ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

英语词汇学

王海华 李 红 王英力 编著
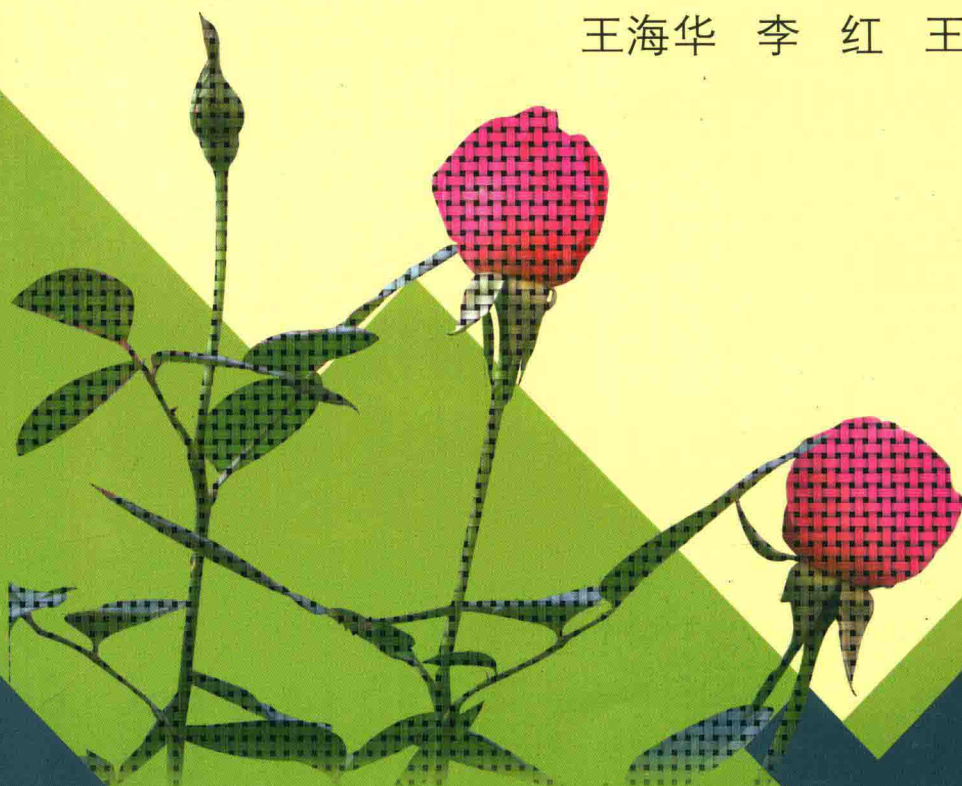
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前　言

　　英语词汇学是研究英语词汇的一门学科,为了使中国的英语学习者更好地掌握英语词汇,我们开设了"英语词汇学"这门课程,本教材正是为此所编写的。该课程共 36 学时,在每学年的第二学期开设。

　　本书由七章构成:第一章为英语词汇学的简介;第二章为英语词汇的发展史;第三章为对英语构词法的介绍;第四章为对词根和词缀的介绍,为本书的重点章节,详细讲解英语的词根和词缀,对学生记忆英语单词,在阅读、听力过程中猜词义都有很大的帮助;第五章讲解英式英语和美式英语的不同;第六章详细解读中国学生在使用词语搭配时所遇到的问题,从而使学生在今后的学习中能更地道地使用英语交流;第七章对英语词汇学习的常用词典,包括英英词典、英汉词典、搭配词典、电子词典及网络英语词汇学习软件,进行了详细介绍,并且配有详图,对各类词典的特色、优缺点进行了分析。

　　本书从公外学生的英语学习特点出发,对英语词汇学所涉及的知识进行了深入浅出的讲解,有助于学生更好地掌握英语词汇发展以及英语构词法知识,是一本不可多得的、实用性很强的教科书。

　　本书由大连海事大学外国语学院王海华、李红和王英力编写,夏廷德教授主审,由大连海事大学资助出版。

　　限于编者水平,书中或有不足之处,请读者不吝赐教。

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Chapter 1　General Introduction to Lexicology

1.1　Definition of Lexicology

Lexicology（词汇学）, a term which first appeared in the 1820s, is a branch of linguistics. The word "lexicology" is composed of two Greek morphemes（词素）—"lexis", which means "word or phrase", and "logos", which denotes "learning or a department of knowledge". Therefore, literately it means "the science of the word".

