

张霖欣 主编

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英语词典学



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序 言

欣然拜读了张霖欣教授等三位的《英语词典学》专著。中国人用英语写的这样的著作,就我所知,这是第一部。因而可以说是填补了一个空白。尤其难能可贵的是,这原来是一份给硕士生授课的讲稿,也就是说,它是经过教学检验而形成的著作。据说原来还附有练习,可惜这次出版时略去。

我粗略读后,留下这样的总印象:条理清晰,重点突出,文字浅近、通畅。它是引导学生入门的好书,没有搬出艰深的理论和目前辞书学界尚在争议的问题,但又不满足于停留在浮浅的层面上,而是留有余地,以引发学生进一步钻研的兴趣。

作者表明,本书是“以词典使用者为视角去审视和领悟英语词典编纂原理与实践的著作”(见《前言》)。从使用者的角度来谋篇布局,这是符合大多数英语学生以及广大读者的需要的。毕竟将来编词典的人不会太多,而用词典的人则肯定不少。(其实,搞好了对

读者的培养工作,反过来也会促进辞书编纂事业的发展的。)即便是将来有志于在词典学方面深造的人,此书也可以作为领其登堂入室的初阶。

我在另一本《双语词典学论集》的“序言”中曾经写道:“现代词典学的蓬勃发展,从世界范围来说,不过是 20 世纪 60 年代以后的事,而在我国则可以以 1979 年《辞书研究》的创刊为标志;也就是说,这属新兴学科,时间不长。惟其如此,在我们面前有着远大的发展空间。”今天英文版的《英语词典学》能够面世,也可以说是我国这一学科发展以及英语教育进一步普及的标志。祝愿本书能赢得众多的读者,并希望它有再版的机会,进一步补充新材料。谨写数语,聊作序言。

黄建华

2000 年 11 月 5 日于

广东外语外贸大学

前 言

我国自实行改革开放国策以来,辞书事业长足发展,一片繁荣景象。与此同时,辞书理论的研究方兴未艾,正受到愈来愈多的重视。但从词典学研究来看,国语词典学和双语词典学方面的成果较多,国外(外语)词典学方面的研究成果相对较少,体系性的专著尚付阙如。在此情况下,我们不揣冒昧,以抛砖引玉的心情,献出这本《英语词典学》。我们希望能有更多更好的英语词典学著作问世,也希望尽早看到其他语种的词典学专著。国外(外语)词典学研究至少有三个层次上的意义:首先,它们为普通词典学研究提供基础素材;其次,它们本身是词典学研究的分支领域;其三,它们独自的特色和先进经验值得借鉴,以服务于我国国语和少数民族辞书事业的发展。

我们的这本《英语词典学》不同于一般的英美版英语词典学著述:它不是词典编纂家自身的经验之谈,而是一本以词典使用者为视角去审视和领悟英语词典编纂原理与实践的著作。从理论意义上说,它是一本英语词典学的基础教科书;从实用意义上说,它又是一本以理论作指导的英语词典使用指南。因此,本书既适用于词典学研究人员、应该具有

词典学素质的出版与编辑人员、图书管理人员,也适用于大专院校英语师生及其他英语学习者和工作者。

本书以英美的各类通用英语词典为主要研究对象、其框架结构大体上基于张霖欣先生的《英语词典学讲稿》(未出版),具体内容包括:英语词典的定义、类型、功能、发展趋势、内容结构、词的形式描述、定义方法与定义原则、用法说明、语法信息与词源信息、例证与图示、英美词典的传统特色、英语学习词典研究、四大伟典评价、常用英美中型词典概说、各类特殊语言词典评介、英语词典编纂程序及计算机应用等。全书编写的责任分工如下:张霖欣负责撰写第1、3、4、5、7、8、9、10章,并负责全书的定稿;姚喜明负责撰写第6、13、14章;张晓颖负责撰写第2、11、12章。

