

Lexicography and terminology

Points to discuss

- Lexicography
- Theoretical and practical lexicography
- Lexicography and other disciplines
- Lexicography for translators/interpreters

Recent change of lexicography

- **Main factor** – impact of the computer

(the electronic storage of vast textual material in corpora and the varied electronic presentation of lexicological and lexicographical work)

- **Secondary factor** – rapid emergence of metalexicography

(dictionary research as an academic discipline with an explosion of writing on and about dictionaries)

Lexicography

is the art and craft of writing a dictionary

Definitions

Lexicographer is someone who writes or contributes to a dictionary/dictionaries

- as an individual or a member of a team
- as a freelancer or an in-house employee
- as a full-time professional or part-time alongside other activities

More generally it's the writer of other reference works, including encyclopedias

Questions

- **Why dictionary?**

(not thesaurus, lexicon, or encyclopedia and other reference works)

- **Why write?**

(not plan, edit, publish or make, produce, compile, let alone study, review, or use)

- **Why art and craft?**

(not activity, process, technique, science, job, profession or practice, let alone history, study, use, or theory)

Answers

- **Dictionary** is the prototypical work of lexical reference
- **Writing** is the essential lexicographic activity
- Extracting meanings and uses from authentic texts and explaining them clearly and fully in a minimum of words is an **art**
- Writing with dictionary users uppermost in mind in an attempt to meet their needs is a practical and useful activity, a **craft**

Theoretical and practical lexicography

Practice and theory of compiling dictionaries.

Every theory is a result of practical needs.

Functions of practical lexicography

- **educational function** presupposes teaching language both native and foreign
- **'legislative' function** studies problems of description and normalization of language; it relates with describing standardizing native language forming a certain language norm
- **communicative function** deals with realizing intercultural communications
- **scientific function** fulfills studying vocabulary of a language periods of practical lexicography

History of practical lexicography

- pre-dictionary period
- period of early dictionaries
- period of developed lexicography

pre-dictionary period

The main function of predictionary periods is to explain words which are difficult to understand.

pre-dictionary period

Glosses (series of verbal interpretations of a text)

In Sumerain in the 25th c. B.C.

In Western Europe in the 8th c. A.D.

In Russia in the 11th c. A.D.

pre-dictionary period

Glossaries (collections of glosses pertained to one book or author)

- Veda (the 1st millennium B.C., India)
- Homer glossaries (the 5th c. B.C., Greece)

Vocabularias (collections of words for educational purposes)

- Hettite-Akkadian-Sumerian plates, tablets (14-13 c.c. B.C.)
- Thematic group of words (1750 B.C., in Egypt)

period of early dictionaries

The main function is
to study literary languages
which differ from spoken speech

period of early dictionaries

- Sanskrit lexicons (the 8-6th c.c. B.C.)
- ancient Greek lexicons (10 c. B.C.)
- short Akkadian wordlist from central Mesopotamia (the 7th c. B.C.)

period of early dictionaries

Passive translated vocabularies (foreign vocabulary is explained with the help of a language of a people)

- Arabic-Persian – 11 c. A.D.
- Latin-English – 15 c. A.D.
- Church-Slavonic-Russian – 16 c. A.D.

period of early dictionaries

Explanatory dictionaries in countries with hieroglyphic orthography

- China – in the 3 c. B.C.
- Japan – in the 8th c. B.C.

period of developed lexicography

The main function of the period is
describing and normalizing

period of developed lexicography

explanatory dictionaries

- “Halian Academic Dictionary” by Crusca 1612
- Russian Academic Dictionary, 1789-1794

Dictionaries and the period of their creation

- **The 17-18th c.c.** - Enlightenment epoch and ideas of famous philosophers (Francis Bacon, Rene Dekartes)
- **The 18th c.** - Evolution theories and comparative linguistics brought out one of the problem of solving etymological questions in lexicography, strengthening the role of history
- **The 19th c.** - ideas of positivism influenced French dictionaries (dictionary of E. Littré (1863-1872))
- **The 20th c.** - lexicography acquired industrial character (appearance of dictionaries of related languages, reverse dictionaries, dictionaries of frequent words, concordances, dictionaries of the writers' languages)
- **1950** - computer and computerised techniques in lexicography are being applied. The whole institutes and centres of lexicography were created

