

# Lexicology as a branch of linguistics

1. Lexicology as a branch of linguistics. Its interrelations with other sciences
2. The word as the fundamental object of lexicology. The morphological structure of the English word.

# Lexicology

*(from Gr lexis “word” and logos “learning”)*  
is a part of linguistics dealing with the vocabulary of a language and the properties of words as the main units of the language. It also studies all kinds of semantic grouping and semantic relations: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, semantic fields, etc.

# The subject-matter of lexicology

word, its morphemic structure,  
history and meaning.

# Branches of lexicology

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graph TD; A[Branches of lexicology] --> B[General lexicology]; A --> C[Contrastive lexicology]; A --> D[Special lexicology]; C --> E[Semasiology]; C --> F[Historical lexicology (etymology)]; C --> G[Onomasiology]; F --> H[Descriptive lexicology];
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General lexicology

Special lexicology

Contrastive lexicology

Semasiology

Historical lexicology  
(etymology)

Onomasiology

Descriptive lexicology

# Approaches to the language within the framework of lexicology

**The synchronic approach** is concerned with the vocabulary of a language as it exists at a certain time (e.g., a course in Modern English Lexicology);

**The diachronic approach** deals with the changes and the development of the vocabulary in the course of time.

# Lexicology interrelations with other sciences

- general linguistics,
- the history of the language,
- phonetics,
- stylistics, and grammar.

# Word nature

- First, the word is a unit of speech which serves the purposes of human communication. Thus, the word can be defined as **a unit of communication.**
- Secondly, the word can be perceived as **the total of the sounds which comprise it.**
- Third, the word, viewed structurally, **possesses several characteristics.**



# Word Structures

- The external structure of the word - its morphological structure. For example, in the word *post-impressionists* the following morphemes can be distinguished: the prefixes *post-*, *im-*, the root *-press-*, the noun-forming suffixes *-ion*, *-ist*, and the grammatical suffix of plurality *-s*.
- The internal structure of the word - the word's semantic structure (its meaning). This is the word's main aspect.



# Kinds of words

- ❑ **orthographic words** – words distinguished from each other by their spelling;
- ❑ **phonological words** – distinguished from each other by their pronunciation;
- ❑ **word-forms** which are grammatical variants;
- ❑ words as items of meaning, the headwords of dictionary entries, called **lexemes**.