

华/中/师/范/大/学/出/版/基/金/丛/书

英语词汇学教程

A Course in English

Lexicology

YINGYU CIHUIXUE

JIAOCHENG

张维友 编著

华中师范大学出版社



English

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(鄂)新登字 11 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语词汇学教程 / 张维友 编著

— 武汉: 华中师范大学出版社, 2002.9

ISBN 7-5622-1685-1 / H·12

I. 英…

II. 张…

III. 英语词汇—大学—教材

IV. H313

英语词汇学教程

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华中师范大学出版社出版发行

本社照排中心排版

(武昌桂子山 邮编: 430079)

新华书店湖北发行所经销

湖北开元印刷有限公司印刷

责任编辑: 汪凌华 廖国春

封面设计: 甘 英

责任校对: 罗少琳

督 印: 朱 虹

开本: 850×1168 1/32

印张: 10.25 字数: 260千字

版次: 1997年3月第1版

2002年9月第5次印刷

印数: 10 001—13 000

定价: 15.80元

本书如有印装质量问题, 可向承印厂调换。

序

与任何语言一样,英语是由语音(speech sound)、语法结构(grammaral structure)和词汇(vocabulary)这三大要素构成的。我们要掌握英语,必须在这方面下功夫。经验证明,学习英语,最难的是它的词汇,因为英语的词汇浩如烟海,日新月异,数量大,来源广,用法多。学习英语词汇究竟应该从何处入手,应该用什么方法提高学习效果?张维友同志编写的这部《英语词汇学教程》为广大英语学习者解决了这个问题。这部《教程》共分十章,按内容分为五大部分。第一部分(第一、二、三章)深入浅出地介绍关于“词语”、“词汇”的基本概念、英语词汇的历史发展和英语词的结构(构词法);第二部分(第四、五、六、七章)介绍词义、词与词之间的语义关系、词与上下文的关系和词义的演变;第三部分(第八章)介绍英语成语的特点、分类和用法;第四部分(第九章)介绍英语词典编纂的历史和各类英语词典的特点和用法;第五部分(第十章)介绍学习英语词汇的一些科学方法。

这部《教程》的编写特点是理论结合实际,说理清楚,例证丰富,还采用了一些语言学新论点。在每一章之后都附有思考题和练习,帮助读者总结和复习所读到的内容。这部书可以作为大学“英语词汇学”课程的教材或参考书,也可以供广大英语学习者自学或教师教学时参考。相信不同的读者读这部书后都有所收获:学生和英语自学者可以获得有关英语词汇各方面系统的知识,用这些知识来指导他们的学习,从而提高英语学习的效果,打下一个坚实的英语词汇基础;教师也可以有意识地在讲课时介绍有关英语词汇

的知识，帮助学生总结英语各种词汇现象，提高英语词汇教学的质量。

我特此向广大读者推荐这部《教程》。

广东外语外贸大学

英语、语言学教授

伍谦光

1995年12月于广州

前 言

学习语言必须学习语音、语法、词汇。在这三要素中,词汇占有举足轻重的地位。著名学者威尔金斯(1972)说过,没有语法,表达甚微;没有词汇,表达为零(Without grammar, very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed)。词汇学家麦加锡(1990)说得更干脆,一个学生学习第二语言,其语法无论学得多么好,语音无论掌握得多么漂亮,没有词汇来表达各种意义,语言交际就难以实现(No matter how well the student learns grammar, no matter how successfully he masters the sounds of a L2, without words to express a wide range of meanings, communication in that language cannot happen in any meaningful way)。正因为如此,词汇学习愈来愈受到师生的重视。英语词汇学是研究英语词汇形态、意义和整个词汇系统的科学。学一点词汇学知识,有助于总结整理所学过的词汇素材,有意识地扩大词汇量,加深对词语的理解,提高语言运用能力。对于教师,学一点词汇学,可以运用这些知识,对词汇归纳分类,增强词语释义和辨析能力,加深语言教学的深度,提高教学效果。所以,在高校英语教学中,词汇学显得格外重要。

《英语词汇学教程》是本人在教学实践基础上整理而成的。本教材在保留词汇学传统的知识结构基础上,尽可能融进本学科新的研究成果,着力反映词汇的新发展。本书的着眼点在于实用,因此,理论上阐述简练,做到深入浅出。同时博采例证,提供丰富的素材。该书配备相当数量的练习和思考题,以便操练,学以致用。

本书最终能与读者见面,首先得感谢李习俭教授和李维光教授,在编写过程中他们给予了关心和支持。武汉大学林承璋教授浏览了书稿,热情推荐;书稿最后承蒙广东外语外贸大学伍谦光教授审定,并热情赐序;英籍专家 Ged Neary 先生通读了书稿,并对文字进行了润饰;华中师范大学出版社对该书的付梓作了巨大的努力,在此对他们谨致衷心的感谢。

限于编者水平,书中疏漏谬误定属不少,恳请同仁和各位读者批评指教。

编 著 者

1995年5月

Short Forms

a(A)	adjective
A. D.	Anno Domini (after Christ)
adj	adjective
adv	adverb
ALD	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1984)
AmE	American English
apprec	appreciative
Arab	Arabic
attr	attributive
AusE	Australian English
B. C.	Before Christ
BlackE	Black English
BrE	British English
CCELD	Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary (1987)
CH	Chinese
CH dial	Chinese dialect
COD	The Concise Oxford Dictionary (1982)
colloq	colloquial
conj	conjunction
DAI	A Dictionary of American Idioms (1975)

derog	derogatory
E	English
Eng	English
e. g.	exempli gratia (for example)
et al	et alii (and others)
etc.	et cetera (and so on)
euph	euphemism
F	French
fig	figurative
G	German
Gr	Greek
Hin	Hindi
ibid	ibidem (from the same source)
i. e.	id est (that is)
inf	infinitive
IT	Italian
Jap	Japanese
L	Latin
LDCE	Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987)
n (N)	noun
num	numeral
ODCIE	Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English, Vol. 2(1983)
OE	Old English
OF	Old French
ON	Old Norse
Per	Persian

poss	possessive
prep	preposition
pron	pronoun
Russ	Russian
sb	somebody
Scot	Scottish English
sth	something
Sp	Spanish
StandE	standard English
Tib	Tibetan
v	verb
vi	intransitive verb
Vol	volume
vt	transitive verb
WNWD	Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language (1980)
WNDS	Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms (1978)
WTNID	Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the American Language (1961)

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Chapter 1 The Basic Concepts of Words and Vocabulary

In the beginning of the book on lexicology, the study of meanings and origins of words (WNWD), it is necessary to expound and define some basic concepts concerning words and vocabulary. The *word* itself is an elusive notion, which needs immediate consideration. The relationship between words and vocabulary, between sound and meaning, and between sound and form demands explanation as well. Language is not a fixed list of words but a growing and developing store, which is quite formidable. However, the huge unstable vocabulary of English can be classified into a few manageable categories by different criteria. This is also part of our concern in the first chapter.

1.1 The Definition of a Word

What is a word? This question has occupied the attention of scholars and experts for ages. The definition of the word has always been controversial. Although numerous definitions have been suggested, none of them seem to be perfect. Experts and linguists still do not agree on all aspects of the word.

When we talk about a word, we tend to think in visual terms. In this way a word can be defined as a meaningful group