



## THE PERIOD OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND PERSPECTIVE OF LEXICOLOGY

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### Annotation

This article discusses the history and theoretical foundations of lexicology.

**Keywords:** lexicology, word, language, history, method, translation.

### INTRODUCTION

**Lexicography** is the practice of making and editing dictionaries and other reference texts. The **lexicographer** is the one who must research, organize, define, and compile the words in a dictionary. This takes a lot of time and a lot of detail. For each dictionary entry, there is a definition, a pronunciation, a list of synonyms, an example of the word being used, and even sometimes its **etymology** (or history of the word's origin). For instance, the word 'lexicography' was created in the late 17th century, from the Greek *lexikos* meaning 'of words' and *grapho* meaning 'to inscribe, to write'.

The history of lexicography goes back to **Old English** where its first traces are found in the form of glosses of religious books with interlinear translation from Latin. Regular bilingual **English-Latin** dictionaries already existed in the **15th** century.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The first unilingual English dictionary, explaining words appeared in **1604**. It was "A table alphabetical, containing and teaching the true writing and understanding of hard usual English words borrowed from the Hebrew, Greece, Latin or French". This dictionary of 120 pages explaining about 3000 words was compiled by **Robert Cawdrey**, a schoolmaster. Robert Cawdrey's Table Alphabetical was the first single-language English dictionary ever published. The **dictionary** is extremely vital to the literacy of speakers of a specific language. It is used to look up definitions, spelling, and pronunciation. The dictionary is considered the most accurate and ample resource for information about words.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There is some disagreement on the definition of lexicology, as distinct from lexicography. Some use "lexicology" as a synonym for theoretical lexicography; others use it to mean a branch of linguistics pertaining to the inventory of words in a particular language.





**Lexicography** is divided into two separate but equally important groups:

**Practical lexicography** is the art or craft of compiling, writing and editing dictionaries.

**Theoretical lexicography** is the scholarly discipline of analyzing and describing the semantic, syntagmatic, and paradigmatic relationships within the lexicon (vocabulary) of a language, developing theories of dictionary components and structures linking the data in dictionaries, the needs for information by users in specific types of situations, and how users may best access the data incorporated in printed and electronic dictionaries. This is sometimes referred to as 'metalexicography'.

General lexicography focuses on the design, compilation, use and evaluation of general dictionaries, i.e. dictionaries that provide a description of the language in general use. Such a dictionary is usually called a general dictionary or LGP dictionary (Language for General Purpose). Specialized lexicography focuses on the design, compilation, use and evaluation of specialized dictionaries, i.e. dictionaries that are devoted to a (relatively restricted) set of linguistic and factual elements of one or more specialist subject fields, e.g. legal lexicography. Such a dictionary is usually called a specialized dictionary or Language for specific purposes dictionary and following Nielsen 1994, specialized dictionaries are either multi-field, single-field or sub-field dictionaries.

It is now widely accepted that lexicography is a scholarly discipline in its own right and not a sub-branch of applied linguistics, as the chief object of study in lexicography is the dictionary. Practical lexicographic work involves several activities, and the compilation of well-crafted dictionaries requires careful consideration of all or some of the following aspects:

- profiling the intended users (i.e. linguistic and non-linguistic competences) and identifying their needs
- defining the communicative and cognitive functions of the dictionary
- selecting and organizing the components of the dictionary
- choosing the appropriate structures for presenting the data in the dictionary (i.e. frame structure, distribution structure, macro-structure, micro-structure and cross-reference structure)
- selecting words and affixes for systematization as entries
- selecting collocations, phrases and examples
- designing the best way in which users can access the data in printed and electronic dictionaries.

One important goal of lexicography is to keep the lexicographic information costs incurred by dictionary users as low as possible. Nielsen (2008) suggests relevant aspects for lexicographers to consider when making dictionaries as they all affect the users' impression and actual use of specific dictionaries.





Theoretical lexicography concerns the same aspects as lexicography, but aims to develop principles that can improve the quality of future dictionaries, for instance in terms of access to data and lexicographic information costs. Several perspectives or branches of such academic dictionary research have been distinguished: 'dictionary criticism' (or evaluating the quality of one or more dictionaries, e.g. by means of reviews (see Nielsen 1999)), 'dictionary history' (or tracing the traditions of a type of dictionary or of lexicography in a particular country or language), 'dictionary typology' (or classifying the various genres of reference works, such as dictionary versus encyclopedia, monolingual versus bilingual dictionary, general versus technical or pedagogical dictionary), 'dictionary structure' (or formatting the various ways in which the information is presented in a dictionary), 'dictionary use' (or observing the reference acts and skills of dictionary users), and 'dictionary IT' (or applying computer aids to the process of dictionary compilation).

## CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that most of the lexicographer served as the lexicographer and terminologist at the same time reaching to the extremist case of playing all the roles at the same time. The insights gained from the results of the study include assertion on group effort to create language for specific purpose dictionaries. It also opens windows through which theoretical areas of language enrichment can be achieved through lexicography. Dictionaries and lexicographer make the information available for language users. Language users, in turn, make the dictionaries the authoritative source of information and hence rely on them. Language is developed through development of its terminology. The role of the terminologist is to create terms and the lexicographer includes them in the dictionary. If the dictionary is the result of a group effort, then it can be considered a reliable source of information. By group effort the role the lexicographer, terminologist and subject expert play is referred to.

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