

新经典  
ENGLISH MAJOR

高等学校英语专业系列教材

# 新编英语词汇学教程

English Lexicology: A New Coursebook

Leon CAI (美) 田贵森 编著



外语教学与研究出版社  
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# 前言

《新编英语词汇学教程》是为我国高等院校英语专业学生编写的词汇学教程，当然，也适合非英语专业的大学生和自学读者用来学习和扩展英语词汇。本教材旨在使学生进一步理解英语词汇学基础知识、词汇结构、构词法、词与词之间的内在联系以及词与短语的应用，从而迅速提高词汇量和词汇应用能力，增强表达能力。

为本科学生设计、编写的词汇学教程不应成为一部过于专业的论著。论著为研究而著，而教程为教学而作，两者的创作目的不同，创作风格也不同。词汇学的根本目的在于探讨词的构成、含义以及用法，最终使读者掌握词汇的基本规律，迅速扩大词汇量并增强对词义的理解。本着这一宗旨，作者大胆地突破理论著作的框架，将大量词汇学的理论融于词的学习和词的应用之中，使学生在实践中学习和体会词汇学理论。本教材无意对英语的发展史以及英语词汇的起源进行太多的阐述。与世界上任何一种语言一样，英语在漫长的发展中受到了多种文化的影响和渗透，逐步接纳并融合了大量的外来词语。因此，研究每个词的起源与变迁不仅超出了本书的范畴，而且对当今学生学习词汇、提高英语水平并无太大的帮助。

作者认为，学生只有通过大量反复练习，才能真正理解词汇、掌握词汇，从而正确地运用词汇。所以，本着精讲多练的原则，本教材在每个单元中都加入了大量的练习，供读者边学边练，提升学习效果。同时，本教材强调学生的动手能力。众多教育家认为，学生的动手能力和写作能力极为重要，因为学生在动手写作的同时，可以将学到的知识写进自己的脑海里。因此，为了充分利用本书的优势，达到理想的教学效果，必须鼓励学生动手完成书中的练习。

本教材强调英语词汇在现实生活中的应用。作者认为，学习词汇不仅仅是为了多记几个单词，更加重要的是学会如何正确地使用这些单词，并且将学会的词语真正用到生活和工作中去。因此，本书的各种练习都强调词与词的联系以及词在具体情境中的应用。本教材中的例句充分体现英语应用的时代性，不仅取自文学文本，还

广泛涉及法律、哲学、心理学、自然科学、医学、教育、商业、旅游等诸多领域。

需要说明的是，对于某些词、词根、词缀的起源以及各种分类方法，不同的词典或著述可能观点不一。对于起源，有些已经无从考证；对于分类方法，侧重点不同，分类就可能不同。本书并非专业的学术论著，而是旨在帮助英语学习者掌握英语词汇的内在规律，从而帮助他们学习词汇。因此，作者无意纠结于对各个起源或分类的绝对探究，而只希望能最大程度地帮助学习者领会贯通，以利于他们记忆、学习、掌握词汇。

本书在编写过程中，得到外语教学与研究出版社徐建中总编辑、外研社高等英语教育出版社常小玲社长以及多位编辑的大力支持和耐心合作，编者在此表示衷心感谢。

本书的编写体例及内容可能仍存在不足之处，敬请广大读者不吝指正。

编者

2011年9月

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1.1 The scope of Lexicology 词汇学范畴

# CHAPTER 1



## INTRODUCING LEXICOLOGY

### 词汇学导引



*Your vocabulary represents your style, your image,  
and your personality!*

## 1.1 The Scope of Lexicology 词汇学的范畴

Lexicology, a branch of linguistics, deals with the nature, history, use, and meaning of words and the relationships between elements of words. Words all together constitute vocabulary. In other words, a study of English lexicology is actually a study of the English vocabulary, or the English words.

Linguists usually define a word as the smallest unit of a language. In fact, a word is only a symbol, a representation of something in life, either physical or abstract. People invented words to symbolize the world around them. Without words, there would have been no language. Yet a word, when standing alone, usually represents a very limited meaning. To express complex concepts, a word must function together with other words. Thus, clusters, collocations, and sentences are also studied in lexicology. The use of words in various contexts is called word application.

linguistics 语言学  
cluster 词块  
collocation 词的搭配  
phonetics 语音学  
phonology 音韵学  
semantics 语义学  
etymology 词源学  
lexicography 词典学

Lexicology is interlinked with other branches of linguistics, such as phonetics, phonology, and semantics. However, as an individual branch of linguistics, lexicology mainly covers the origin, development, structure, meaning, and application of words. Etymology, which can be regarded as a subfield of lexicology, mainly focuses on the study of the origin and history of words. Lexicography, another related branch to lexicology, is mainly concerned with the inclusion of words and the science of compiling dictionaries. Since there are too many English words to cover in all lexical perspectives, we may have to narrow down our lexicological study to two practical areas: the formation of words and the application of words.

