

高等学校教材

张韵斐 主编

现代英语
词汇学概论

北京师范大学出版社

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AN INTRODUCTION TO
MODERN ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY

张韵斐 (主编)

编著

周锡卿

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PREFACE

This is a textbook on lexicology, a branch of linguistics concerned with the vocabulary of the English language in respect to words and word equivalents.^① The scope of lexicology embraces the development, structure, formation, meaning, and usage of words and word equivalents. Accordingly this book is composed of the following parts:

1. A general survey of English vocabulary (Chapter I)
 2. Morphological structure of English words and word-formation (Chapters II to IV)
 3. Word meaning and sense relations (Chapters V to VIII)
 4. English idioms, American English, choice and use of English dictionaries (Chapters IX to XII)
- Exercises have also been provided at the end of each chapter.

The book is intended for third- or fourth-year college students who have learned quite a number of English words together with other features of English. It aims

^① The term word equivalent denotes an idiom or a set phrase representing a semantic unit and functioning as a single word in a sentence.

to help the students summarize what they have learned and to acquire a systematic knowledge of English vocabulary so that they can improve their ability to enlarge their personal vocabularies and choose the right words to use in a given context.

The value of such knowledge is vividly intimated by the following remark:

“... there is a sense in which learning a foreign language is basically a matter of learning the vocabulary of that language. Not being able to find the words you need to express yourself is the most frustrating experience in speaking another language.”^①

Moreover, the book may also help develop the students' skills and habits of analyzing and generalizing about linguistic phenomena observed in his study of English, so that his interest in the study of the English language as a whole will be increased, and his comprehension and appreciation of English literature will be enhanced.

Further, since the word plays such a crucial part in learning a foreign language, the book may also be of value to English teachers as well as the learners working on their own.

In recent years increasing numbers of colleges and universities have offered English lexicology courses. In 1983 *Modern English Lexicology*, written by Prof.

① Michael J. Wallace, *Teaching Vocabulary*, 1982, p. 9

Luo Guo-qiang was published under the auspices of the Committee for Compiling and Reviewing Teaching Materials for Institutions of Higher Learning. The teachers who took part in discussing Luo's draft warmly approved of it. At the same time they suggested that a textbook on lexicology written in English be compiled. It is owing to their encouragement that the present compilers, who have been teaching the course of English lexicology for many years, started to work on this book. In the course of writing, they have always borne in mind the experience gained through teaching, while referring to a fairly large number of publications on the subject of lexicology available in this country. It is hoped that the book not only reflects the contemporary trend of lexicological study but will also be of practical use to Chinese students in learning the English vocabulary.

Zhang Yun-fei is responsible for chapters one to ten, and Zhou Xi-qing for chapters eleven and twelve.

Our thanks are due to Prof. Liu Shi-mu, Prof. Suo Tian-zhang, and teachers (from Xiaman University, Wuhan University, Nanjing University, Hopei Normal University, Shangdong Industrial University, Shanghai Normal Institute, Changchun Normal Institute, Beijing Normal University, Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute, and the institutions mentioned below) who scrutinized the draft and made invaluable comments and suggestions. We are particularly indebt-

ed to Prof. Feng Cui-hua of Loyang Foreign Language Institute and Prof. Luo Guo-qiang of Futang University who were in charge of the reviewing work of this book; they have gone over the complete draft with great interest and meticulous attention. Also we wish to thank Prof. Wang Jue-luan of Heilongjiang University and prof. Wu Xian-guang of Guangzhou Foreign Language Institute for their helpful cooperation in planning the contents of the book and solving a number of problems in the draft. We are grateful to prof. Xu Guo-zhang for his encouragement and guidance. We are also thankful to the editors and staff of Beijing Normal University Press who did the painstaking editing and publishing work.

Special acknowledgment must be made to Dr. Charles Read, professor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dr. Wallace and Dr. Estelle Thaler who conscientiously read and corrected part of the book.

The compilers take final responsibility for any errors and inadequacies in this book. Comments and criticisms will be heartily welcome.

