

THE CONCEPT OF LEXIS AND THE LEXICAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The article is about lexis and the lexical system. As we know lexis is the totality of words of a language, its vocabulary. The section of linguistics studying vocabulary is called Lexicology.

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Lexis is the totality of words of a language, its vocabulary. The section of linguistics studying vocabulary is called Lexicology (Gr. *lexikos* - vocabulary + *logos* - teaching). A distinction is made between historical lexicology, which studies the formation of vocabulary in its development, and descriptive lexicology, which deals with the meaning of words, semantics (Gr. *semantikos* - denoting), volume, structure of vocabulary, etc., i.e. it considers various types of relations between words in a single lexico-semantic system. Words in it may be connected by similarity or opposition of meanings (cf. e.g. synonyms and antonyms), commonness of functions performed (cf. e.g. colloquial and literary word groups), similarity of origin or closeness of stylistic properties, as well as belonging to one part of speech, etc. The relationship of words in different groups united by common characteristics is called paradigmatic (Gr. *parádeigma* - example, pattern) and is basic in determining the properties of a system.

A type of systemic relationship is the degree of lexical compatibility of words with each other, otherwise syntagmatic relationship (Greek *syntagma* - something connected), which often affects the development of new paradigms as well. For example, for a long time, the word *state* has been associated by meaning only with the word *state* as "the political organization of society headed by the government or its organs". Being by meaning a relative adjective, it was combined with a certain range of words like, *system*, *frontier*, *institution*, *officer* and the like. Then, its syntagmatic relationship expanded: it began to be used in conjunction with the words *thinking*, *mind*, *person*, *action*, *deed*, etc., acquiring therewith a qualitative-valued meaning "capable of thinking and acting extensively, wisely". This in turn created conditions for the emergence of new paradigmatic links, which also influenced the development of new grammatical meanings and forms: since the word in certain cases functions as a qualitative adjective, it can form abstract nouns: *statehood*, qualitative adverbs: *state-like*, antonyms: *non-state*, *anti-state*, etc.

Consequently, the two types of system relations are closely related to each other and form a complex lexical-semantic system as a whole, which is part of the general linguistic system.

A word distinguishes its sound design, morphological structure and the meaning and significance it contains.

The lexical meaning of a word is its content, i.e. the correlation between a sound complex and an object, historically fixed in the minds of speakers. The lexical meaning, apart from the subject content, also reflects stylistic nuances; this is called connotation (lat. *con* - with, together + *notare* - to mark, denote). or phenomenon of reality, "framed by the grammatical laws of the language and is an element of the general semantic system of the vocabulary" V. V. Vinogradov. The main types of lexical meanings of a word // *Vopr. lekznaniya*. 1953. № 5. C. 10..

The meaning of words does not reflect the totality of learned attributes, objects and phenomena, but only those of them which help to distinguish one object from another. For example, if we say: This is a bird, in this case we are only interested in the fact that we are facing a kind of flying vertebrate animal, whose body is covered with feathers and the front limbs are converted into wings. These features allow us to distinguish the bird from other animals, such as mammals.

In the process of joint work, in their social practice, people learn objects, qualities, phenomena; and certain features of these objects, qualities or phenomena of reality serve as the basis for the meaning of the word. Therefore, in order to properly understand the meaning of words, a broad acquaintance with the social sphere in which a word existed or exists is necessary. Consequently, extra-linguistic factors play an important role in the development of the meaning of a word.

Depending on which feature is the basis for classification, four main types of lexical meanings of words can be distinguished in the modern Russian language.

According to connection, correlation with the object of reality, i.e. according to the way of naming, or nomination (Latin *nominatio* - naming, appellation), there are direct, or main, and figurative, or indirect meanings.

The direct meaning is the one that is directly related to the object or phenomenon, quality, action, etc. For example, direct would be the first two meanings of the word hand: "one of the two upper limbs of a human being from the shoulder to the end of the fingers..." and "...as an instrument of activity, labour".

Lexical meaning of a word: Portable A portable meaning is one that does not result from a direct reference to an object, but from a transfer of the direct meaning to another object due to various associations. For example, the following meanings of the word hand would be figurative:

1) (singular only) manner of writing, handwriting; 2) (plural only) labour power; 3) (plural only) about a person, person (...with definition) as a possessor, owner of something; 4) a symbol of power; 5) (singular only, colloquial) about an influential person, capable to protect, support; 6) (singular only) about consent of someone to marriage, about readiness to enter into marriage.

The relations of words with a direct meaning are less context-dependent and conditioned by subject-logical relations, which are rather broad and relatively free. The figurative meaning is much more context-dependent, it has a lively or partially extinguished imagery.

According to the degree of semantic motivation, meanings are divided into:

Lexical Meaning: Non-motivated non-motivated (or non-derived, idiomatic) and

Lexical Meaning: Motivated motivated (or derived from the former).

For example, the meaning of the word hand is unmotivated, while the meanings of the words hand, sleeve, etc. are already motivated by semantic and word-formation links with the word hand. - The meanings of the word hand are already motivated by semantic and word-formation links with the word hand.

According to the degree of lexical combinability the meanings are divided into relatively Lexical word meanings: Freely free (these include all direct word meanings) and Lexical word meanings: Non-freely non-free. Among the latter two main kinds are distinguished:

1) Lexical word meaning: Phraseological connected Phraseological connected meaning is that which occurs with words in certain lexically indivisible combinations. They are characterized by a narrowly circumscribed, steadily reproducible circle of words, whose connections between them are not determined by subject-logical relations, but by the internal regularities of the lexico-semantic system. The boundaries of the use

of words with this meaning are narrow. For example, the word *intimate* has the figurative meaning "*sincere, intimate*", which is realized, as a rule, only in combination with the word *friend (friendship)*;

2) Lexical meaning of a word: A syntactically conditioned syntactic meaning is one that appears in a word when it plays an unusual role in a sentence. Context plays a large role in the development of these meanings. For example, when the word *oak* is used in the role of characterizing a person: *Eh, you, oak, have not understood anything* - its meaning "stupid, insensitive" (colloquial) is realized.

A type of syntactically conditioned meanings is the so-called Lexical meaning of a word: Constructively limited constructively limited, which occurs only in conditions of use of a word in a particular syntactic construction. For example, a relatively recent emerged meaning "*district, region, place of action*" in the word *geography* is conditioned by its use in a construction with a noun in the genitive case: *geography of sports victories*.

According to the nature of the nominative functions performed, we distinguish the proper nominative and expressive-synonymic meanings.

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