

Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics

LECTURE 1



Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics

1. Lexicology: central terms
2. Parts and areas of lexicology
3. Two approaches to language study
4. Lexical units
5. Varieties of words

I. Lexicology: central terms

1. Lexicology
2. Word
3. Vocabulary



II. Parts and Areas of Lexicology

1. Parts of Lexicology:

- a) General Lexicology;
- b) Special Lexicology.

2. Areas of Lexicology:

- a) Historical Lexicology;
- b) Descriptive Lexicology;
- c) Comparative Lexicology;
- d) Contrastive Lexicology;
- e) Combinatorial Lexicology;
- f) Applied Lexicology.

Modern English Lexicology studies:

1. Semasiology
2. Word-Structure
3. Word-Formation
4. Etymology of the English Word-Stock
5. Word-groups and Phraseological Units
6. Variants of The English Language
7. Lexicography

III. Two Approaches To Language Study

- ▶ The ***synchronic (descriptive) approach*** is concerned with the vocabulary of a language as it exists at a given time or at the present time.
- ▶ The ***diachronic (historical) approach*** refers to *Historical Lexicology* that deals with the evolution of the vocabulary units of a language over time.

IV. Lexical Units

- ▶ Morphemes;
- ▶ Words;
- ▶ Word-groups;
- ▶ Phraseological units.

V. Varieties of Words

- ▶ The **word** is a two-facet unit possessing both form and content or soundform and meaning. Neither can exist without the other.
- ▶ **Paradigm** - the system showing a word in all its word-forms.
- ▶ **Word-forms** – grammatical forms of words.
- ▶ **Lexico-semantic variant** – the word in one of its meanings.

Variants of Words

▶ **Group 1:**

Lexico-semantic variants: *to learn by heart, to learn about smth.*

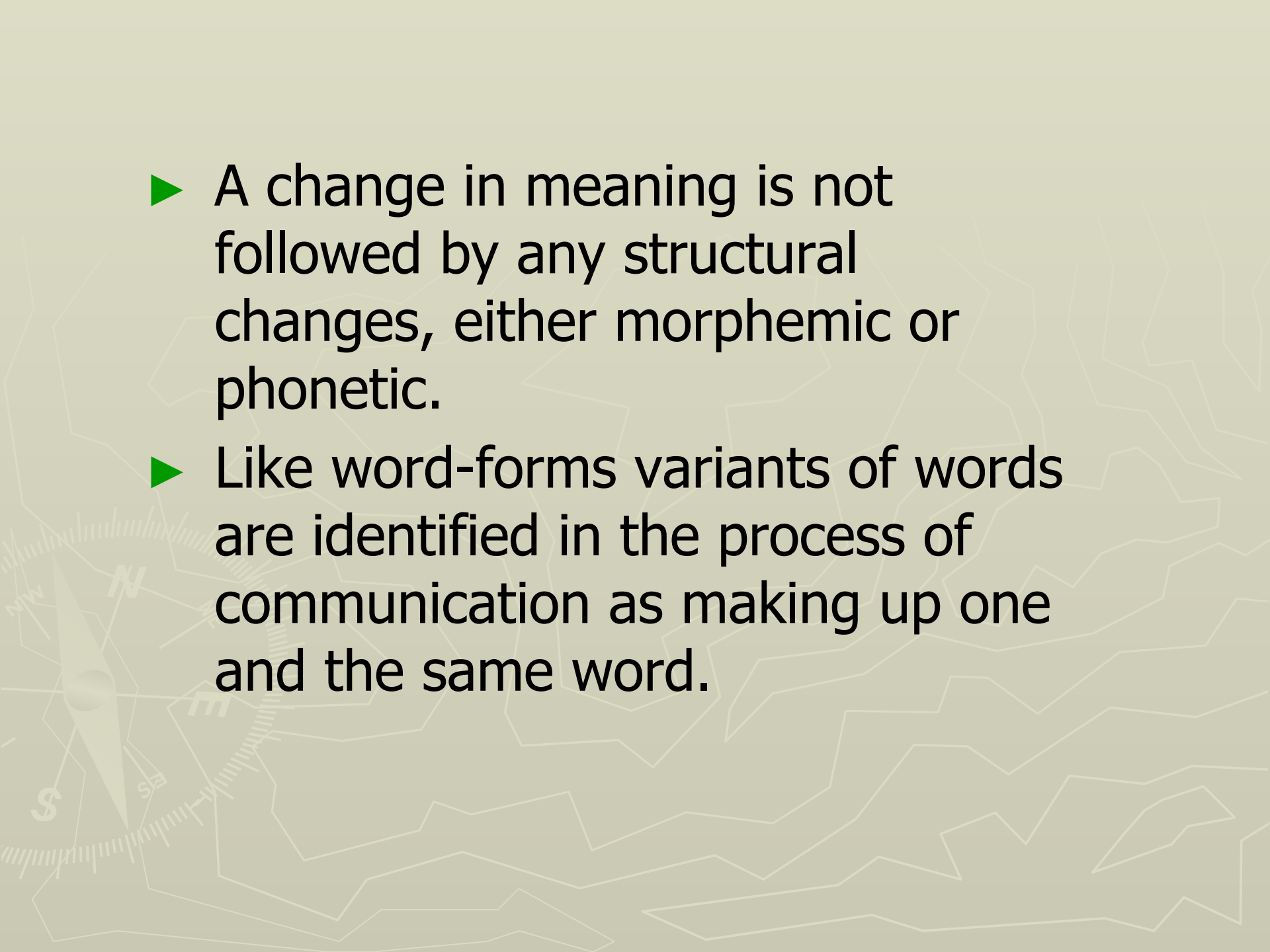
▶ **Group 2:**

a) phonetic variants: *often* ['O:Sn] and ['O:Stn];

b) morphological variants: *learned* [-d] and *learnt* [-t].

Conclusion

- ▶ The most essential feature of variants of words of both groups is that a slight change in the morphemic or phonemic composition of a word is not connected with any modification of its meaning.

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- ▶ A change in meaning is not followed by any structural changes, either morphemic or phonetic.
 - ▶ Like word-forms variants of words are identified in the process of communication as making up one and the same word.

- ▶ Thus, within the language system the word exists as a system and unity of all its forms and variants

