

Highlights of English Lexicology: Questions and Answers

总主编 胡宗锋 姚超英


英语词汇学 精要问答

高等院校英语专业
考研专业课精要问答

主编/王 黎

编者/梁红飞 靳怀芳 慕 玮



 中国人民大学出版社

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在《原富》按语中，严复对 20 世纪逞强世界的国家进行了惊人的预言。他说：“二十世纪以往，将地大令厚者，为富庶所钟焉。然称雄宇内者，非震旦，即美利坚也。”在《论今日教育应以物理科学为当务之急》一文中，严复对英文在 20 世纪的作用进行了预言：“且西文既通，无异于入新世界，前此教育，虽有缺憾，皆可得此为之补苴。大抵二十世纪中国人，不如是者，不得为之称学。”

严复在几十年前的这些话，早在 20 世纪已得到了验证。在 21 世纪的今天，国人越来越升温的“英语热”不但显示在国内大学开设的各种英语专业中，也体现在各行各业对外语的看重和要求中。随着人们外语水平的渐渐提高和全球化时代的到来，各行各业对外语（特别是对英语）的要求也就越来越高。英语语言文学专业近年来报考研究生的人也在逐年增多。为了帮助在校的英语语言文学专业本科生对自己专业的基本课程有一个系统的了解，为了帮助参加英语语言文学专业研究生考试的各类人才在复习时有一套简洁明了的参考书，我们特编写了这套丛书。丛书中的每一本都是以我国这些年来高等院校使用较多的教材（也是许多高校研究生考试的指定参考书）为基础，结合编者在高校从事英语语言和文学教学的实践经验，并参考了大量国内外与该课程相关的资料编写而成。

本丛书虽说是一套复习与备考丛书，但对于那些对英美文学、文化、语言和主要英语国家的国情以及相关知识感兴趣的读者来说，也不失为一套简明扼要的入门丛书。

2010 年 12 月

前 言

《英语词汇学精要问答》是以高等学校英语专业教学大纲为指导，依据编者教学讲义，结合国内多种词汇学著作编写而成。内容包括英语词汇学课程的主要知识点，如英语词汇的来源及其构成方式、词汇的分类、词义的变化、词义关系、英语成语以及词典知识等。本书采取问答形式编排，以英汉对照的方式对知识点的所有问题做了简明扼要的解答。本书不仅为高等学校英语专业学生进一步深化、细化英语词汇学知识提供了考研必备的辅导材料，而且对广大英语爱好者、英语教师而言，同样有一定帮助。

本书内容主要分三部分：

第一部分为精要问答，这是本书的主要内容；

第二部分为四套模拟题，每套试题的内容都涵盖了英语词汇学课程的主要知识点，形式既包含客观记忆型，也包含主观分析型，且题后附有答案，便于读者检验学习效果，同时进一步巩固和强化对知识点的理解和掌握。

第三部分为“英语词汇学术语表”，方便学习者及时查阅词汇学课程中的各种术语，加深记忆。

本书在编撰过程中参考了许多专家的著述，如汪榕培、林福美、张维友、林承璋等人的作品，这里恕不一一列出，谨此一并致谢。同时还要感谢西北大学外国语学院胡宗锋教授在百忙中审阅书稿并提出不少宝贵建议，在此表示由衷的谢意。

因本人水平所限，书中浅陋之见在所难免，敬请前辈学者和广大同仁对其中的疏漏及不妥之处不吝赐教，编者不胜感激。

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Part I

Highlights of English Lexicology

第一部分 英语词汇学精要问答

Introduction

绪论

1. What is lexicology?

什么是词汇学?

Lexicology is a branch of linguistics, inquiring into the origins and meanings of words.

词汇学是语言学的一个分支，研究词汇的起源和意义。

2. What is the nature and scope of English lexicology?

英语词汇学的性质和研究范围是什么?

The nature of English lexicology: English lexicology is a theoretically-oriented course. It is chiefly concerned with the basic theories of words in general and of English words in particular. Meanwhile, it is a practical course, for it has something to do with words.

The scope of English lexicology: English lexicology aims at investigating and studying the morphological structures of English words, and words equivalents, their semantic structures, relations, historical development, formation and usages.

