

Books

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Lexicology

(Gr.: *lexis* 'word' + *logos* 'learning')

is one of the branches of linguistics dealing with different properties of words and the vocabulary of a language

The basic definition of the word

The **word** is the basic unit of the lexical system of a language resulting from the association of a particular meaning with a particular group of sounds capable of a particular grammatical employment.

All the words of a language make up its **vocabulary** or **lexicon**.

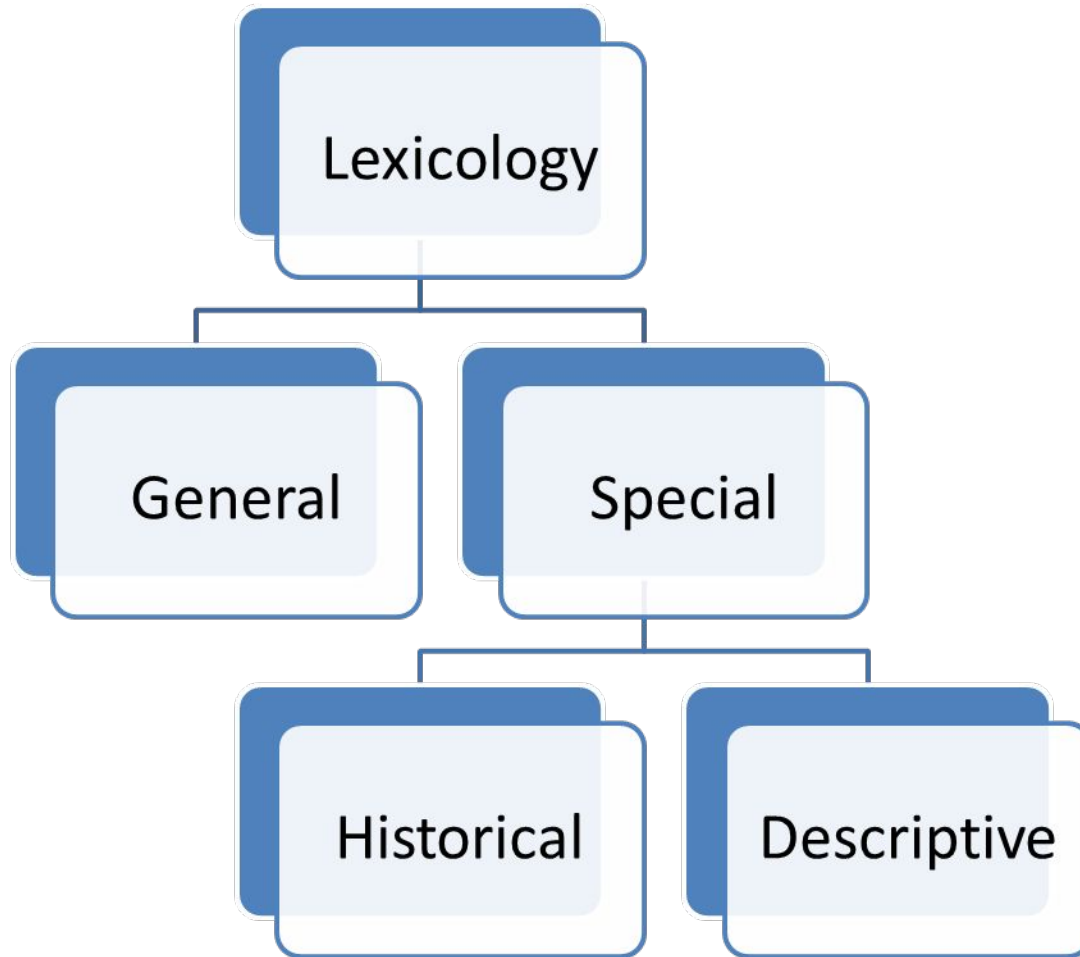
Branches of Lexicology

- **Etymology**
- **Word-formation**

E.g. *lingu* – root (“tongue, language”); *ist* – noun suffix; *ic* – adjectival suffix

- **Semantics:** *silly* (OE ‘happy’); *nice* (OE ‘foolish’)
- **Phraseology:** *not for the world*; *to carry coal to New Castle*; *a piece of cake*
- **Lexicography:** English (500,000); German (185,000); French (100,000).

Types of Lexicology



Two approaches to language study

Ferdinand de Saussure (1857 - 1913)

- **synchronic** (Gr. *syn* 'together, with' + *chronos* 'time')
- **diachronic** (Gr. *dia* 'through' + *chronos* 'time')

Links of lexicology with other branches of linguistics

- Phonetics
- Grammar
- History of a language
- Stylistics
- Sociolinguistics