

# LEXIKOLOGIE A FRAZELOGIE

English Lexicology and Phraseology

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- LEXICOLOGY

- Greek roots (dictionary + discourse)

- part of linguistics dealing with the vocabulary of a language (lexicon) and the properties of words as the main units of language

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- BRANCHES OF LEXICOLOGY

**General** deals with general problems, general study of words, irrespective of a particular language

**Special** describes the vocabulary/lexical aspects of a given language

**Historical** studies the evolution of vocabulary

**Synchronic** deals with the structure of vocabulary, properties and functions of words of the current period (descriptive)

Other approaches to the classification of lexicology:

contrastive, confrontational, etc.

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- LEXICON all the words that are used in a particular language are called the lexis, lexicon or word stock
- Size of lexicon: cca 450,000 in M-W lemmas to cca 500,000 in OED entries
- Single individual uses personal lexicon: active  
passive
- Core of the language = the central vocabulary (cca 15,000 items)

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- LEXICOGRAPHY - Gr. Dictionary + to write
  - the art and science of dictionary creation
  - a basic term: a lexical item (not 'a word')
- DICTIONARY words arranged in alphabetical order
- THESAURUS words that are similar in meaning are grouped together

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- **DICTIONARY**
  - the headword – lemma
  - pronunciation
  - word class (part of speech)
  - etymology
  - definition
  - citations (examples of its use)

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- **LEMMA** = the base form under which the word is entered and assigned its place (e.g. *take*); other forms, if predictable (regular), may not be entered; an irregular form may appear as a separate lemma with cross reference
- **PRONUNCIATION** = indicated in a phonemic transcription
- **WORD CLASS** = is one of the primary word classes (e.g. *verb*) with possible subclass (e.g. transitive verb)
- **ETYMOLOGY** = the earliest known form and the language of origin (e.g. *Old English*); may indicate the **cognates** (i.e. words with a common origin)
- **DEFINITION** = description and/or synonymy; may include words that are more difficult than the defined lemma
- **CITATIONS** = show how the word is used in context; there may be fixed expressions (idioms) included

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

- THESAURUS
  - Peter Mark Roget – a pioneer of the language thesaurus
  - no separate entry for each word
  - words occur as a part of a list
  - final layer in a **lexical taxonomy**, i.e. organization of words into classes and sub classes based on their meaning (**semantic relationship**)
  - provides a systematic offer of a particular semantic field

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

## ***BASIC SEMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WHEN WORKING WITH A THESAURUS:***

- **HYPONYMY** = the semantic relation of being subordinate or belonging to a lower rank or class (horse – animal)
  - **co-hyponyms** – two words in the same rank (cat, mouse – animal)
- **HYPERONYMY** = being superordinate or belonging to a higher rank or class (animal – horse)
- **MERONYMY** = the semantic relationship of being a part of sth. (tree – forest)
- **HOLONYMY** = converse of meronymy, whole-to-part (apple tree – apple)

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

## *BASIC LEXICOLOGICAL NOTIONS:*

- Lexeme – bearer of meaning/lexical item  
covers more than just a single word  
e.g. nut (food, engineering, enthusiastic, head, ...)
- Sememe - is the meaning of the lexeme  
emotional, denotative, referential, cognitive, aesthetic, etc.

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

Words can have:

a) DENOTATIVE MEANING

an objective link between a lexeme and the reality  
(dog = canine, quadruped)

b) CONNOTATIVE MEANING

equivalent of the emotional aspect, represents the personal dimension of the lexical meaning (dog = helper, friend, faithful)

LOADED LEXEME – highly charged with connotations

LOADED LANGUAGE – e.g. the usage of colours in the language  
(red = confident, assertive, exciting, aggressive, bossy, threatening;  
pink = feminine, gentle, safe; blue = peaceful, trustworthy, constant)

# 1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

## **LEXICAL STRUCTURE** (Ferdinand de Saussure)

Analyses words from the angle of two dimensions:

- A) **HORIZONTAL dimension**  
the relationship between lexemes in a sequence, i.e. we know intuitively which words occur together (syntagmatic level/sequence)
  
- B) **VERTICAL dimension**  
one lexeme can be substituted by another  
(paradigmatic level/substitution)