在本书收集材料阶段和成书过程中,曾得到过R. G. Midkiff 博士(美国), H. Bryant 博士(美国), Fancher 夫妇(美国), 李兴中博士(美国), 李文中博士的具体帮助和支持;此外还得到了郑州大学、河南大学、河南师范大学、信阳师院、郑州粮食学院、解放军信息工程学院、驻马店师专一些教授和青年教师的热情鼓励。趁此机会,谨向他们表示真诚的谢意。承蒙亚洲辞书学会首届会长、中国辞书学会副会长兼双语词典专业委员会主任黄建华教授欣然作序,为此我们也特意向他表示由衷的感谢。

最后要说的是,这本《英语词典学》是我们在这

一领域的起步之作,由于各种条件有限,缺点和错误在所难免,诚望读者不吝赐教,以便再版时予以修补和订正。

编著者

2000 年 11 月 10 日于郑州大学

Contents

Chapter One	Introduction	(1)
1.	What is lexicography?	(1)
2.	What is a dictionary?	(4)
3.	What to learn in English lexicography	(10)
4.	Why EFL students must study English lexicography	(12)
Chapter Two	Types of English Dictionaries	(14)
1.	Typology	(14)
2.	Our typology	(17)
3.	Functions of English dictionaries of different types	(30)
Chapter Three	A History of General English Dictionaries	(32)
1.	The developing stages	(32)
2.	Trends of general English dictionaries	(48)
Chapter Four	The Monumental Achievements	(51)
1.	Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> , an 18th century standard	(51)
2.	Noah Webster's <i>American Dictionary</i>	(57)
3.	<i>OED</i> , the most complete of English dictionaries	(60)

4. W3, the “masterpiece” of descriptivism	(65)
Chapter Five Content and Structure of General	
English Dictionaries	(69)
1. The front matter	(69)
2. The dictionary proper	(72)
3. The back matter	(82)
Chapter Six Describing the Form of the Word	
.....	(85)
1. Written forms	(85)
2. Spoken form: pronunciation	(91)
Chapter Seven Describing the Meaning of the Word	
.....	(99)
1. Description of meaning: general consideration	(99)
2. Defining methods	(99)
3. Principles of defining	(107)
4. Defining by part of speech	(110)
Chapter Eight Usage Indication	(113)
1. What is usage?	(113)
2. Traditions in usage indication	(115)
3. Devices used in usage indication	(116)
4. Using questionnaires before usage orientation ...	(121)
5. The inconsistency in labeling words	(122)
Chapter Nine Verbal and Pictorial Illustrations	
.....	(124)
1. Verbal illustrations	(124)
2. Pictorial illustrations	(134)

Chapter Ten Grammatical Information; Etymological

Information (138)

1. Grammatical information (138)

2. Etymological information (147)

Chapter Eleven Medium-sized General Dic-

tionaries; British and American (155)

1. The advantages of medium-sized dictionaries (155)

2. Some best-known British medium-sized dictionaries
..... (156)

3. Some best-known American college dictionaries
..... (158)

4. Distinctive features of British medium-sized general
dictionaries (163)

5. Distinctive features of American medium-sized
general dictionaries (165)

Chapter Twelve EFL(ESL) Learner's Dictionaries

..... (168)

1. A general survey (168)

2. Commonly shared features (171)

3. Unique features of the "Big Four" (176)

Chapter Thirteen Special Language Dictionaries

..... (182)

1. Pronouncing dictionaries (182)

2. Etymological dictionaries (184)

3. Synonym dictionaries (185)

4. Dictionaries of idioms (186)

5. Dictionaries of usage	(192)
6. Dictionaries of slang	(193)
7. Dictionaries of abbreviations	(194)
8. Dictionaries of neologisms	(196)
9. Other special language dictionaries	(197)
Chapter Fourteen Dictionary Making and Computer	
Use	(198)
1. Planning the dictionary	(198)
2. Writing the dictionary	(205)
3. Revising a dictionary	(207)
4. Computer uses in lexicography	(208)
English Dictionaries Coded	(214)
Bibliography	(218)

Chapter One

Introduction

1. What is lexicography?

1.1. The definition of lexicography

Traditionally, lexicography has been defined as “the act, process, art, or work of writing or compiling a dictionary or dictionaries” (WNWD, 1988), because the suffix “-graphy” means “drawing”, “writing”, “record” or “description”. Etymologically, “-graphy” comes from the Greek word *grafo*. *Grafo* primarily meant “mark” (on the tree etc.) and then the meaning has been much extended.

