ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

compiled and written

Zhong Jiazhen

read and checked

Zhang Yueguang

Publishing House of

Shaanxi Teachers University

(陕)新登字008号

Dedicated to
my first English teachers

Yan Miaojuan
Sun Tianyi

ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

compiled and written
Zhong Jiazhen

read and checked
Zhang Yueguang

陕西师范大学出版社出版
(西安市陕西师大120信箱)
陕西省新华书店发行　陕西富平县印刷厂印刷
开本787×1092　1/32　印张11.875　字数256千
1991年12月第1版　1991年12月第1次印刷
印数:1—1500
ISBN 7-5613-0477-3
H·1　定价:2.85元

Preface

This book is based on several years' teaching experience of the author. It has been taught and revised again and again until it reaches the present level.

The book has benefited from a number of its forerunners. But somehow, it is an improvement on all of them, as it has incorporated a synchronical and diachronical study of English vocabulary and there is no lack of original ideas and conclusions throughout the book.

English lexicology is a branch of linguistic science which deals with English words. The present book traces the origin and development of English words. It analyses their morphology, formation, and motivation. It delves into their semantic features, semantic classification and changes of meanings.

The book is designed to cater to the needs of Chinese students of English. It has anticipated their difficulties and problems so that they will, no doubt, find it easy to read and understand. The book is far from perfect. The author is responsible for the possible errors and omissions and the readers are sincerely invited to point them out to be corrected in further editions.

In trying to cover so wide an area, one is made more than usually aware of one's debt to contemporary and to ear-

lier scholars who have laboured in this field. More personally, I am happy to express my thanks to Professor Zhang Yueguang, Dean of the Foreign Languages Department of Shaanxi Teachers University, who has done the reading and checking of the whole manuscript. And I must also thank Zhong Jialin and Zhong Jiaxun for their painstaking help in typing and proof-reading the text of this book.

Content

Abbreviations ····· 1
Sources of English Words ····· 3
A detour into language history ····· 3
The Indo-European family of languages ····· 4
Characteristics of Indo-European languages ····· 7
A bird's eye view of the history of the English language ····· 9
Periods of English ····· 9
Old English ····· 10
Birth of Old English ····· 10
The Northumbrian culture of the Old English period ····· 11
The Danish invasion and the rise of Wessex ····· 12
Characteristics of Old English ····· 13
Middle English ····· 17
The Norman Conquest and the beginning of Middle English ····· 17
Triumph of Mercian ····· 19
Characteristics of Middle English ····· 20
Modern English ····· 23
Periods of Modern English ····· 23
Characteristics of Modern English ····· 24
The native element in the English vocabulary ····· 26
The native stock of words ····· 26
Characteristics of the native stock of words ····· 27

试读结束：需要全本请在线购买： www.ertongbo

The basic stock of words 29
Characteristics of the basic stock of words 30
The foreign elements in the English vocabulary 37
The Celtic element 41
The Scandinavian element 44
The French element 49
Early French loans 49
Characteristics of early French loans 54
Later French loans 56
Characteristics of later French loans 57
Paired synonyms created as the result of the influx of the French element into English 58
Hybridism 59
The Latin element 61
Early Latin loans 61
Later Latin loans 63
Latin loans of the third period 64
Latin loans of the fourth period 65
The Greek element 68
The various other foreign elements in the English vocabulary 71
Italian 71
Spanish and Portuguese 72
German 73
Dutch 74
Russian 75
Persian 75

Sanskrit 75
Hindustani 75
Hebrew 76
Syriac 76
Arabic 76
Turkish 76
Dravidian 76
Malay 76
Chinese 77
Tibetan 78
Australian 78
Polynesian 78
Egyptian 78
North African 78
West African 78
North American 78
Mexican 78
Formation of English words 79
Morphemes——components of English words 79
Definition of the morpheme 79
Characteristics of morphemes 81
Identifying morphemes 82
Classes of morphemes 84
Content morphemes 86
Roots commonly found in English words 87
Examples of combining forms 95
Grammatical morphemes 99

Inflections and their characteristics 99
Affixes 101
Prefixes 102
Negative prefixes 103
Deprivative prefixes 110
Pejorative prefixes 113
Attitude prefixes 114
Degree prefixes 117
Direction and location prefixes 128
Time prefixes 137
Word-class changing prefixes 140
Suffixes 143
Nominalizers 145
Agentive nominalizers 145
Quality nominalizers 167
Quantity nominalizers 176
Action nominalizers 178
Degrading nominalizers 187
Place nominalizers 195
Collective nominalizers 199
Position nominalizers 200
Realm nominalizer 201
Relation nominalizer 202
Condition nominalizer 203
Adjectivizers 204
Verbalizers 217
Adverbializers 219

Methods of word-formation 221
Combination 221
Affixation 224
Conversion 234
Compounding 240
Backformation 245
Blending 247
Abbreviation 249
Semantics 255
Meaning of words 255
Word and meaning 255
Meaning and concept 256
Actual meaning and lexical meaning 256
Primary meaning and secondary meaning 259
Literal meaning and figurative meaning 264
Connotative meaning and denotative meaning 265
Commendatory meaning and derogatory meaning 267
Motivation of English words 268
Phonetic motivation 271
Grammatical motivation 278
Semantic motivation 282
Psychological motivation 287
Cultural motivation 292
Semantic features of English words 302
Semantic classification of English words 310
Synonyms 310

