



DICTIONARY STRUCTURE AS A LEXICOGRAPHIC PROBLEM

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Аннотация

Ушбу мақолада барча турдаги, яъни изоҳли- кўрғазмали луғатларининг моҳиятини чуқур ўрганиб, уларнинг ҳар бирини тил ўрганишда ўз ўрни борлигини кўрсатиб ўтилган.

Аннотация

В этой статье подробно изучается природа всех типов словарей, каждый из которых имеет свое место в изучении языка.

Abstract

This article provides an in-depth study of the essence of all types of dictionaries; explanatory, visual-terminological, and shows that each of them has its place in language learning.

Калит сўз: Makro matn, mikro matn, mediostruktura, klaster tipli, mavzulari alifboga asoslangan va analogik

Ключевые слова: Макротекст, микротекст, микроструктура, медиоструктура, кластерный, тематически-алфавитный и аналогичный.

Keywords. Macrotext, microtext, microstructure, mediostructure, cluster-type, subject-alphabetical and analogical.

Many linguists distinguish in a dictionary macrotext and microtext. By macrotext there is understood the whole dictionary, considered as a single whole; and by microtext there is understood – a separate entry. Accordingly, there are distinguished macrostructure and microstructure of a dictionary. By macrostructure there is understood the general structure of a dictionary and the character of the presentation of lexical units in a dictionary. By microstructure there is understood the entry format and the character of its filling. Some linguists also distinguish mediostructure, especially in connection with the compiling of ideographic dictionaries, where the transfer from general vocabulary index to a separate entry is in some several consecutive transferrings to the subdivisions of smaller scope.





Sometimes the macrostructure of a dictionary is considered to be only the arrangement of entries in the limits of the basic index, which excludes preface, introduction and supplements (or appendices). But many lexicographers consider all the composition parts of a dictionary (beginning with preface and ending with supplements) to be included into the macrostructure, as the scope and content of the parts define the character of a dictionary.

Introduction, in most cases containing the rules of using the dictionary, is necessary, as the effective usage of the dictionary is impossible without it. Besides this, introduction is often an original lexicographical work being of great interest to either linguists on the whole and specialists in the field of Lexicography specifically or to the students of the faculties of foreign languages.

For instance, in the preface to New English-Russian Dictionary Yermolovich D.I. not only describes objective changes in the vocabulary for the last decades of the 20th century, but makes the analysis of Smirnitsky's dictionary, as the portrait of the dictionary author and his age.

Supplements broaden and deepen the apprehension of the information contained in the basic index. In most cases supplements are an obligatory dictionary element (for example, indices in ideographic dictionaries).

The distinctive feature of a dictionary structure from the structure of the texts of all other kinds is that in a dictionary the material is arranged in the form of separate units connected with one another by certain relations. The text of a dictionary can be presented in the form of the acquired system setting the definite system of searching. To the forming of a dictionary macrostructure there are referred such problems of a dictionary composition as the selection of the principle of the setting of lexical units, the ways of the presentation of polysemantic and homonymous units.

The order of the setting of entries can be formal or subject. The subject order is more ancient.

The most well-known formal principle of vocabulary arrangement is the alphabetical order of entries following. It can be solid, when each headword (a lexical unit described in a dictionary) has its own entry; and all entries are in the strict alphabetical order. The solid alphabetical order is the most frequently used one in explanatory dictionaries of the English language at the present time.

The other mode of the alphabetical setting is the cluster-type. In this case an entry groups the information about several vocabules (headwords) connected with one another, an entries themselves are arrange according to the alphabet. Lexical units can be grouped into a cluster on the base of word-formative (morphological, syntactic) and lexical (semantic) features. According to this principle a lot of terminological





dictionaries are built (both unilingual and bilingual), as it allows to group and present word-formative and semantic systems of terms clearly.

Dictionaries in which the vocabulary is set according to the subject principle are called subject dictionaries. There are distinguished several varieties among them. In subject-alphabetical dictionaries there is used a combine way of the vocabulary presentation in the corpus of a dictionary (the basic index of the lexical units included into a dictionary) with some elements of formal arrangement. To such dictionaries there are referred analogical dictionaries, in which words are corresponded with the definite word-centres, the order of which is defined by the alphabet. The second sub-group of the subject dictionaries is ideographic dictionaries – thesauruses, in which the vocabulary is set according to the semantic fields. Thesauruses can be associative or hierarchic (systematic). The former are set according to the subject-groups on the base of associative connections between the notions defined by the words, the latter – use hierarchic connections between the notions.

Thesauruses can be both general (Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases) and special (Thesaurus of Engineering and Scientific Terms). To the subject dictionaries there are also referred picture dictionaries (Oxford Picture Dictionary) in which one or several pictures present the subject groups.

Though there are different types of dictionaries, the components are all the same in every dictionary but under different names. The components are:

1. Introduction or foreword;
2. The part 'how to use the dictionary';
3. Key to transcription used in the dictionary;
4. The list of abbreviations used in the dictionary and their explanations;
5. Dictionary corpus (word-list), i.e. The basic list of words;
6. Additional material, i.e. Different supplements;
7. The list of lexicographical sources.