英语词汇学的性质：英语词汇学是一门理论性学科，主要研究词汇尤其是英语词汇的基本理论，同时，因为词汇学研究的是语言中最基本的要素——词汇，所以也是一门实践性的学科。

英语词汇学的研究范围：英语词汇学研究词汇的形态结构、词的对应词及其语义结构、语义关系、词的历史发展、词的构成以及词的用法等。

3. What subjects is English lexicology correlated with? And to what extent?

英语词汇学与哪些学科有关？相关到何种程度？

English lexicology is correlated with morphology, semantics, etymology, stylistics and lexicography. In the discussion of the inflections of words and word-formation and how morphemes are combined to form words and words to form sentences, it is related with morphology. In the discussion of how a small vocabulary of



the languages of early Germanic tribes has developed into a huge vocabulary of Modern English and how words change their forms and meanings, it is related with etymology. In the discussion of polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy and semantic field of words, it is related with semantics. In the discussion of the stylistic values of words, it is related with stylistics. And in the discussion of acquiring the knowledge and information of lexis in the aspect of language use, English lexicology is relevant to lexicography.

英语词汇学与形态学、语义学、词源学、文体学和词典学等学科相关。在讨论词的屈折变化、构词法、词素如何构成词和词如何构成句子时，英语词汇学与形态学相关。在讨论词汇量很小的古英语如何发展成词汇量很大的现代英语时，与词源学相关。在讨论词汇多义关系、同形同音异义关系、同义关系、反义关系、上下文关系以及语义场时，它与语义学相关。在讨论词汇的文体价值时，与文体学相关。最后在讨论词汇的知识信息及其运用时，它又与词典学相关。

4. What are the methods of the study of English lexicology?

研究英语词汇学有哪些方法？

There are generally two approaches to the study of words, namely synchronic and diachronic. From a synchronic point of view, words can be studied at a point in time, disregarding whatever changes have taken place. If we take a diachronic perspective, we will consider the word historically, looking into its origin and changes in form and meaning.

一般说来，词汇研究有两种方法，即共时研究法和历时研究法。从共时的角度来看，可以不考虑词汇所发生的变化而从某一时间上进行研究。如果从历时的角度来考虑，我们可以从历史发展上来研究词汇的起源以及构成和意义方面的变化。

5. Why should a student of English study English lexicology?

英语专业的学生为何要学习英语词汇学？

According to the textbook, English lexicology will definitely be beneficial to students of English. Firstly, it will help them develop their personal vocabulary, and consciously increase their word power. Secondly, it will give them a deeper understanding of the word meaning, and enable them to organize, classify and store words more effectively. Thirdly, it will gradually raise their awareness of the



meanings and usages of words, and enable them to use words more accurately and appropriately. Fourthly, it will improve their skills of using reference books and raise their problem-solving ability and efficiency of individual study. Lastly, it will improve their receptive and productive skills in language processing as well as language production.

从教材上来看, 词汇学对于英语专业学生是十分有益的。首先, 它能帮助学生扩大词汇量, 有效增强语言能力。第二, 能使学生更深地理解词义, 更有效地组织、划分和贮存词汇。第三, 增强学生对词义和用法的了解, 使学生更准确地使用词汇。第四, 有利于学生掌握使用参考书的技能, 提高解决问题的能力 and 独立学习的效率。最后, 能提高学生的语言接受能力和语言使用能力。

6. What help can lexicology give to language teachers?

词汇学对于语言教师有何帮助?

Language teachers will find lexicology very helpful. With some knowledge of lexicology, they will be able to handle the teaching materials, particularly those concerning words more professionally, to select and organize materials to teach in a more effective way, and to make use of different sense relations to group vocabulary, interpret words and explain meanings to the students. Their knowledge of dictionaries will prove invaluable in their study and teaching as well.

词汇学对于语言教师的工作有很大帮助。具备了词汇学的知识, 他们可以更专业地处理教学材料, 尤其是有关词汇的材料, 也可以选择和组织材料进行更有效的教学, 还可以利用不同的语义关系来对词汇进行归组划分、阐释词义。另外, 教师对词典的了解也将对教学和研究具有十分重要的价值。

7. What's the connection of lexicology with other branches of linguistics?

词汇学与其他语言学分支有何联系?

(1) With phonetics: Phonetics is the study and systematic classification of the sounds made in spoken utterance, that is, the study of speech sounds. It is closely related to lexicology. Without sound there is no word because every word is a unity of sound and meaning.

(2) With grammar: Vocabulary and grammar are organically related to one another. In learning, attention to grammar is as important as attention to vocabulary. The vocabulary of a language assumes tremendous importance when it comes under the



control of grammar, which is concerned with the modification in form of words and the combination of words into sentences.