Lexicology deals with the vocabulary of a language and characteristics of words. The aim of lexicology is to define the essence of words, including lexicography（词典学）, semantics（语义学）, and etymology（词源学）.

1.2　Categories of Lexicology

Lexicology can be classified into five categories, which are general lexicology, special lexicology, descriptive lexicology, historical lexicology and comparative lexicology.

General lexicology studies the general properties of words, irrespective of the specific features of any particular language. It is concerned with the universals of vocabulary development and patterns.

Special lexicology is the lexicology of a particular language, like English, Chinese, French, etc.

Descriptive lexicology deals with the vocabulary of a given language at a synchronic aspect.

Historical lexicology deals with the development of vocabulary and historic change of words. So we can also call it diachronic lexicology.

Comparative lexicology is concerned with properties of two or more languages from the point of view of their identity and differentiation.

1.3　Subdivisions of Lexicology

Lexicology has some subdivisions such as semasiology, which studies the meanings of words; word formation, which deals with ways of the formation of new words in English; etymology, which studies the origins of words; phraseology, which deals with phraseological units; and lexicography, which studies compiling dictionaries.

Exercises

1. What is lexicology?
2. What are the categories of lexicology?
3. What are the subdivisions of lexicology?

Chapter 2　Development of English Vocabulary

In the study of vocabulary, it is essential to know about its origin and growth. Where does English come from? Why is it known as English? How does its vocabulary grow into such a huge size? This chapter will give answers to all these questions.

2.1　History of English

The history of the English language began when three Germanic tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. At that time, the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders—mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The words "England" and "English" are derived from "Englaland" (the land of Angles) and "Englisc" (the language spoken by Angles).

2.2　Indo-European Family

It is assumed that there are about 3,000 languages in the world. Based on similarities in their basic word stock, these languages can be grouped into approximately 300 language families. The Indo-European family is one of them.

Indo-European languages are believed to be derived from a language, known as Proto-Indo-European, which is no longer spoken. This language is thought to be the source of modern languages in the Indian sub-continent and Europe. When different groups of speakers of this language moved away from its original homeland, the languages of each group grew and developed. These groups were isolated from each other over very long periods. Later their languages became separate languages. Speakers of each language could not understand each other.

The languages, which survived until today, show different degrees of similarities to one another. The similarity is related to their geographical distribution. Accordingly, they can be divided into eight groups, as illustrated in Figure 2.1.

All these languages exert some effects on English to various degrees as each of them has lent words into English vocabulary. Some of them have played a significant role in the development of the English vocabulary.
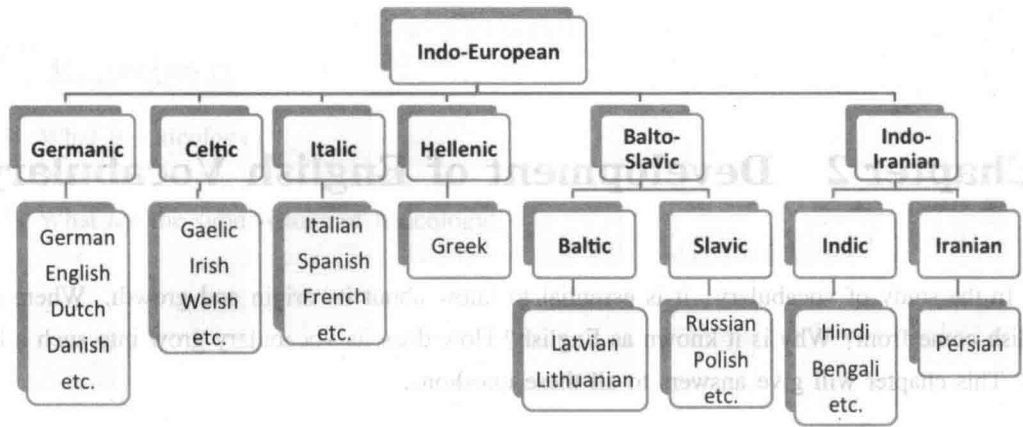
Figure 2.1   Indo-European family

2.3   A Historical Overview of the English Vocabulary

2.3.1   Old English

After the Romans, the Germanic tribes called Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded the land. Later they named the land England. Their language—Anglo-Saxon dominated, which is the so-called Old English nowadays. Changes took place with the introduction of Christianity that was spread in Britain by Latin-speaking Roman missionaries under St. Augustine at the end of the 6th century. This had a great influence on the English vocabulary as many new religious terms like *abbot*, *candle*, *altar*, *amen*, *apostle* were brought in.