Nowadays, lexicography is often referred to as “the principle and practice of dictionary-making” (as defined in W3, 1986) and regarded as a descriptive science. This definition not only recognizes the “practice” of the compiler, but also emphasizes the “principle” which guides the compiler’s practice.

From the angle of terminology, lexicography may be defined as “a branch of applied linguistics, dealing with the theory and practice of dictionary-making”. This definition indicates its position

or genealogical relationship with other branches (such as language teaching and learning, mechanical translation and linguistic analysis of language disorder) in the family of applied linguistics—a science which is primarily concerned with the application of linguistic theories, methods and research findings to other areas of knowledge.

Note that in this definition the word “theory” is used instead of “principle” because 1) a theory, in meaning, is a systematic statement of principles involved; 2) a theory can be pure. Therefore, the studies of lexicography may also include such subject matters as:

- Theory on the purposes of dictionaries
- Textual theory for lexicographical texts
- Dictionary typology
- History of lexicography
- Terminology in lexicography
- Research on dictionary use
- Criticism of dictionaries

It is necessary to point out that the study of lexicography should involve not only the dictionary compilers but also the dictionary users. To make it clearer, let us borrow the concept of objectivism. Subjectively the dictionary compilers must know well the theories or principles so as to put them into their dictionary-mak-

ing practices; objectively the dictionary users must be familiar with these theories or principles so as to put them into their criticism or evaluation of dictionaries and enable themselves to use their dictionaries effectively.

1.2. Lexicography and lexicology

Lexicography has a close relation with many other branches of linguistics, especially lexicology. Lexicography and lexicology both share an interest in lexical items, and they are closely related to each other in many aspects.

(1) Lexicology studies the form, meaning, structure, and usage of words and other lexical units in a systematic way; it aims at systemization revealing characteristic features of words. Lexicography, on the other hand, presents the semantic, formal and functional description of “all” individual words.

(2) Lexicologists sort and present their material in a sequence of their own. Their products may be monographs, essays or research papers based on their own original work. Lexicographers have to arrange the vocabulary most often alphabetically. Their products are various kinds of dictionaries, which are regarded as belonging to reference books. Research work on lexicography is usually based on the researchers’ practices in dictionary making.

(3) *The theory or principle of lexicography is based on the findings of lexicology. The material information provided in dictionaries is widely used by lexicologists in their research.*

In China, some English lexicology textbooks contain English lexicography, as a part of the content because the compilers think that lexicography is a subject belonging to lexicology. But some do not. They exclude lexicography because the compilers think of it as an independent science.

2. What is a dictionary?

2.1. The definition of a dictionary

The study objects of English lexicography are certainly English dictionaries of all kinds. But it is not an easy matter to give the word “dictionary” an accurate definition, which can show the distinctive features of dictionaries and hold true for any specific kind. For instance, the following three definitions are quoted from famous publications, but each of them, for one reason or another, seems to have its own one-sidedness (The reader will think more so after he reads Chapter Two—Types of English Dictionaries).

“reference book that provides the spelling, meanings, pronunciation, origins and other information for words, usually ordered al-

phabetically. ”

—*The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1980

“an ordered list of words of a language or a part of a language, supplying meanings and related information for each entry. ”

—*Encyclopedia International*, 1982

“reference book or list of words (usually in alphabetical order) together with a guide to their meanings, pronunciation, spelling, or equivalents in other language. ” (Hartmann, 1983)

However difficult, a definition of nearest accuracy is necessary. The following are two trials of the authors of this book.

(1) A dictionary is a reference book or a set of listed words (usually in ABC order) , providing linguistic information such as spelling, pronunciation and meaning and/or extra-linguistic information about them.

(2) A dictionary is a reference book or a list of words with information about them.

Either of the two definitions (specific or general) not only indicates the basic distinctive feature of dictionaries (a reference book) , but also holds for all kinds of dictionaries including special language ones, subject ones, encyclopedic ones and transla-