(3) With stylistics: Stylistics is “the study of optional variations in the sounds, forms, or vocabulary of a language as characteristic of different uses of language, different situations of use, or different literary types”. Lexicology studies stylistic variants on the basis of meanings of words and their changes: synonyms, antonyms, figures of speech, etc. Stylistics is concerned with language variety differing according to use rather than user. The same user may use different varieties for different purposes, in different situations, with different people, to produce different effects. The same subject matter can be expressed in different styles, e.g.:

- (a) My beloved parent has joined the great majority. (My beloved parent has breathed his last.) (literary)
- (b) My dear father has passed away. (euphemistic)
- (c) My father has died. (neutral)
- (d) My old man has kicked off. (My old man has gone west.) (slang)
- (e) My dad has popped off. (colloquial)

The first example is syntactically composed of modifier +subject +verb +object. The other four sentences are composed of subject +verb or verb phrase. The stylistic range is achieved by means of different word choices. Therefore, the study of words is significant for the study of language.

(4) With historical linguistics: Historical linguistics studies words from the view-point of diachrony, whereas lexicology studies words from the view-point of both synchrony and diachrony, but especially of synchrony.

(1) 与语音学的联系: 语音学是对话语中发音的研究和系统分类, 也就是对语音的研究。它与词汇学紧密联系。没有语音就没有词, 因为每一个词都是发音和意义的结合。

(2) 与语法的联系: 词汇和语法是有机地联系在一起的。学习一种语言, 语法和词汇同样重要。词汇在语法的制约下才具有其重要性, 这表现在词形的变化和与句子的结合上。

(3) 与文体学的联系: 文体学是对在语言的不同运用、不同情景或不同文学类型下语音、词形或词汇的可选择差异的研究。词汇学研究在词义和词汇变化(同义、反义、修辞等)基础上的文体差异。文体学关注不同使用情景下



的语言变体。同一使用者可以根据不同目的、不同情景、不同的谈话对象及产生的不同效果运用不同的语言变体。同一对象可以用不同风格来表达。

例如：

- (a) My beloved parent has joined the great majority. (My beloved parent has breathed his last.) (文学用语)
- (b) My dear father has passed away. (委婉语)
- (c) My father has died. (中性语)
- (d) My old man has kicked off. (My old man has gone west.) (俚语)
- (e) My dad has popped off. (口头语)

例句 a 的句法结构为定语 + 主语 + 动词 + 宾语。其他四个句子的结构为主语 + 动词或动词短语。文体差异是通过不同的选词实现的。因此，研究词汇对于语言研究意义重大。

(4) 与历史语言学的联系：历史语言学从历时的角度来研究词汇，而词汇学是从共时和历时两种角度来研究词汇，尤其是从共时的角度来研究。

第 1 章 词与词汇的基本概念

1. What is a word?

什么是词?

The definition of a word comprises the following points:

- (1) a minimal free form of a language;
- (2) a sound unity;
- (3) a unit of meaning;
- (4) a form that can function alone in a sentence.

Therefore, we can say that “a word is a minimal free form of a language that has a given sound and meaning and syntactic function”.

词的定义包括以下几点:

- (1) 一门语言中最小的自由形式;
- (2) 一个声音统一体;
- (3) 一个意义单位;
- (4) 在句子中能够独立起作用的一个形式。

由此, 我们可以下这样一个定义: 词是一门语言中具有一定的声音、意义和句法功能的最小的自由形式。

2. Illustrate the relationship between the sound and the meaning with examples.

请举例说明声音和意义之间的关系。

A word is a symbol that stands for something else in the world. Each of the world's cultures has come to agree that certain sound will represent certain persons, things, places, properties, process and activities outside the language system. This symbolic connection is almost always arbitrary. And there is “no logical relationship between the sound which stands for a thing or an idea and the actual thing and idea itself”.

A dog is called a dog not because the sound and the three letters that make up the



word just automatically suggest the animal in question. It is only a symbol. The relationship between the sound and the meaning is conventional because people of the same speech community have agreed to refer to the animal with this cluster of sounds. In different languages the same concept can be represented by different sounds. Woman, for example, becomes “Frau” in German, “Femme” in French, and “Fù nǚ” in Chinese. On the other hand, the sound [mi:t] may be used to mean *meat*, *meet*, and *mete*, denoting entirely different things.

词是表示世界上别的事物的符号。世界上的每一种文化都有一个约定：一定的声音代表该语言系统以外的一定的人、事、地以及特征、过程、活动等。这种声音和意义之间的象征性的联系差不多是任意的。“代表一个事物或一个概念的声音和这个事物或概念本身没有逻辑关系。” dog 叫 dog 并不是因为这个声音以及这三个字母在一起就自动表明这种动物，这个词只是一个象征符号。声音与意义之间的关系是一种约定俗成，因为讲同一种语言的人们都同意用这一组声音表示这种动物。在不同的语言中同一概念可以用不同的声音来表示。比如，woman 一词，德语中是 Frau, 法语中是 Femme, 汉语中是“妇女”。另一方面，同一个声音 /mi:t/ 可以表示三个完全不同的词：meet (遇见), meat (肉) 和 mete (分派)。

3. Why do more and more differences occur between sound and form?

为什么在声音和形式之间有越来越大的差异?

