

# LEXICOLOGY

Spring 2020, 4th semester

**Number of credits:** 3

**Total number of hours:** 90

**Total amount of classroom time:** 32 hrs (lectures – 20 hrs; seminars – 12 hrs)

**Number of hours for independent work:** 58

## Lecturers

Uliana Potiatynyk, PhD (Room 433)

Tetiana Orshynska, PhD (Room 434)

**Time of the class:** Wednesday 15.05 - 16.25

## Course Description

### *Aims and objectives*

This course invites students to consider the English word-stock as a dynamic system that continuously interacts with other levels of language, such as syntax, phonology etc., and is a result of complex centuries-long evolution that played out against the backdrop of intricate historical, social, cultural etc. events. The students will be offered to think about words from the perspective of arbitrariness vs. motivatedness of the linguistic sign, to make sense of the paradigmatic vs. syntagmatic relations between words and to understand the difference between sense relations and relations of reference. Students will be invited to consider lexical semantics as the core aspect of lexicological inquiry, which will allow them to get to the bottom of polysemy, make distinctions between polysemes and homonyms, identify differences between synonyms and have a deeper understanding of changes and shifts that words undergo throughout history. By the end of the course, students will be expected to develop a better awareness of lexical variation and variability, which, as they will learn, are ubiquitous phenomena in language and not just within vocabulary.

This course will also provide training in the skill of analyzing words from the perspective of their structure, meaning, etymology and, to a lesser extent, usage.

## ***Content***

This course is an introduction to lexicology, which is a study of words. In the course of the semester, we'll look at the structure of words, i.e. their morphology, types of word formation, the origins of the English vocabulary and the influences on the structure and meaning of English words from Latin, Greek, French, Scandinavian and other languages. We will also consider issues of lexical semantics: sense relations (synonymy, antonymy, kind-of relation, part-of relation), polysemy vs. homonymy, and change of meaning. At the seminars – which will alternate with lectures on a weekly basis – our focus will be on practical tasks, which will help students apply theory to language material.

### **LECTURES (L) + SEMINARS (S)**

#### **Week 1 L**

Introduction and bibliographical information. Lexicology as a linguistic discipline.  
Relation of lexicology to other linguistic fields.  
Terms and concepts in lexicology.  
Paradigmatic vs. syntagmatic relations. Continuum vs. discreteness principles.  
Diachronic and synchronic approaches to the study of vocabulary.

#### **Week 2 S**

Associative fields. Lexical/semantic fields. Lexical field theory.  
Word families.  
Word classes.  
**Practical tasks.**

#### **Week 3 L**

Morphemes - free and bound. Root, affix, stem. Inflectional and derivational morphology.  
Derivation. Types of suffixes and prefixes.  
Compounding: endocentric and exocentric compounds.

#### **Week 4 S**

Conversion. Minor types of word formation.  
Back formation. Abbreviation: clippings, acronyms, blends (telescoping).  
**Practical tasks.**

#### **Week 5 L**

Origins of the English vocabulary. Major periods in the history of English.  
Native vocabulary: Anglo-Saxon words.

#### **Week 6 S**

Latin and Greek loanwords. French borrowings. Scandinavian influence on English.

Etymological doublets.

**Practical tasks.**

**Week 7 L**

Lexical semantics. Word as a linguistic sign. Sense relations vs. relations of reference.

Polysemy and homonymy. Synonymy and antonymy.

**Week 8 S**

Sense relations (cont.) Reasons for extensive synonymy in English. Differences between synonyms. Antonymy: types of oppositeness. Hyponymy and meronymy.

**Practical tasks.**

**Week 9 L**

Change of meaning. Transference of meaning. Transference based on similarity.

Transference based on contiguity.

**Week 10 S**

Change of meaning (cont.) Generalization vs. specialization of meaning. Pejoration vs. amelioration. Grammaticalization.

**Practical tasks.**

**Week 11 L**

Multiword lexemes. Motivation of lexical units. Classifications of idiomatic expressions.

Phrasal verbs: types.

**Week 12 S**

Multiword lexemes (cont.) Characteristics of idiomatic expressions.

**Practical tasks.**

**Midterm test (30 min.)**

**Week 13 L**

Vocabulary variation (by location, occupation and situation). Regional variation in the English vocabulary. Differences between British and American English.

**Week 14 S**

Methods of lexicological investigation: transformational, distributional, componential, IC analysis.

**Practical tasks.**

**Week 15 L**

Lexicography. Types of dictionaries. The structure of dictionary entries.