Other Old English words were formed by combining two native words, for instance, *hand-book* (*manual*). Sometimes meanings of native words were changed to form new words, such as *Easter* (a Christian celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox, which was originally the name of the spring festival honoring the goddess of dawn).

In the 9th century, Norwegian and Danish Vikings invaded the land. They finally succeeded in placing a Danish king on the throne of England for a time. Thus, many Scandinavian words were brought into the English language, which were everyday words like *father*, *husband*, *house*, *life*, *man*, *mother*, *summer*, and *winter*. Until now, there are roughly 900 English words of Scandinavian origin, which have survived in Modern English.

Old English has a vocabulary of approximately 50,000 to 60,000 words. It was a language much like German, as its nouns, pronouns, adjective, verbs, and adverbs have complex endings. The characteristics of Old English can be summarized as: (1) small number; (2) fewer borrowings from Scandinavian; and (3) with suffixes.

2.3.2   Middle English

In 1066, Normans invaded England from France. Old English started to undergo a great

change. Norman Conquest brought a large number of French words into English. Gradually, Norman French became the noble language used by people in high status, whereas the status of the native language, English, was lowered, as they were mostly spoken by common people and Latin was mostly spoken by Church people. Thus French, Latin and English existed simultaneously for over a century.

With communications revolution at the end of 13th century, printing brought into English the wealth of new thinking and English again became the dominating language in the society especially in schools, law courts and government.

During this period, about 9,000 words of French origin were brought into English, and 75% of them are still in use today, for example, *government*, *religion*, *law*, *food*, *fashion*, etc. Besides, due to the cross-cultural trade between Britain and Holland, about 2,500 words of Dutch origin poured into English, such as *deck*, *freight*, etc.

Characteristics of Middle English can be summarized as: (1) a much larger vocabulary; (2) more borrowed words from French and Latin.

2.3.3   Modern English

Modern English began with printing coming into England. Translations of Latin and Greek classics were poured onto the printed page from 1500s to 1700s. During this period, thousands of Latin words like *capsule* and *habitual*, and Greek words like *catastrophe* and *thermometer* entered English language.

In the mid-19th century, with the beginning of the Bourgeois Revolution and Industrial Revolution, England gradually became a great economic power. Colonization enabled English to absorb words from languages of other parts of the world.

With the development of science and technology after WWII, thousands of new words were created to express new ideas, inventions, and scientific achievements such as *video*, *television* and *cyberspace*.

Today, foreign words go into English much faster than ever before. New things and changes in society have brought in more new words. Being frequently used, these words have become part of the English language. For instance, in the field of science and technology, new words like *green revolution*, *moon walk*, *earth rise*, *smart bomb*, etc. are invented and some culture-related words like *sushi* from Japanese, *bok choy* and *guanxi* from Chinese, *falafel* from Middle East are not uncommon words in today's English language.

2.4   Native Words and Loan Words

Words of Anglo-Saxon origin or of Old English are native words, while those borrowed from other languages are loan words or borrowed words.

Most native words in Modern English are monosyllabic. They are the core of English language and the foundation of vocabulary. Usually short and direct, these are words that English speaking people still use today for the things that really matter to them, like *sun*, *moon*, *night*,

morning, *big*, *small*, etc.

The main features of native words are:

(1) National character: They are commonly used by native English speakers.

(2) Stability: As Old English words are commonly used in daily life, they tend to remain stable. But there are some exceptions, for instance, some Old English words like *bow* have left the Old English family, while new words like *radio* have become part of the basic words.

(3) Word-formation: By adding suffixes and other words to Old English words, new words can be formed, such as *footy*, *football*, *footgear* from the word *foot*.

(4) Collocations: Old English words can also be found in some collocations or idioms, for example, the word *foot* can be found in phrases like *tap one's feet*, *get to one's feet*, *foot traffic*, etc.

Loan words have become an important part in English vocabulary. They have conformed to native English in sound and in spelling; however, there are some borrowed words without any changes in sound and spelling, *like à la mode* (*in the style*), *au jus* (*with juice*), *calque* (*a copied thing*). They are still considered as foreign words.

