

简明英语词汇学

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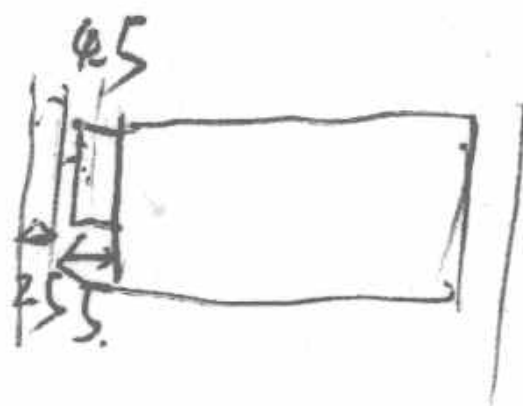
CONCISE ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

曹务堂 张友民 张法科 编著

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前言

近年来,国内大部分高等院校陆续开设了英语词汇学课程,或作为必修课,或列为选修课。与此同时,英语词汇学的研究也引起了学界专家的极大兴趣,国内相继出版了几本专著和教材。但是,作为高校选修课的简明教材尚不多见。为适应这一急需,我们编写了这本《简明英语词汇学》。

本书共分九章:导言、英语的词汇、词的结构、构词法、语义学、词义变迁、英语成语、美国英语和英语词典学。

为了帮助学生巩固所学内容,本书配有不同形式的练习,并附有答案。为了帮助读者克服由于术语所造成的困难,书后附有英汉术语对照表。本书还附有从《世界图书词典》中摘引的“分级词汇测试”,供读者自测。

在本书编写过程中,我们参考引用较多的词汇学教材有:English Lexicology (N. Rayevskaya, 1957), A Course in Modern English Lexicology (Ginsburg, E. S. et al, 1966), The English Word (И. В. Арнольд, 1966), An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology (Zhang Yunfei, et al, 1987), Modern English Lexicology (Lin Fumei, 1985)。在此,谨向有关作者深表谢忱。

本书的对象主要是英语专业高年级学生以及具有同等水平的英语自学者。对具备一定英语水平,并希望习得一些英语词汇学基础知识的其他系科学生、中学英语教师和广大的英语爱好

者,本书也同样会有帮助。

在本书编写过程中,我们得到了各方面的关心和支持。孟宪忠、赵化学、荣银良、张志鸿、徐家海、陈天祥等同志对本书的编写提出了许多宝贵意见。王义福教授不顾高龄,审阅了部分书稿并给予我们很大的鼓励。美籍专家 John Stuber 博士对本书的语言文字进行了润饰和加工。编者在此一并表示感谢。

英语词汇学是一门内容繁多的学科。因此,编写一本简明扼要的教材并非易事。在本书行文过程中,我们尽力作了初步的尝试。但是,由于编者水平有限,书中讹误舛错实属难免,敬希学界、专家同仁及读者不吝指教是幸。

编 者

一九九〇年八月

Short forms used in this book

a;adj.	adjective	int.	interjection
adv.	adverb	L	Latin
AmE.	American English	ME	Modern English
AS	Anglo-Saxon	N	noun
aux.	auxiliary	num.	numeral
BrE.	British English	OE	Old English
cf.	compare	OF	Old French
conj.	conjunction	ON	Old <u>Norse</u>
e. g.	for example	pl.	plural
electr.	electricity	prep.	preposition
esp.	especially	pron.	pronoun
et al	and others	sb.	somebody
etc.	et cetera; and so on	sth.	something
F	French	sl.	slang
fml.	formal	U. S.	United States
GK.	Greek	usu.	usually
infml.	informal	V	verb
		=	is equivalent to

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I. Introduction

1. What is lexicology?

Lexicology is a branch of linguistics dealing with the vocabulary of a given language. It treats of words, their structure, history and meaning. Roughly speaking the term vocabulary refers to all the words of a given language, while the term word refers to the fundamental unit of a given language, with sound and meaning, capable of performing a given syntactic function. The term lexicology comes from Greek morphemes: "lexi" and "logos"; the former means "word or phrase", while the latter "a department of knowledge". Hence the literal meaning of lexicology is the "science of the word".

2. The five sub-branches of lexicology

Itself a branch of linguistics, lexicology can be further classified into five sub-branches. They are semantics, etymology, historical lexicology, phraseology and lexicography.

Semantics, the basis of lexicology, is the study of the meanings of words and other parts of language. It investigates the nature, structure, and the development and change of word-meaning. Polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, metaphor, metonymy and other rhetorical devices are all within the scope of the study of semantics. Etymology studies the

meaning, origin and history of individual words and their development. Historical lexicology studies from a historical point of view the development of vocabulary as a whole on the basis of etymology. Phraseology mainly deals with set expressions or idioms, the meanings of which usually can not be made out from the constituent words. Lexicography is concerned with the writing and making of dictionaries. Naturally it has a close connection with the form, meaning, usage and origin of vocabulary units.

From what has been stated it is not difficult for us to notice that the five sub-branches of lexicology are closely related to and different from one another. Their close relation exists in the fact that they all aim at the study of vocabulary and basic wordstock of the English language, while their differences exist in that each approaches its subjects from its own distinctive view. In other words, English vocabulary can be studied semantically, etymologically, historically, idiomatically and lexicographically.

3. The relations of lexicology to other branches of linguistics

Having defined lexicology and made clear what it is concerned with, we shall discuss now its relation to other branches of linguistics.

3.1 Its relation to general linguistics

General linguistics is chiefly concerned with phonology, grammar and vocabulary. With reference to vocabulary, general linguistics studies the word as a unit of language in general,

not of any particular language. As mentioned above, lexicology is roughly the study of words, but it studies words of a particular language, not of language in general. Thus our present book, *Concise English Lexicology*, is a book on the study of words of the English language only.

3.2 Its relation to grammar

Words and grammar are inseparable, so, naturally, lexicology, dealing with words, is closely connected with grammar. Words acquire great importance and become significant speech forms only when they fall under the control of grammar. Indeed, there are isolated words in dictionaries or text-books, but they still bear a definite relation to the grammatical system, because each word belongs to a certain part of speech.

The relationship between lexicology and grammar is noticeable in the sphere of word formation. The rules of English word formation, and the morphological structure of English words are, in a sense, strictly governed by the English grammatical system.

3.3 Its relation to phonetics

Phonetics studies the phonetic structure of language (i. e. its system of phonemes, intonation patterns, etc.), the ways or manners in which a particular sound is pronounced and also its phonetic transcription. Thus the study of phonetics is closely related to that sub-branch of lexicology—semantics, because the expression of the meaning of words is made possible through sounds.