## **FINAL ASSESSMENT: EXAMINATION**

### **Examination Questions:**

- Lexicology as a linguistic discipline; its tasks and objectives. Relation of lexicology to other linguistic fields.
- What is a word? Definition of word. The notion of lexeme.
- Lexical/semantic field. Theory of lexical fields.
- Word classes. Differences between open and closed classes.
- Word families.
- Synchronic and diachronic approaches to the study of vocabulary. Folk (popular) etymology.
- Paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations.
- Continuum vs. discreteness as principles in the study of vocabulary and language in general.
- What are meaning relations? Relation of reference vs. sense relation.
- Change in meaning. Factors (language-internal and language-external) that contribute to shifts in meaning.
- Transference based on similarity (metaphor). Traditional vs. cognitive view of 'dead' metaphors.
- Transference based on contiguity (metonymy). Types of metonymic relation.
- Amelioration vs. pejoration of meaning. Specialization vs. generalization of meaning. Grammaticalization.
- Synonymy. Strict (absolute) and loose synonymy. Criteria for absolute synonyms. Reasons for extensive synonymy in English. Major differences between items in synonymic sets (areas of distinction between synonyms).
- Antonymy. Types of oppositeness.

- Sense relations: Hyponymy and meronymy.
- Lexical semantics. The concept and definition of meaning. Word meaning (Word as a linguistic sign). What are meaning relations? Relation of reference vs. sense relation.
- Sense relations vs. relations of reference. Difference between denotation and reference.
- Conceptual and associative meaning: Denotation vs. connotation. Types of connotation.
- Polysemy. Problems inherent in the concept of polysemy.
- Homonymy. Types of homonyms. Basic distinction between polysemy and homonymy.
- Jargon and slang. Euphemisms and taboo. The notion of “euphemism treadmill”.
- Multiword lexemes. Classifications of idiomatic expressions. Phrasal verbs and their types. Idioms. Motivation of idioms. Explanation of idioms from a cognitive perspective.
- Collocations and the notion of collocability.
- Inflectional and derivational morphology. Morphemes: free and bound. Root, affix, stem.
- Word formation: Affixation. Inflectional and derivational affixes.
- Word formation: Compounding. Classification of compounds.
- Word Formation: Conversion, blending, and clipping.
- Etymological make-up of the English vocabulary. Native words.
- Origins of the English vocabulary: Scandinavian borrowings.
- Origins of the English vocabulary: Greek and Latin loanwords.
- Origins of the English vocabulary: French borrowings.

- Neologisms.
- Vocabulary variation. Variation by location: national and regional vocabulary. Variation by occupation, social and cultural affiliation; jargon. Variation by text type and situation: register. Major differences between British and American English with respect to vocabulary.
- Main types of dictionaries. Selection of lexical units and the structure of dictionary entries. Approaches to the arrangement of polysemous words in dictionaries. Corpus-based lexicography.
- Methods of lexicological investigation: Componential analysis.
- Methods of lexicological investigation: Transformational analysis.
- Methods of lexicological investigation: Distributional analysis.
- Methods of lexicological investigation: Immediate Constituent(s) analysis.

Apart from theoretical questions, students will be expected to carry out practical tasks (similar to ones done at seminars).

### **EVALUATION:**

30 % -- class participation (preparation for seminars)

30 % -- midterm module

40 % -- final exam

### **Suggested List of References:**

Antrushyna H.B. *English Lexicology*. – Moscow, 2000.

Brinton Laurel J. *The Structure of Modern English: A Linguistic Introduction*. – John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2000.

Cruse A. *Meaning in Language. An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. OUP, 2000.

Crystal D. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. – Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Halliday M.A.K., Yallop C. *Lexicology: A Short Introduction*. – Continuum International Publishing Group, 2007.

Jackson H., Zé Amvela E. Words, Meaning and Vocabulary: an Introduction to Modern English Lexicology. – Continuum International Publishing Group, 2007.

McCarthy M., O.Dell. English Vocabulary in Use. – Cambridge, 2003.

The Oxford Companion to the English Language (ed. by T.McArthur). – Oxford University Press, 1992.

Potiatynyk U. All About Words: An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology 1. Lviv: ПАІС, 2014.

Rayevska O.M. English Lexicology. – К.: Вища школа, 1979.

Sukhorolska S.M., Fedorenko O.I. Methods of Linguistic Analysis. – Lviv: Lviv Ivan Franko National University Publishing Center, 2006.

Мостовий М. І. Лексикологія англійської мови : [підруч. для ін-тів і фак. інозем. мов] . – Харків : Основа, 1993 .