Exercises

1. Identify the origins of the following words.

   ketchup, pekoe, ballot, muscle, night, shanghai, catalogue, anime, karaoke, essence, gourmet, justice, massage, tycoon, hibachi, sushi, banana, slogan

2. List some words which are borrowed from Chinese to English.

3. Describe the history of English.

Chapter 3 Word Formation

In linguistics specifically lexicology, word formation refers to the ways in which new words are made on the basis of other words or morphemes. The word formation processes of compounding, derivation, conversion and blending are important concepts when creating words.

3.1 Compounding（合成法）

Compounding is one of word formation processes in which two or more root morphemes combine into a single new word. Compounds are written in various ways in English: with a space between the elements; with a hyphen between the elements; or simply with the two roots running together with no separation. The way the word is written does not affect its status as a compound.

3.1.1 Compound Nouns

（1）noun-noun

e. g. steamboat 汽船, classmate 同学, cheeseburger 干酪汉堡

（2）noun-verb

e. g. sunrise 日出, haircut 理发

（3）noun-gerund

e. g. handwriting 书法

（4）adjective-noun

e. g. greenhouse 温室, software 软件, blackboard 黑板

（5）verb-noun

e. g. typewriter 打字机, breakfast 早餐

（6）participle-noun

e. g. swimming pool 游泳池, washing machine 洗衣机

（7）adverb-noun

e. g. outpatient 门诊病人, downtown 市中心

（8）pronoun-noun

e. g. she-wolf 母狼

（9）noun-in-noun

e. g. father-in-law 岳父（公公）, editor-in-chief 总编

3.1.2 Compound Adjectives

（1）noun-participle

e. g. time-consuming 浪费时间的,face-saving 保全体面的

(2) noun-past participle

e. g. fresh-baked 新烤的,ice-covered 冰封的

(3) noun-adjective

e. g. snow-white 雪白的,day-long 整天的

(4) adjective-noun-ed

e. g. bad-tempered 脾气不好的,kind-hearted 好心肠的

(5) adjective/adverb-participle

e. g. bad-smelling 难闻的,well-meaning 善意的

(6) adjective-adjective

e. g. dark blue 深蓝色的,bittersweet 又苦又甜的

(7) adverb-past participle

e. g. well-done 干得好的,well-dressed 穿得好的

(8) adverb/adjective-noun

e. g. right-hand 右手的,part-time 兼职的

(9) numeral-noun

e. g. 10-minute 10 分钟的,3-week 三个星期的

(10) numeral-noun-adjective

e. g. 180-foot-high 180 英尺高的,35-year-old 35 岁的

(11) numeral-noun-ed

e. g. four-footed/legged 四脚的,one-eyed 独眼龙的

3.1.3 Compound Verbs

(1) adverb-verb

e. g. override 推翻,underestimate 低估

(2) adjective-verb

e. g. broadcast 广播,greenwash 漂绿,环保幌子

(3) noun-verb

e. g. babysit 照看婴儿,brainwash 洗脑

3.1.4 Compound Adverbs

(1) preposition-noun

e. g. underneath 在……的下面,overhead 在头上

(2) adjective-noun

e. g. hotfoot 匆忙地,meanwhile 同时

(3) adjective-adverb

e. g. anywhere 任何地方,downwards 向下

3.1.5 Compound Prepositions

e. g. into 到……里,throughout 贯穿

3.1.6　Compound Pronouns

e. g.　myself 我自己,ourselves 我们自己,anything 任何事,nobody 没有人, someone 某人,

　　　somebody 有人

3.2　Derivation（派生法）

Derivation is the creation of words by modification of a root without the addition of other roots. The most common type of derivation is the addition of one or more affixes to a root, as in the word *derivation* itself. This process is called affixation, a term which covers both prefixation and suffixation. Prefixes and suffixes are sets of letters added to the beginning or end of a word, and they are not words in their own right.

3.2.1　Prefix

Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning.

