

# English Lexicology. Part 1. Word-Building

Lecture 1. The object of lexicology

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# Course Structure

- *Lectures (28)*: Types of lexical units  
The etymology of English words. Native words. Loan words. Word structure. Morphemes. Classification of morphemes. Major types of Word building: Affixation. Conversion. Composition; Shortening. Minor types of word building (sound imitation, back formation, blending). Set expressions. Set expressions and words. Classification of set expressions.

# Seminars (8) and Assignments

- 1 Morphemes. Classification of morphemes
- 2 Affixation
- 3 Conversion
- 4 Composition
- *Assignment 1* Lexicology as a branch of Linguistics); 2 чaca: 1) Revise the notes of lecture 1; 2) reading: Antrushina G.B. Lexicology of the English Language ; chapter 1, p. 6-21; exercises (p.21-26); Arnold I.V. The English Word; p. 9-25.

# Final Test Questions

- The object of lexicology
- Synchronic and diachronic study.
- Syntagmatic and paradygmatic relations.
- The concept of a vocabulary as a system.
- Types of lexical units.
- The word as the basic unit of language.
- The word and morpheme: similarities and differences
- The word and set expression (phraseological unit)

# Final Test Questions

- The morphological structure of the word: roots, stems, affixes.  
The roots versus radical (element)
- Derivational versus functional affixes.
- Affixation as one of the major types of word-formation. Affixes: suffixes and prefixes.
- Native versus borrowed affixes.
- Compounding as one of the major types of word-formation. The structure of compounds.
- Neutral compounds.
- Morphological compounds.

# Final Test Questions

- Syntactical compounds.
- Determinatum and determinant. Exocentric and endocentric compounds.
- Specific features of English compounding.
- The semantic structure of compounds. Idiomatic versus non-idiomatic compounds.
- Criteria for distinguishing compounds from free word- combinations.
- Semi-affixes.
- "Stone-wall" problem.
- Phrasal verbs.

# Final Test Questions

- Conversion as a specifically English way of word-formation.
- The correlation of a curtailed word with its prototype.
- Classification of clippings.
- Telescoping (blending) as a minor type of word-formation.
- Abbreviations.
- The terms "phraseology" and "idiom"
- Phraseological units versus free word-combinations. Classifications of phraseological units.
- The etymological structure of English vocabulary: the native element
- The borrowed versus native words.

# Основная литература

- Антрушина Г.Б. Лексикология английского языка.
- Арнольд И.В. Лексикология современного английского языка
- Богрданова Т.Н. Лексикология английского языка Сборник тестов для студентов 3 курса
- Гвишиани Н.Б. Современный английский язык: Лексикология
- Дорджиева Е.В. Seminars in lexicology. Word Formation



# Дополнительная литература

- Арбекова Т.И. Лексикология английского языка (практический курс).
- Crystal D. Words, words, words. Oxford University Press 2006, 2007
- 1) <http://www.worldwidewords.org/index.htm>
- 2) [acronyms.silmaril.ie/](http://acronyms.silmaril.ie/)
- 3) Macmillan
- 4) BBC Learn English
- 5) [theguardian.uk.co](http://theguardian.uk.co)

# Questions

- The object of lexicology
- Synchronic and diachronic study.
- Syntagmatic and paradygmatic relations.
- The concept of a vocabulary as a system.

*Key words and concepts:* lexicology, word, lexical item, lexeme, vocabulary, system

# The object of lexicology

- **Lexicology** (from Gr *lexis* 'word' and *logos* 'learning' is the part of linguistics dealing with the vocabulary of the language and the properties of words as the main units of language.
- **Vocabulary** is the system formed by the sum total of all the words and word equivalents that the language possesses.
- **The word** is the basic unit of a language resulting from the association of a particular meaning with a particular group of sounds capable of a particular grammatical employment.

# Structural features of the word:

- The modern approach to word studies is based on distinguishing between the external and internal structures of the word.
- The **external** structure of the word, or its **morphological** structure (item and arrangement) is studied in part 1 word-building (word-formation). The **internal (semantic)** structure of the word, or its **meaning**, is studied in the course of semantics (part 2).
- **Formal unity**
- **Semantic unity** (conveys one concept)

# Words: for and against

- Wordsmithery
- Wordsmiths, word-buffs, wordaholics
- 1 **wine/film/opera** etc **buff** someone who is interested in wine, films etc and knows a lot about them
- A word is medicine to the wise (Telugu)
- A word spoken at the right moment is like a golden apple on a silver dish (Silesian)
- Words are good but hens lay eggs (German)

# How big a vocabulary do you need?

- 5000 word families to do an undergraduate degree but 8000 to understand a newspaper
- The words we should teach: the top 2000 frequent words of the language; learning takes several years
- Plus 570 words of core academic vocabulary to study in English, etc
- Graded readers and simplified texts are the best methods of reinforcing vocabulary and improving reading fluency