**Exercise 1-01** Translate the following groups of sentences into Chinese.

- 1a. Coal **abounds** in this province.
- 1b. Coal is **abundant** in this province.
- 1c. This province **abounds** with coal.
- 1d. The **abundance** of coal in the province propels its economic development.
- 2a. **Spring**, summer, autumn, and winter each has its unrivaled charms.

- 2b. Crystal water wells out of the **spring**.
- 2c. One of the **springs** in the mattress needs replacement.
- 2d. Tourism is **springing** up in this region.

## 1.2 The Significance of Studying Vocabulary 学习词汇的意义

Possessing a large English vocabulary is a critical skill in the acquisition of English as a second language. It is an ability that everyone admires and dreams to attain. In terms of listening and reading, a substantial vocabulary helps you gain a smooth and accurate understanding of a discourse. It enables you to comprehend more than the literal expressions of speakers or writers. In terms of speaking and writing, an affluent vocabulary helps you express your thoughts faithfully and gain the interest of your audience. It adds color, vigor, and value to what you say and what you write. In all, a good mastery of the English vocabulary will equip you with power and confidence for all kinds of English communication. And your vocabulary level represents your style, your image, your educational achievement, your aesthetic standard, and your unique personality.

In spite of the numerous approaches to augmenting the volume of your vocabulary, you will soon find that a lexical study remains one of the most efficient methods that you can depend on. On the basic level of a lexical study, you will be able to see the amazing transformations of words, which can be segmented into smaller elements, which can conglomerate into new words, and which correlate and interact with each other. On an advanced level of a lexical study, you will be able to discern the overwhelming strengths of words that can purify, enliven, and glamorize common expressions.

Analyze the following sentences. They are all immaculate grammatically, but they differ in vigor and intensity.

- 1a. Tsinghua University is famous in the world. It has excellent professors and researchers.
- 1b. Tsinghua University is well-known in the world for its excellent faculty and outstanding research teams.

- 1c. Tsinghua University is renowned in the world for its rigorous faculty and dynamic research force.
- 1d. Tsinghua University is recognized worldwide for its academic excellence and research strength.
- 2a. Jiuzhaigou is a beautiful place. Come to see the beautiful scenery.
- 2b. Come to Jiuzhaigou, and see the great natural scenery.
- 2c. Come to Jiuzhaigou, and enjoy the extraordinary beauty of nature.
- 2d. Come to Jiuzhaigou, and discover the unique glamor of nature.
- 3a. If there is no justice, there will be hatred. If there is hatred, violence will happen.
- 3b. Wherever there is no justice, there is hatred. Wherever there is hatred, there is violence.
- 3c. Injustice leads to hatred; hatred causes violence.
- 3d. Injustice breeds hatred; hatred ignites violence.
- 4a. In modern times, there are many opportunities and challenges.
- 4b. In modern times, we face numerous opportunities and challenges.
- 4c. We live in an age in which opportunities and challenges coexist.
- 4d. We live in an exciting epoch in which boundless opportunities challenge our maximum wisdom.
- 5a. In order for all the tenants to be happy, the Management Committee wants everyone to follow these regulations.
- 5b. In order for all the tenants to be benefited, the Management Committee wants everyone to observe the following regulations.
- 5c. For the benefits of all the tenants, the Management Committee requires everyone to abide by the following regulations.
- 5d. In the best interest of all the tenants, the Management Committee enforces the following policies.

In each group, four levels of expressions are listed, indicating the same or similar meaning. Which level do you prefer? Which level have you achieved? What has impressed you most? Why does one level excel another? As you can see, advanced English expressions, on the basis of grammatical accuracy, inevitably involve witty choices and applications of words. Yet before you reach that level of maturity, you need to build up a large volume of vocabulary as a foundation.

Very often, we need extraordinary words to describe extraordinary concepts. Look at the following poster about Jiuzhaigou. Pay particular attention to the vocabulary used to depict this marvelous natural wonder.

### Jiuzhaigou

- One of the world heritages renowned for its extraordinary untouched glamor.
- A marvelous, exquisite geographical masterpiece slowly crafted by Mother Nature through ages.
- A spectacular natural wonder that you can find nowhere else.
- An enchanting fairyland of magic that challenges your imagination.

Explore this unique kingdom of marvels!  
Discover the breathtaking surprises at every turn!

This course aims at three goals. First, it will introduce the basic concepts of lexicology. Next it will lead you through a program of mechanical studies of word formation so that you will be able to build up a substantial vocabulary. Then, it will show you the secret arts of word choice and word application. All these steps are designed as milestones pointing to the same destination—to empower you to become a proficient English language user. Throughout the course, various lexicological concepts are introduced, but they serve as the means, not as the end. The only end of a meaningful study of lexicology for college students should always reflect vocabulary building and vocabulary application.

**Exercise 1-02** Rewrite the following sentences by applying the best vocabulary you know.

- 1) He got poor school grades because he spent too much time playing Internet games.
- 2) The company has not kept enough money to develop new products.
- 3) You can call our customer service representatives at any time. We are open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
- 4) A strict college education is good for your future. You will be able to overcome difficulties in your job.