3.2.1.1　Prefixes Meaning Negation

（1）un- 构成反义词,表示"不"

　　e. g.　unforeseen 无法预料的,unskilled 没有技能的

（2）dis- 构成反义词,表示"不"

　　e. g.　disadvantage 不利,dishonest 不诚实的

（3）in-/im- 构成反义词,表示"不",im 用于以 b,m,p 等开头的词

　　e. g.　inaccessible 不可及的,imbalance 不平衡

（4）ir- 构成反义词,表示"不",用于以 r 开头的单词

　　e. g.　irregular 不规则的,irrelevant 无关的

（5）il- 构成反义词,表示"不",用于以 l 开头的单词

　　e. g.　illegal 不合法的,illogical 不符合逻辑的

（6）mis- 构成反义词,表示"错误"

　　e. g.　misbelief 错误的信念,misbehave 行为不端

（7）non- 构成反义词,表示"不"

　　e. g.　nonmember 非成员,nonsmoker 不吸烟者

3.2.1.2　Other Prefixes

（1）re- 表示"再;又;重"（re-多重读,构成双重读词）

　　e. g.　redo 重做,reuse 再使用

（2）a- 表示"的",多构成表语形容词。

　　e. g.　alone 单独的,alike 相像的

（3）anti- 表示"反对;抵抗"

　　e. g.　antiwar 反战的,antiaircraft 防空的

（4）auto- 表示"自动"

　　e. g.　autoalarm 自动报警器,automobile 汽车

（5）tele- 表示"远程的"

  e. g. telephone 电话,telegraph 电报

（6）en- 表示"使",构成动词

  e. g. enlarge 扩大,encourage 鼓励

（7）inter- 表示"在……之间;相互"

  e. g. interpersonal 人际的,international 国际的

（8）sub- 表示"下面的;次;小"

  e. g. subway 地铁,subzero 零下的

3.2.2 Suffix

Suffixes are added to the end of an existing word. The main purpose of a suffix is to show what class of word it is (e. g. noun or adjective). The addition of a suffix often changes a word from one word class to another.

3.2.2.1 Adjective Suffixes

（1）-al

  e. g. national 民族的,国家的,functional 功能的

（2）-able 表示"有能力的"

  e. g. reliable 可以依靠的

（3）-an/ian 表示"国家的,国家人的"

  e. g. American 美国(人)的

（4）-ern 表示"方向的"

  e. g. eastern 东方的,southern 南方的

（5）-ful 表示"充满……的"

  e. g. beautiful 美丽的,thankful 感激的

（6）-less 表示否定

  e. g. homeless 无家可归的,brainless 无脑的

（7）-ic/ical 表示"……的"

  e. g. economic/economical 经济上的/合算的

（8）-ese 表示"……人的"

  e. g. Chinese 中国(人)的

（9）-ly 表示"……的"

  e. g. friendly 友好的,lovely 可爱的

（10）-y 表示"天气"等

  e. g. rainy 下雨的,windy 刮风的

（11）-ous 表示"……的"

  e. g. anxious 焦虑的,curious 好奇的

（12）-ish 表示"……的"

  e. g. stylish 时髦的,foolish 愚蠢的

（13）-en 多用于表示材料的名词后

　　e.g.　golden 金色的,wooden 木制的,earthen 陶制的

（14）-ive 表示"……的"

　　e.g.　attractive 吸引人的,expensive 贵重的

3.2.2.2　Verb Suffixes

（1）-fy

　　e.g.　intensify 增强,simplify 简化

（2）-en

　　e.g.　deepen 加深,weaken 变弱,harden 变硬

（3）-ize

　　e.g.　modernize 使……现代化,realize 使……成真

3.2.2.3　Adverb Suffixes

（1）-ly 表示"方式或程度"

　　e.g.　carefully 认真地,finally 最后

（2）-ward 表示"方向"

　　e.g.　backward 向后,coastward 朝海岸

3.2.2.4　Noun Suffixes

（1）-ment 表示"性质;状态"

　　e.g.　government 政府,management 管理

（2）-ness 表示"性质;状态"

　　e.g.　happiness 幸福,gratefulness 感激

（3）-tion 表示"动作;过程"

　　e.g.　action 行动,edition 版本

（4）-er/ar 表示"人"

　　e.g.　writer 作家,liar 说谎的人

（5）-ee 表示"受事者"

　　e.g.　employee 雇员,interviewee 被采访者

（6）-ist 表示"人"

　　e.g.　economist 经济学家,scientist 科学家

（7）-ess 表示"雌性"

　　e.g.　actress 女演员,hostess 女主人

（8）-ful 表示"量"

　　e.g.　cupful 一杯,lapful 一满兜

（9）-th 表示"性质;状态"

　　e.g.　growth 成长,truth 真相

（10）-ism 表示"学说;主义"

　　e.g.　socialism 社会主义,perfectionism 完美主义

3.2.2.5　Numeral Suffixes

（1）-teen 构成"十几"