A very significant element for thesauruses and phraseological dictionaries is index. The number and order of these basic elements of dictionary structure may vary depending on the author's setting.

Thus, the structure of English-Russian Dictionary by Prof. Muller V.K. (1963) is the following:

Foreword, the list of the lexicographical sources, guide to the use of the dictionary, key to pronunciation, the list of abbreviations, dictionary, supplements.

To the supplements there are referred the list of the most frequently used English names, the list of geographical names, the list of the most frequently used abbreviations in England and the USA.





Consider each of the mentioned parts separately.

Foreword of a dictionary. It usually begins with the description of the history of the creation of the given dictionary and then briefly defines the dictionary's scope and goals.

This material should be read attentively so that one knows exactly what he can find the dictionary and what he can't. For example, if you are working with an explanatory dictionary, in the foreword there will be said if the dictionary includes obsolete words or not, if there are neologisms in it, etc.

At the end of the foreword there is some general information about the mode the dictionary presents the material, the basic principles by which the compilers were guided. And the final words will be devoted to the acknowledgement to the experts and consultants who helped in the dictionary-compiling. This fact is also important as you may judge the dictionary quality and value by those who took part in its creating.

How to use the dictionary? This part is one of the basic ones for any dictionary and should be read very attentively. It usually includes such information about the entry structure, the ways of lexicographical analysis of a word, the place of derivatives, the labels given by the dictionary (prohibitive, restrictive, etc.), the grammatical characteristics of a word, etc.

Key to pronunciation. Showing of the pronunciation of English words is one of the main tasks of the English language dictionary. The difficulty is in two directions. First, English words are pronounced not in the way they are spelt. Second, the problem is in the representing of the pronunciation of English words so that the system of the showing becomes clear and comprehensible to the most of the readers.

Nowadays in British and American lexicography there are two main systems of the showing of words pronunciation.

The first one is the showing of pronunciation by means of special phonetic alphabet – international phonetic transcription. This way of the showing of pronunciation is not so widely used in Great Britain and the USA as in Russia.

The second one is the showing of pronunciation by means of the same English alphabet. In other words, after the spelling the word is transcribed by the letters of the English alphabet with the addition of some signs (for example, table [ta`b'l]; yellow [yel`o]. This way of showing of the pronunciation isn't almost used in Russia, but is widely abroad.

The list of abbreviations. Abbreviations and signs use in the dictionaries enable to present the repeated information in a suitable way.





The basic list of words, i.e. the dictionary itself, consists of the headwords and their lexicographical analysis, which in its turn depends on the type of the dictionary. As a rule, dictionary material is presented by two (in unabridged dictionaries – by three) columns on the page, as it's much quicker to read in narrow columns and small print, which is usually used in the dictionaries.

It's known that dictionary material is given in strictly alphabetical order. There are two methods of the presentation of entry words in a dictionary which are set according to the alphabet: the first one is word-by-word method, the second one is letter-by-letter method.

Word-by-word method. Entry words are presented according to the alphabet, but those parts of words that are after a hyphen or gap are not taken into consideration at the first stage.

For example, the word **girl scout** will be given before the word **girlhood**, because the second part of the word **girl scout (scout)** is separated from **girl** by a gap.

Letter-by-letter method. Head words are set according to the alphabet and all parts of words are taken into consideration (whether they are written a hyphen or separately). No matter how a word or word-combination is written, it's supposed that all its parts are spelt together and words should follow one another strictly according to the alphabet. For example, if the fifth letter of the word **girl scout** is 's' and the fifth letter of the word **girlhood** is 'h', **girlhood** should be placed before **girl scout**.

Word-by-word method

Girl
girl friend
girl guide
girl scout
girlie
girlish

Letter-by-letter method

Girl
girl friend
girl guide
girlhood
girlish
girl scout

So, we can see, in the first method the order of the arrangement of such entry words as **girl scout** is appointed in the alphabetical order by the initial letter of the second component. In the second method these words will be placed strictly according to the alphabet regardless of the word spelling.

In most dictionaries of the English language there is used the second method as more logical one.

In conclusion, linguistic dictionaries differ from encyclopedic ones in that they describe not the object or notion denoted by the given word, but the word itself, i.e. there is given the characteristic of the word as a language unit: its meaning, it's





grammatical, spelling, pronouncing characteristics, its etymology, etc. In our case, special linguistic dictionaries concentrate their attention upon only one of these aspects. On this base there are distinguished such types of special dictionaries as: etymological, historical, dialect dictionaries of foreign terms, concordances, dictionaries of word-frequency, usage dictionaries, dictionaries of synonyms, phraseological, ideographic, pronouncing, spelling, new words dictionaries, dictionaries of slang, dictionaries of abbreviations and signs, reverse dictionaries.

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