

LEXICOLOGY AS A BRANCH OF LINGUISTICS. LEXICAL UNITS.

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Abstrakt: *Ushbu tezis leksikologiya fanining tilshunoslikdagi o'rni va leksik birliklarning tabiatini o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Tadqiqotda leksikologiyaning lug'at tarkibini tizimli tashkil etishdagi ahamiyati hamda so'zning asosiy leksik birlik sifatidagi roli tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, alohida so'zlar va turg'un so'z birikmalarining o'zaro munosabati hamda ularning til tizimidagi o'rni yoritib berilgan.*

Kalit so'zlar: *leksikologiya, leksik birlik, lug'at tarkibi, semantika, so'z yasalishi, tilshunoslik.*

Аннотация: *Данный тезис посвящен изучению места лексикологии в лингвистике и изучению природы лексических единиц. В исследовании анализируется значение лексикологии в системной организации словарного состава и роль слова как основной лексической единицы. Также освещаются взаимоотношения между отдельными словами и устойчивыми словосочетаниями, а также их место в языковой системе.*

Ключевые слова: *лексикология, лексическая единица, словарный состав, семантика, словообразование, языкознание.*

Abstract: *This thesis is devoted to the study of lexicology's position within linguistics and the examination of the nature of lexical units. The research analyzes*

the importance of lexicology in the systematic organization of vocabulary and the role of the word as the primary lexical unit. Furthermore, it highlights the interrelation between isolated words and stable word combinations, as well as their role within the language system.

Keywords: *lexicology, lexical unit, vocabulary, semantics, word formation, linguistics.*

Lexicology is a fundamental branch of linguistics that deals with the systematic study of a language's vocabulary. It examines words as the basic lexical units of language and focuses on their meanings, structure, origin, development, and usage in communication. Lexicology helps us understand how words are formed, how their meanings change over time, and how they are used in different contexts.

This field is not limited to the study of individual words only. It also includes multi-word units such as set expressions, idioms, and collocations, which function as single semantic units. For example, expressions like “make a decision” or idioms like “break the ice” have meanings that go beyond the literal meanings of their individual words.

Lexicology covers several important aspects. It studies word formation processes such as derivation, compounding, and borrowing from other languages. It also deals with semantics, which is the study of meaning, including relationships between words like synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. Another important area is the historical development of vocabulary, which shows how words appear, change, or disappear over time.

In addition, lexicology is closely connected with other branches of linguistics such as phonetics, grammar, and stylistics. It also has practical applications in areas like dictionary-making (lexicography), language teaching, translation, and communication.

The primary lexical unit of a language is the word, which serves as the central element of the language system. Words function as the main means of naming objects, actions, qualities, and ideas in communication. Lexicology studies

these units from different perspectives, including their semantic, morphological, and stylistic characteristics. The semantic aspect focuses on the meaning of words and how these meanings relate to each other. The morphological aspect examines the structure of words, such as roots, prefixes, and suffixes, and how words are formed. The stylistic aspect considers how words are used in different situations, for example in formal, informal, scientific, or literary contexts.

However, lexical units are not limited only to single words. They also include word combinations and fixed expressions that function as single meaningful units. These may include idioms, phrasal verbs, and collocations, which often have meanings that cannot be understood from their individual components alone. Such units enrich the vocabulary and make language more expressive.

Since vocabulary reflects both linguistic and extralinguistic reality, lexical units are closely connected with culture, history, and social development. For instance, new words appear as a result of technological progress, social change, and cultural interaction. At the same time, some words become outdated and fall out of use. Therefore, the study of lexical units helps us understand not only language structure but also the development of society and human experience.

A major objective of lexicology is the study of word meaning, which is carried out within the framework of lexical semantics. Lexical semantics focuses on how words convey meaning, how these meanings are structured, and how they relate to one another within a language system. Understanding meaning is essential because it allows speakers to communicate ideas accurately and effectively.

Meaning is a complex and multi-layered phenomenon. It includes denotative meaning, which is the direct or literal meaning of a word (for example, “rose” as a type of flower). It also includes connotative meaning, which refers to the emotional or associative meanings a word may carry (for instance, “rose” may suggest love or beauty). In addition, pragmatic meaning depends on the context in which a word is used, including the speaker’s intention and the situation of communication.

Lexical semantics also studies important relationships between words. One of these is polysemy, where a single word has multiple related meanings (e.g.,

“head” can mean a part of the body, a leader, or the top of something). Another relation is synonymy, which refers to words with similar meanings, such as “big” and “large”. Antonymy involves words with opposite meanings, like “hot” and “cold”. Hyponymy describes hierarchical relationships between words, where one word is a more specific example of a general category (for example, “rose” is a hyponym of “flower”).

These semantic relations play a crucial role in organizing the vocabulary of a language and make it richer and more flexible. They help speakers choose the most appropriate words in different contexts and contribute to clearer and more expressive communication.

Word formation is an important area of lexicology that studies the processes and mechanisms through which new words are created in a language. It explains how languages develop and grow by forming new lexical items to meet the communicative needs of speakers. As society changes and new concepts appear, language must adapt, and word formation plays a key role in this process.

There are several main mechanisms of word formation. Derivation involves adding prefixes and suffixes to a base word to create new words, such as “happy” → “unhappy” or “teach” → “teacher”. Compounding is the process of combining two or more words to form a single unit, for example “bookshop” or “sunflower”. Conversion (also called zero derivation) occurs when a word changes its grammatical category without changing its form, such as “to email” (from the noun “email”). Borrowing refers to taking words from other languages, which is very common in English, for instance “restaurant” (from French) or “piano” (from Italian).

In addition to these, modern linguistics also recognizes processes like clipping (e.g., “exam” from “examination”), blending (e.g., “smog” from “smoke” and “fog”), and acronyms (e.g., “NASA”). These processes show the creativity and flexibility of language users.

This area is especially important today because vocabulary is constantly expanding due to technological innovation, cultural exchange, and globalization.

New terms related to the internet, social media, science, and international communication appear rapidly and become part of everyday language.

Conclusion

In conclusion, lexicology occupies a central position in linguistics because it focuses on vocabulary, the most dynamic component of the linguistic system. By analyzing the object, goals, and problems of lexicology, we gain a deeper understanding of how lexical units function to convey meaning and reflect human cognition.

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