encyclopaedia in 15 vv for family usage, it should not be confused with Epliraim Chamber’s Cyclopaedia
Chamber’s Encyclopaedia
Britannica Junior
British encyclopaedias:

• Everyman’s Encyclopaedia in 12 vv
• The Reader’s Digest Great Encyclopaedic Dictionary in 3 vv, it is a kind of reference book
Everyman’s Encyclopaedia
The Reader’s Digest Great Encyclopaedic Dictionary
British encyclopaedias:

• “Encyclopaedia of Linguistic Information and Control” Oxford, 1961
• “An Encyclopaedia of language” London, 1989
• Encyclopaedia by Asher’s, (12 vol), 1973
Great Britain and the USA

At last one volume or two volume Encyclopaedic dictionaries are published both in Britain and in the USA such as:

- Columbia Encyclopaedia
- Collins New Age Encyclopaedia
- Basic Everyday Encyclopaedia
France

• “Encyclopedie de la Pleiade, la Langue”, 1968 by Martine in 25 vv

• “Dictionnaire Encyclopedique des Sciences de la langue” by D. Ducro, T. Tudorov in English translation by C. Poter “Encyclopaedic dictionary of the Science of language”, 1979
Germany

- “Lexikon der germanistischen Linguistik” (3 vol), 1970
- “Linguistischen Wörterbuch” (3 vol)
The USSR

In the USSR one may be proud of:

• “Soviet Encyclopaedia”, 1960-1970
• “National Encyclopaedia of Scientific and Applied Knowledge”, 1905
The USSR

- “Literary Encyclopaedic Dictionary”, 1987
- “Linguistic Encyclopaedic Dictionary”, by V.N.Jartseva
Linguistic encyclopaedias

- reference books with systematic knowledge about language and methods of its description
- may be general and special (describing a separate language)
- word arrangement may be alphabetical or thematic, sometimes both
Encyclopaedias

- are organised on systematic principles influenced by functional linguistics
- include poetical, rhetorical and semiological elements to provide scientific synthesis to study language as a system and texts as language material
To sum it up:

• an encyclopaedia differs from a dictionary for it can explain subjects in detail, rather than merely supplying definitions of words and phrases

• encyclopaedia is generally written in the form of many separate articles, often by experts in the field
Thesaurus as a special type of ideographic dictionary

• The origin of the term “thesaurus”
• Aims, meanings, functions
• What is a Thesaurus?
• Types of thesauruses
Thesaurus

is the opposite of a dictionary
You turn it when you have already a meaning
don’t yet have the word
Origin

• It is of Greek origin meaning “treasure”, “treasure of words”
• In Latin thesaurus—“memoria omnium rerum”
• In English a thesaurus is a treasure or storehouse especially of words as a repository, “store of knowledge”, the opposite to a dictionary
Peter Mark Roget (1779 – 1869)
Peter Mark Roget (1779 – 1869)

• Swiss by ancestry and English by birth
• a surgeon by profession, a lecturer of medicine, the Fullerian Professor of Physiology at the Royal Institution
• surveyed the water system of London and he published a description
Peter Mark Roget (1779 – 1869)

• famous for his pioneer work – a calculating machine
• wrote a two-volume study of phrenology, a standard work on electricity and galvanism
Peter Mark Roget (1779 – 1869)

Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases Classified and Arranged so as to Expression of Ideas and Assist in Literary Composition

(1852)
Peter Mark Roget (1779 – 1869)

- published as an aging intellectual, the results of his lifelong hobby
- might have application, “to facilitate the expression of ideas”
Aims of Thesaurus

• to enrich individual lexicon of a user
• to unify and replace lexical units in a text by standard words and expressions [so called descriptors] in the process of codifying and indexing of documents
Meaning

• a dictionary with maximum fully represented words of a given language with complete enumeration of examples, having been used in texts

• an ideographic dictionary in which semantic relations are shown between lexical units (synonymous, antonymous, gender relations, etc.)
Thesaurus

In the first meaning Thesaurus is possible only for dead languages. It is impossible to cite all examples for the existing languages.

Nevertheless some attempts were made by: J.K. Grott, A.A. Shachmatov, L.V. Schterba.
Thesaurus

The structural basis of thesaurus in the second meaning – hierarchic system of notions which allows to look for a lexical unit from notion (meaning). To look for a notion from the word they use alphabetic order (alphabetical index).
Examples

Roget’s Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases

(1652)
Main functions

• to provide ready synonyms for the time-pressed worker
• to give a richer list – thought expressing and thought provoking – to the more leisured writer, the scholar and the stylist
• to choose exactly the right word with the assistance of entry’s design
Direction

**Thesaurus:** from idea to word or phrase

**Dictionary:** from word to idea
Publishers

• Harper Collins
• Oxford University Press
• Wordsworth
• Merriam-Webster
Modern versions of thesauruses

- Roget’s Pocket Thesaurus
- Roget’s International Thesaurus
- Roget’s Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases which is a classical American edition
- Collin’s Paperback Thesaurus
- Webster’s New Explorer Thesaurus
The End

“Men require more often to be reminded than to be informed”