It is generally agreed that the written form of a natural language is the written record of the oral form. Naturally the written form should agree with the oral form. With the development of the language, more and more differences occur between the two. The reasons are as follows:

- (1) The internal reason for this is that the English alphabet was adopted from Roman, which does not have a separate letter to represent each sound in the language so that some letters must do double duty or work together in combination.
- (2) Another reason is that the pronunciation has changed more rapidly than spelling over the years, and in some cases the two have drawn apart.
- (3) A third reason is that some of the differences were created by the early scribes. In the late 1500, after printing was well established, the standardization made spelling stable, but sounds continued to change as usual, thus bringing more differences.



(4) Finally comes the borrowing, which is an important channel of enriching the English vocabulary.

一般认为，一门自然语言的书写形式是这门语言口语形式的记录，所以书面语形式与口语形式相符。然而随着语言的发展，声音和形式之间越来越有差异。原因如下：

(1) 产生这一差异的内在原因是英语拼写采用罗马字母，结果使得英语中的每个音位不能用单独的字母来表示，有些字母必须起双重职责或组合在一起来表示一个音。

(2) 另一个原因是发音比拼写变化得要快。在某些情况下，两者产生了很大的差异。

(3) 第三个原因是早期英语抄写僧造成的差异。16世纪末，印刷术已被广泛采用，标准化使单词拼写稳定起来。然而拼写虽然定型了，但声音仍继续变化，因而造成了声音与形式的更大差异。

(4) 最后一个原因是外来词，它是丰富英语词汇的重要方法。

4. What is vocabulary?

什么是词汇？

The term “vocabulary” is used in different senses. Not only can it refer to the total number of the words in a language, but it can also stand for all the words used in a particular historical period, like Old English vocabulary, Middle English vocabulary and Modern English vocabulary. We also use it to refer to all the words of a given dialect, a given book, a given discipline and the words by an individual person. Here, we say that in English lexicology, all the words of English make up its vocabulary.

“词汇”一词具有多重含义。它不仅仅可以指一门语言的词汇量，而且还可以指某一特定阶段使用的词汇，如古英语词汇、中古英语词汇和现代英语词汇。我们还可使用该词指称某一方言的词汇、一本书的词汇、某一学科的词汇，甚至还可以指某个人的词汇。从英语词汇学的角度来看，英语中的所有词构成该门语言的词汇。

5. What is the classification of English vocabulary?

英语词汇是怎样分类的？

The English vocabulary consists of words of all kinds. They can be classified by different criteria and for different purposes. Words may fall into the basic word



stock and nonbasic vocabulary by frequency, into content words and functional words by notion, and into native words and borrowed words by origin.

英语词汇包括各种各样的词，根据不同需要，可按不同标准划分词类。按使用频率分，可以分为基本词汇和非基本词汇；按有无实义来分，可以分为实义词和功能词；按起源来分，可以分为本族词和外来语词。

6. What is the basic word stock? And what is the characteristic of the basic word stock?

什么是基本词汇？基本词汇的特征是什么？

The basic word stock is the foundation of the vocabulary accumulated over centuries and forms the common core of the language. Though words of the basic word stock constitute a small percentage of the English vocabulary, yet it is the most important part of it. These words have the following characteristics:

(1) All national character, which contains natural phenomena, such as *rain, snow, fire, water, sun, spring, hill*; human body and relations, such as *head, foot, hand, face, father, sister, daughter*; names of plants and animals, such as *oak, pine, grass, tree, horse, cow, sheep, cat, dog, chicken*; action, size, color, state, such as *come, go, eat, good, old, hot, heavy, white*; numerals, prepositions, conjunctions, such as *one, ten, I, you, in, out, but, still, as*.

(2) Stability. Basic words have been in use for centuries. As they denote the most common things necessary to life, they are likely to remain unchanged both in form and meaning, such as *man, fire, water, mountain*.

(3) Productivity. Basic words are mostly root words or monosyllabic words. Each can be used alone, and at the same time can form a great number of derivatives and compounds with other roots and affixes, such as *footage, football, footpath*.

(4) Polysemy. Basic words often possess more than one meaning because most of them have undergone semantic changes in the course of use. The verb *take* has more than 20 meanings in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*.

(5) Collocability. Many basic words have entered quite a number of set expressions, idiomatic usages, proverbial sayings and the like. Take “heart” for example: *heart and soul, after one's heart, cry one's heart out* and so on.

Not all the words of the basic word stock have these characteristics. Among these features, “all national character” is the most important one that may differentiate words of common use from all others.