Theoretical lexicography

Aims at

- **codification** of any modern language lexicon, carried out in various types of dictionaries based on historical learning
- **systematization** of characteristic features of words
- **dictionary making** providing foundation for fundamental research of dictionary development and their types

Problems of theoretical lexicography

- general typology development of dictionaries and dictionaries of new types
- development of dictionary macrostructure
- development of dictionary microstructure

1. Types of lexicography

- **unilingual lexicography** (compiling explanatory dictionaries)
- **bilingual lexicography** (compiling translating dictionaries)
- **educational lexicography** (compiling dictionaries for language studying)
- **scientific-technological lexicography** (making terminological dictionaries)

2. Macrostructure of a dictionary

- choice of vocabulary
- principles of arranging words and entries
- linguistic information about word pronunciation
- grammatical forms and functions
- etymologies
- syntactic peculiarities
- variant spellings and antonyms
- quotations illustrating a word's usage (and these may be dated to show the earliest known uses of the word in specified senses)

3. Microstructure of a dictionary

- grammar and phonetic commentaries to a word
- classification and outlining of meanings
- definitions
- note system
- supplementary materials

Social functions of dictionaries

- **informative function** - it reflects the shortest way that is through notations to acquire knowledge
- **communicative function** - it gives readers the necessary words of native and foreign languages
- **nominative function** - it is originated from the Latin word “nomen”, from times immemorial it is use to nominate objects

Lexicography and Linguistics

- the grammatical study of the language
- field linguistics
- descriptive linguistics
- ethnolinguistics
- the phonetic study of the language
- the morphological analysis of the language
- historical linguistics
- etymology
- historical linguistics
- psycholinguistics
- sociolinguistic
- stylistic studies
- dialectology
- contrastive linguistics

Lexicography and Lexicology

What is the subject matter of lexicography and lexicology?

What do they have in common?

Lexicography and Lexicology

- **Lexicography** is **lexico** '*word*' (λεξικός belonging to word) + **graph** '*writing*' (γραφω I write, if we translate it into English it means “I write words”) i.e. the writing of words
- **Lexicology** is derived from **lexico** '*word*' (λεξικός belonging to word) + **logos** '*learning or science*' (λόγος means learning, if we translate it into English it means “learning of words”) i.e. the science of words

The difference

- **Lexicography** aims at systematization revealing characteristic features of words. The field of lexicography is the semantic, formal, and functional description of all individual words. Dictionaries aim at a more or less complete description.
- **Lexicology** shows that the vocabulary of every particular language is not a chaos of diversified phenomena but a homogeneous whole, a system constituted by independent elements related in certain specific ways.

Word relations

- **The paradigmatic relations** are based on the interdependence of words within the lexical system
- **The syntagmatic relations** show the relation of words in the patterns of arrangement

Lexicology studies

- the patterns of semantic relationship of words
- phonological, morphological and contextual behaviour
- the vocabulary of a language in terms of its origin, development and current use
- the interrelationship of lexical units
- combinative possibilities

Lexicology can be

- **historical** - dealing with the origin and development of the form and meaning of the lexical units in a particular languages across time
- **descriptive** - studying the vocabulary of a language as a system at a particular point of time

Lexicological studies can be

- **General lexicology** is concerned with the general features of words common to all languages. It deals with something like universals in language
- **Special lexicology** on the other hand studies the words with reference to one particular language

Word

- In **lexicology** the word is studied as a part of the system
- In **lexicography** it is studied as an individual unit in respect of its meaning and use from the practical point of its use by the reader of the dictionary for learning the language or comprehending texts in it or for any other purpose like checking correct spelling, pronunciation etc.

Lexicology and Lexicography

- In **lexicology** the study of words is objective, governed by the theories of semantics and word formation. There is no scope for individual aberrations
- In **lexicography**, in spite of all the best attempts on the part of the lexicographer, many of definitions become subjective, i.e. they are not free from the bias of the dictionary maker

Lexicography

- an art and a craft
- a profession
- a hobby
- a scholarly and commercial enterprise
- an academic discipline
- a longstanding cultural practice
- an integral part of the intellectual tradition in literate societies