- 5) We respect this man because he always wants to do his best and he never gives up in bad luck.
- 6) Some lexical textbooks are too difficult to read. They are full of lexicological vocabulary, which students have to learn but will not use in a thousand years.

### 1.3 Lexicology and Linguistic Studies 词汇学与语言学研究

McArthur (1992) defines lexicology as an area of language study concerned with the nature, meaning, history, and use of words and word elements, and often with the critical description of lexicography. This definition suggests that lexicology is interlinked with other branches of micro-linguistics, such as phonetics and phonology, morphology, semantics, and grammar. It is also closely related with some branches of macro-linguistics, such as stylistics and sociolinguistics. We will discuss how they are related in this part and hope it will be helpful for your study of lexicology and your understanding of linguistics as a whole.

micro-linguistics 微观语言学  
macro-linguistics 宏观语言学  
sociolinguistics 社会语言学

#### 1.3.1 Lexicology, Phonetics, and Phonology 词汇学与语音学、音韵学

The major objective of lexicology is “word.” The spoken form of a word and its sound features in lexicological studies overlap with phonetics and phonology. Phonetics aims to examine the production, transmission, and perception of speech sounds, and phonology is concerned with the function of sounds and sound patterns as linguistic items. Phoneme is the smallest unit of sound employed to form meaningful contrasts between utterances. Phonemes perform the distinctive function differentiating words (e.g. *stop—pots*). A different sound sequence results in a different word, as the example suggests. And sometimes stress is also used for differentiating words (parts of speech, e.g. *present* as a noun—*present* as a verb). Our knowledge of words is not complete without knowing their sound forms and

features of phoneme in studying lexicology. Phonetics and phonology are useful for etymologists in the study of words' origins and their changes in forms and meanings.

### 1.3.2 Lexicology and Morphology 词汇学与形态学

The overlapping points of lexicology and morphology are numerous. Both disciplines take words as their primary subject and both focus on the correspondence between forms and meanings of words. The essential difference between the two sister disciplines is a matter of emphasis: Morphology is word grammar with meaning, while lexicology is word semantics with form.

August Schleicher, a German linguist, first used "morphology" to refer to the study of the form of words. In present-day linguistics, the term "morphology" refers to the study of the internal structure of words, and of the systematic form-meaning correspondences between words. Lexicology relies on morphology for information about construction of words, parts of words, and distinction between different types of words. Morphology is particularly relevant in the discussion of word formation in later chapters of this book.

### 1.3.3 Lexicology and Semantics 词汇学与语义学

Lexicology is closely connected with semantics, the study of meaning. Semantics aims to describe and explain the meanings in natural language. Most linguists agree that meaning pervades the whole of language and there are different kinds of semantics, such as lexical semantics, sentence semantics, and text or discourse semantics. Lexical semantics deals with the meaning of words and the meaning relations that are internal to the vocabulary of a language. Sentence semantics focuses on the meanings of sentences and the semantic structures of sentences based on the meaning of individual lexemes and their syntactic roles in the given sentence. Discourse semantics aims to investigate the meanings of sentences and their relation with the context or discourse in which they are embedded. Lexical semantics is the interface between lexicology and semantics. It is the most significant part of lexicology and is also the most robust in semantics.



### 1.3.4 Lexicology and Grammar 词汇学与语法

The connection between lexicology and grammar is strong and we may categorize these two as one interrelated discipline in linguistics: “lexico-grammar” or “grammar-lexicology.” Grammar and lexicology are intermingled in many aspects. Both of them focus on “word”: In grammar, all words belong to certain part(s) of speech and follow certain grammar rules; in lexicology, words have grammatical meanings, and any word can perform a grammatical function or occur in certain grammatical patterns. For example, objects consisting of two halves are always plural (e.g. *scissors*). Sometimes a grammatical form becomes a basis for new words (e.g. *he looks*—*his looks*). This is called the process of lexicalization of grammatical forms. The essential difference between grammar and lexicology is that the former deals with the forms and structures of words and the latter with meanings of words. Grammar deals with rules and regularities that apply to classes of words as a whole, whereas lexicology is concerned with the way individual words operate and affect other words in the same context. Grammar is the study of the grammatical structure of language. It is concerned with the various means of expressing grammatical relations between words as well as with the patterns of word groups and sentences. It aims to categorize and demonstrate the various forms words can take, and then explain how these forms are arranged into sentences. Lexicology is concerned with meanings of words, either topically as a thesaurus, or indexically as a dictionary, adding glosses and definitions. Halliday and Colin (2007) made the comment that “there is no exact point where the lexicologist stops and grammarian takes over; each one can readily enter into the territory of the other.”

### 1.3.5 Lexicology and Stylistics 词汇学与文体学

Lexicology is also closely connected to stylistics. Both lexicology and stylistics focus on the differentiation of word use, the way meaning is transferred, semantic structure of words, and connotations of the words used. Stylistics studies many problems treated in lexicology such as the nature, function, meaning, and styles of words. It attempts to establish principles capable of explaining the particular choices made by individuals and social groups in their use of language,