Zhang Yun-fei

Zhou Xi-qing

Short forms and signs used in the book

a, adj	adjective	GK	Greek
adv	adverb	ibid	in the book just cited before
Am	America(n)		
AmE	American English	infml	informal
apprec	appreciative	int	interjection
arch	archaic	interrog	interrogative
As	Anglo Saxon	joc	jocular
aux	auxiliary	L	Latin
b	born	lit	literal(ly), literary
Brit	British	math	mathematics
Br (it). E	British English	med	medicine
C or c	century	Mod E	Modern English
cf.	compare	neg	negative
chem.	chemistry	obs	obsolete
colloq.	colloquial	OE	Old English
derog.	derogatory	OF	Old French
e.g.	for example	ON	Old Norse
electr.	electricity	phy	physics
esp	especially	pl	plural
<u>et al</u>	and others	prep	preposition
etc.	et cetera;	pron	pronoun
		sb	somebody

	and so on	sl	slang
f or fr	from	specif	specifically
fig	figurative	<	derived from
fml	formal	=	is equivalent to
sth	something	•	marks an unac-
Swed	Swedish		ceptable phrase,
U. S.	United States		sentence, etc.
usu	usually	< >	angle brackets
vs	versus		contains a verbal
<	derived from		illustration.

Code for the dictionaries used in the book

- CDOEL.....*Collins Dictionary of the English Language*, William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., New York, 1979.
- COD*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, London, Oxford University Press, 1982.
- DAI.....*A Dictionary of American Idioms*, Revised Edition, Edited by Adam Makkai, Barron's Educational Series, Inc., New York, 1975.
- LDOCE.....*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, Longman Group Ltd., Harlow and London, 1978.
- LDOEI.....*Longman Dictionary of English Idioms* Longman Group Ltd., Great Britian, 1979.

- NECD..... *A New English-Chinese Dictionary*, 《英华大词典》修订第二版, 商务印书馆, 1984年
- OALD *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, Oxford University Press, Eleventh impression (revised and reset), 1980.
- ODOCIE ... *Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English*, Volume I, edited by A. P. Cowie & R. Mackin, Oxford University Press. 1975.
- ODOCIE ... *Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English*, Volume 2, edited by A. P. Cowie, R. Mackin & I. R. McCaig, Oxford University Press, 1983.
- OED *The Oxford English Dictionary*, Oxford University Press, 1933.
- SBDONE ... *The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English*, Clarence L. Barnhart, Inc., New York, 1980.
- SCD *Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary*, Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., U. S. A., 1977.
- The Third Webster *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, Springfield, Mass.: Merriam, 1961.
- WNWD..... *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*, Second College Edition, The World Publishing Company, U. S. A., 1972.

- 6,000 Words.....*A Supplement to Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster Inc., U. S. A., 1976.
- 9,000 Words.....*A Supplement to Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster Inc., U. S. A., 1983.
- 10,000.....*A Dictionary of New English*, Editor: C. H. Lo, The Commercial Press Ltd., Hong-kong, 1980. (《英文新字字典》)

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Reference Books

常用英语词汇学术语英汉对照表

Chapter I

A GENERAL SURVEY OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY

In a book on lexicology, the term "word" should first be defined; yet it is quite difficult to state the criteria by which a "word" can be defined. The definition of what a word is has occupied the attention of linguists for centuries; so far no completely satisfactory definition has been given. Below are two often-quoted definitions for "word", one of which is given by Bloomfield; "...some linguistic forms, which we call *bound forms* are never used as sentences. English examples are the *-ess / is /* in *countess, lioness, duchess*, etc., or the *-ish / il /* in *boyish, childish, greenish*, etc., or the *-s /s/* in *hats, books, cups*, etc. These are genuine linguistic forms and convey a meaning, but they occur only in construction, as part of a larger form. Forms which occur as sentences are *free forms* ..."

"A free form which consists entirely of two or more lesser free forms, as for instance, *poor John* or *John ran away* or *yes, sir*, is a *phrase*. A free form which is not a phrase, is a *word*. A word, then, is a free form which does not consist entirely of (two or more) lesser free forms; in brief, a word is a *minimum*

free form." (Bloomfield, 1933: 177—178)

Bloomfield's statement is a classical linguistic definition. Words are obviously free forms, for they can stand on their own and act as complete utterances, as in exclamation like "Fire!", "Help!" and in replies such as "Old" in answer to the question, "Is he old or young?" or "Mother" to the question "Who has come?" It is obvious that the definition holds good and can be easily applied to most cases. Of course there are exceptions; not all words can occur in isolation, *the, a, my* are examples. Besides, Bloomfield's definition emphasizes syntax and does not touch upon meaning, which is a crucial aspect of any "word."

Another famous definition for "word" is given by an outstanding French linguist, Antoine Meillet:

"A word is defined by the association of a given sense with a given group of sounds capable of a given grammatical use."

This definition shows a combination of meaning and sound with special emphasis on grammatical use. It is a useful definition but does not include the concept of word as the minimal free form. However both definitions, taken together, give the main criteria of a word, that is sound, meaning and syntactic function.

In brief, a word may be defined as a fundamental