Classes of synoyms ····· 311
Differences between relative synonyms ····· 313
Synonyms different in the shade of meaning ··· 313
Synonyms which differ in the degree of a given quality····· 319
Synonyms different in connotation ····· 321
Synonyms that differ in stylistic coloring ····· 325
Synonyms that are used in different collocations ····· 340
Synonymous field ····· 341
Antonyms ····· 342
Root antonyms and cognate antonyms ····· 343
Contraries, Complementaries, and Conversives ····· 343
Homonyms ····· 348
homographs ····· 349
homophones ····· 349
Full homonyms ····· 350
Homoforms ····· 351
Sources of homonyms ····· 351
Change of word–meaning ····· 352
Extention of word–meaning ····· 353
Narrowing of word–meaning ····· 357
Elevation of word–meaning····· 362
Degradation of word–meaning ····· 365
Reference books ····· 369

ABBREVIATIONS

a	adjective
Acc.	accusative
adv	adverb
AE	American English
aff	affix
aft	after
Arab	Arabic
BE	British English
Chi	Chinese
comb f	combining form
com.n	common noun
Dat.	dative
F.	feminine
F	French
fr	from
Gen.	genitive
Gr	Greek
It	Italian
L	Latin
M.	masculine
M.E.	Middle English
Mod.E	Modern English
N.	neuter
n	noun

试读结束：需要全本请在线购买： www.ertongbo

Nom.	nominative
NL	New Latin
num.	numeral
O.E.	Old English
OF	Old French
OHG	Old High German
ON	Old Norse
OS	Old Scandinavian
pers.	personal
pl.	plural
pref	prefix
prop.n	proper noun
sing.	singular
Sp.	Spanish
suf	suffix
v	verb

SECTION ONE

SOURCES OF ENGLISH WORDS

A DETOUR INTO LANGUAG HISTORY

Before we can profitably continue along the road to word mastery, we have to make a short detour into language history. From the 16th century on, scholars have pointed to the similarities in languages as apparently unrelated as Persian and German, or Lithuanian and Latin. Only recently, though, have they formulated a sound explanation for the similarities:

(1) The relationship between Lithuanian and Latin, or Persian and German, or Icelandic and Greek, or Sanskrit and Russian is really a family relationship.

(2) These languages, and many others, derived from a single earlier language, which, sometime, someplace, was spoken by some group. (when, where, and which can not be answered with certainty.)

THE INDO-EUROPEAN FAMILY OF LANGUAGES

This family of languages has been variously named the Indo-European (by the French), the Aryan (by the English), and the Indo-Germanic (by the Germans). But

Indo–European is generally accepted to be the most accurate designation, though the family stretches beyond the boundaries indicated. Most people from Central Asia to westernmost Europe speak one or another of the Indo–European languages. The chart below lists most of the languages in the family of Indo–European languages.

The Indo–European Family Of Languages

(A) The Asiatic

1. The Indic Branch Of Languages

Sanskrit	India
Hindi	Northern India
Urdu	Pakistan, India
Nepali	Nepal
Sinhalese	Ceylon
Bihari	Bihar
Assamese	Assam
Bengali	Bengal
Oriya	Orissa
Konkani	western India
Marathi	western India
Gujarati	Gujarat
Rajasthani	Rajasthan
Panjabi	Panjab
Sindhi	Sind
Lahnda	western Panjab

2. The Iranian Branch Of Languages

(1) The West Group Of Iranian Languages

Persian	Iran
Kurdish	Persia, Iraq, Turkey
Baluchi	West Pakistan
Tajiki	central Asia

(2) The East Group Of Iranian Languages

Pashto	Afghanistan
Ossetic	Caucasus

3. The Armenian Branch

Armenian	Asia Minor, Caucasus

(B) The European

4. The Germanic Branch Of Languages

(1) The East Group

Gothic	Medieval eastern Europe

(2) The North Group

Icelandic	Iceland
Faeroese	Faeroe Islands
Norwegian	Norway
Swedish	Sweden
Danish	Denmark

(3) The West Group

German	Germany, Switzerland, Austria
Yiddish	Germany, eastern Europe
Dutch	Netherlands
Afrikaans	South Africa
Flemish	Belgium

Frisian	Netherlands, Germany
English	England, parts of the world within the British Empire

5. The Celtic Branch Of Languages

Welsh	Wales
Cornish	Cornwall
Breton	Brittany
Irish Gaelic	Ireland
Scotish Gaelic	Scotland
Manx	Isle of Man

6. The Italic Branch Of Languages

Latin	Ancient Rome
Neo–Latin	
Portuguese	Portugal
Spanish	Spain
Judeo–Spanish	Mediterranean Lands
Catalan	Spain (Catalonia)
French	France, Belgium, Switzerland
Haitian Creole	Haiti
Italian	Italy, Switzerland
Romanian	Romania, Balkans
Rhaeto–Romanic	Switzerland, Italy
Sardinian	Sardinia
Dalmatian	Adriatic coast

7. Albanian — Albania, southern Italy
8. Greek — Greece, the eastern Mediterranean

9. The Slavic Branch Of Languages

(1) The South Group Of Slavic Languages

Slovene	Yugoslavia
Serbian	Yugoslavia
Croatian	Yugoslavia
Bulgarian	Bulgaria
Mecedonian	Mecedonia

(2) The West Group Of Slavic Languages

Czech	Czechoslovakia
Slovak	Czechoslovakia
Polish	Poland
Kashubian	Poland
Wendish	Germany
Polabian	Germany

(3) The East Group Of Slavic Languages

Russian	Russia
Ukrainian	Ukrainia
Belorussian	White Russia

10. The Baltic Branch Of Languages

Lithuanian	Lithuania, East Prussia
Latvian	Latvia

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

English differs from Chinese in that English is characterized by its abundant inflections——varied word-forms, and

试读结束：需要全本请在线购买： www.ertongbo