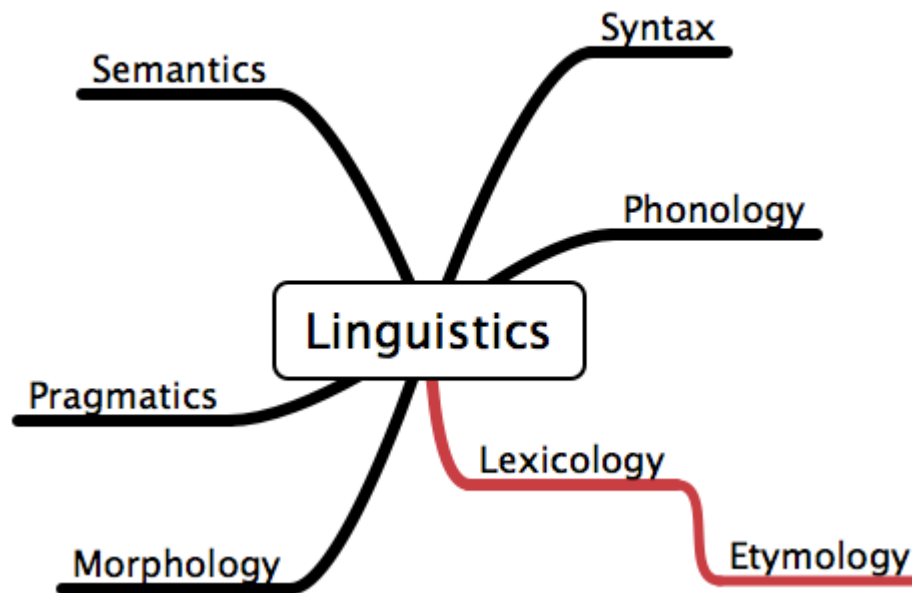# Lexicology

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- Linguistic discipline whose main object of study is vocabulary
- Vocabulary – total stock of words which are used in a language, and which in Bloomfield´s terminology are defined as „minimal free forms"

Basic features of the word

- Word as idealized lexical unit (monosemantic lexeme) has three basic properties:
- **ARBITRARINESS** – nature of the sound sequence of a lexeme does not result from the nature of the reality it stands for.
- **CONVENTIONALITY** – form of the word isa sort of convention among the members of the particular language community
- **UNIVERSALITY** – tendency of the word to refer to the whole class of referents, not just to an individual object.

Differences in classifying the reality

- All objects or situations around us, even us, our own ideas in our own inner world. It is also the language itself about which we can talk by using the same language (METALANGUAGE)

Google …Typical American …

- House

- car

Lexical motivation

- The nature of word cannot always be connected with arbitrariness
- Most lexemes are motivated – they are some other linguistic or extralinguistic factors that motivate us to coin a new word.
- 3 types of lexical motivation

3 types of lexical motivation

- **Morphological** – morhpological structure of most words is at least partly determined by the structure of some other related words E.g. the word worker is motivated by its relationship to the already existing word work. The suffix –er representing an agent is joined to the word formative base
- **Semantic** – crerating a new word whose meaning has ben inspired by the original meaning of an already existing lexeme. E.g. mouse – animal, electronic device.
- **Phonological** – words motivated by natural sounds – e.g. tinkle

Lexical, Morphological and grammatical words - difference

- **Lexical word** – an idealized abstract form, a unit of the language system that stands for concrete or abstract entities of the extralinguistic reality (e.g. speak)
- **Morphological word**- grammatical variant of that lexeme (speaks, spoke, speaking..)
- **Grammatical words** – do not stand themselves for any phenomenon of the outside world but have a purely grammatical function (e.g. conjunction and, article the..etc)

Denotative & Connotative meaning

- **Denotative** – simple naming of objects of extralinguistic reality. Through the historical development- narrowing of the original meaning, original meaning becomes more specific – e.g. wife – before- any woman, now – married woman
- **Connotative** – emotional colouring – pejoration (negative meaning), amelioration (makes the original meaning more positive – e.g. Mister – original – servant)

Types of semantic shifts

- Metaphor
- Metonymy
- Eponymy

Metaphor and metonymy

- Two principal associations between original and new meanings: metaphor, metonymy

- **METAPHOR:** semantic shift based on the similarity of two referents (one thing is compared to another) – e.g. neck of bottle, teeth of saw

- **METONYMY:** close connection between the referents but the connection is inherent, e.g. I like reading Shakespeare
- Special type of metonymy – **SYNECDOCHE** – an expression denoting a part is used to refer to a whole or vice versa (e.g. the White house – the building or people working there)

Eponymy

- Another type of semantic shift where a common noun is derived from an individual name (e.g. sandwich from Lord Sandwich, champagne from Champagne region)

Word-Formation

- Process of coining new language units
- Word-formative processes are of two types – depending on their productivity
1. Major word-formative processes – compounding, affixation, conversion
2. Minor word-formative processes – abbreviation, blending, back-formation..etc.

Compounding

- Process of coining new words by combining two or more root morphemes (smallest and indivisible meaningful units from which words are derived)
- Features of compounds:
1. Their meaning does not result from the meaning of its constituents
2. Solid morphological and syntactic functioning

Types of compounds

- Coordinate and subordinate compounds
- Endocentric and exocentric compounds
- Germanic and French types of compounds

Coordinate and subordinate compounds

- According to the relation between the constituent parts we distinguish coordinate and subordinate compounds
- Coordinatvive compounds – the constituents have equal status – e.g. deaf-mute, north-west
- Subordinate compounds – one constituent determines the other –e.g. blackboard, paperback

Germanic and French types of compounds

- Germanic type – the determinant (determining element) precedes the determinatum (determined element) – bedroom, tooth-past, etc
- French type – the determinant is preceded by the determinatum – pickpocket, spendthrift

Endocentric and exocentric compounds

- **Endocentric** – the whole compound belongs to the same word category sa its consitutents – e.g. football
- **Exocentric** – compound falls into another category than its constituents – e.g. forget-me-not, downstairs..etc

Conversion

- Coining new words by shifting them to another category (word class) without any change in their form – zero morpheme derivation
1. **Full conversion** – brake – to brake
2. **Partial conversion**- converting a verb to a noun and adding another auxiliary verb – e.g. have a smoke, take a walk

Affixation

- Process of creating new words by adding affixes (prefixes, suffixes, infixes)
1. **Prefixes:** change the lexical meaning of the word budt usually do not change its word category
2. **Suffixes** – change the lexical and functional meaning of the word (teach – teacher)
3. **Infixes** – function as linking elements of other lexical elements – nowadays, sportsman

Blending

- Two stage process – 1. at least one of two independent words is shortened, 2 they are compounded, blended together (e.g. Interpol, autocide)

Back-formation

- Coining a simpler word form from a more complex one. The new word is derived from another word by detaching its suffix – stage-manager – stage-manage, television – televise, etc.

Abbreviation

- Function as synonymous shortened forms of their full unabbreviated counterparts.
- Abbreviations are of two types:
1. **Lexicalized abbreviations:** clippings, acronyms proper
2. **Non-lexicalized abbreviations**: initialisms, numeronyms

- **Clippings:** initial, central or final part of the original word is detached: phone – telephone, pro – professional, specs – spectacles
- **Acronyms Proper**: read as ordinary words – OPEC, FIST
- **Graphical abbreviations**: nr – near, fcty – factory
- **Initialisms:** composed of initial letters of originally multi-word expressions – GDP Gross Domestic Product
- **Numeronyms:** B2B – business to business

Thank You!
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