

Lexicology

Lecture 2 English vocabulary as a system

1. Ways of enriching vocabulary

2. The classification of the English vocabulary

2.1 Morphological grouping

2.2 Thematic and ideographic groups

2.3 Terminological systems

2.4 Different types of non-semantic groupings

By the *vocabulary* of a language

is understood the total sum of its words.

Another term is the *stock of words*.

The vocabulary of the language *is not homogeneous*.

It is *an adaptive* system.

Ways of enriching vocabulary

- **Neologisms** (newly-coined words).
- Productive word-formation patterns:
 - **Affixation** (*electronics, psycho-linguistics*),
 - **Conversion** (*a sputnik – to sputnik*),
 - **Back-derivation** (*to laze from lazy*),
 - **Shortening** (*lab -- laboratory*)

Ways of enriching vocabulary

- **Semantic extension** (*Ex. The new slangish word “heel” that means a traitor or a double-crosser (хумреу, двурешник) has lost all connections with “heel” – the back part of human feet.*)
- **Borrowing** (*blitzkrieg, protein*)
- **Obsolete words** (*Cyninge n “king”*)
- **Archaisms** (*Ex. Betwixt is replaced by between.*)
- **Historism** (*Ex. Phaeton*)

The classification of the English vocabulary

I. Morphological and lexico-grammatical grouping:

- root words (ex. Dog hand),
- derivatives (ex. Handy, handful),
- compound words (ex. Handball, handbag),
- compound derivatives (ex. Left-handed).

Word-families

- **according to the root-morpheme** (ex. Handy *удобный*, handsome, handbag, and handicraft *ручная работа*).
- **according to a common suffix or prefix** (ex. Troublesome *причиняющий беспокойство*, gladsome *довольный*, gruesome *отвратительный*).

II. Thematic and ideographic groups:

The basis of thematic grouping: linguistic (that is words belong to the same part of speech) and extra linguistic.

- *Ex colour terms, military and medical terms.*

Thematic groups are multistage systems – words belonging to the basic system differ from words belonging to subsystems in frequency of use, motivation, simple or compound character, stylistic colouring and combining power.

Ideographic groups.

Words are classed according to their signification that is the system of logical notions.

- *Ex. Such words as light (noun), bright (adj.), shine (verb), are united into one ideographic group as they are all connected with the notion of light.*

III. Terminological systems:

- Terms are words or word groups used to name a notion characteristic of some special field of knowledge, industry or culture.

Terminological systems

monosemantic

intersecting sets

simultaneously

layman

Ex. Vitamin, transistor.

IV. The opposition of emotionally coloured and neutral vocabulary.

Neutral words express notions but do not say anything about the state of the speaker or his mood. Ex. Impatient, resort, report.

Emotionally coloured words evoke or directly express feelings because the character of denotator corresponding to the root of the word may be connected with emotion

(ex. A rotten business, or to be beastly mean about smth.)

IV. Different types of non-semantic groupings:

- The alphabetical organization of written words

It's of great practical value.

Its theoretical value is almost null.

ex. Words beginning with "w" are mostly native and those beginning with "ph" are borrowed from Greek.

- The rhyming group (similarity of their ends)
- The 3d type is based on the length of the words. Useful for communication, engineering, automatic reading of messages and correction of mistakes.
- The 4th type is based on a statistical analyses of frequency of words. Correlations between quantitative and qualitative characteristics of lexical units
(ex. The most frequent words are polysemantic and stylistically neutral).