



THE OBJECT, GOALS AND PROBLEMS OF LEXICOLOGY AS A  
LINGUISTIC SCIENCE

*Andijon davlat chet tillari instituti*

*Ingliz filologiyasi, o'qitish metodikasi va tarjimashunoslik fakulteti Tarjima nazariyasi va amaliyoti yo'nalishi 301-guruh talabasi **Mannopova Guljamol***

*Ilmiy rahbar*

*Gid hamrohligi, madaniyatlara muloqot va tarjimashunoslik kafedrasida o'qituvchisi*

**B. Umaraliyeva**

**Abstrakt:** Ushbu tezis leksikologiya fanining lingvistik fan sifatidagi obyektini, maqsadlari va muammolarini yoritishga bag'ishlangan. Leksikologiya tilning lug'at tarkibini, so'zlarning ma'nosi, tuzilishi, kelib chiqishi hamda ularning o'zaro munosabatlarini o'rganadi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi leksik birliklarning nazariy asoslarini aniqlash va ularning til tizimidagi o'rnini belgilashdan iborat. Shuningdek, leksikologiyaning dolzarb muammolari, jumladan, so'z ma'nosining o'zgarishi, ko'pmaholilik, sinonimiya va antonimiya masalalari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari leksikologiyaning zamonaviy tilshunoslikdagi ahamiyatini ko'rsatib beradi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** leksikologiya, lug'at tarkibi, so'z ma'nosi, leksik birlik, tilshunoslik

**Аннотация:** Данный тезис посвящён изучению объекта, целей и проблем лексикологии как лингвистической науки. Лексикология исследует словарный состав языка, значение слов, их структуру, происхождение и взаимосвязи. Основной целью исследования является определение теоретических основ лексических единиц и их роли в языковой системе. Особое внимание уделяется актуальным проблемам лексикологии, таким как изменение значения слов, многозначность, синонимия и антонимия.



*Полученные результаты подчёркивают значимость лексикологии в современном языкознании.*

**Ключевые слова:** *лексикология, словарный состав, значение слова, лексическая единица, языкознание*

**Abstract:** *This thesis is devoted to the study of the object, goals, and problems of lexicology as a linguistic science. Lexicology examines the vocabulary of a language, the meanings of words, their structure, origin, and interrelations. The main goal of the research is to identify the theoretical foundations of lexical units and determine their role within the language system. Particular attention is paid to current issues in lexicology, including semantic change, polysemy, synonymy, and antonymy. The results of the study highlight the importance of lexicology in modern linguistics.*

**Keywords:** *lexicology, vocabulary, word meaning, lexical unit, linguistics*

Lexicology is a fundamental branch of linguistics that focuses on the systematic study of a language's vocabulary. As a linguistic science, it investigates words as the main lexical units of language, their meanings, structure, formation, development, and usage. The object of lexicology is not limited to isolated words but also includes set expressions, idioms, collocations, and other stable lexical combinations that function as single semantic units. Since vocabulary reflects both linguistic and extralinguistic reality, lexicology is closely connected with culture, history, and social development.

The primary goal of lexicology is to describe and analyze the lexical system of a language in a scientific and systematic way. This includes identifying the types of lexical units, classifying them according to semantic, morphological, and stylistic criteria, and explaining their functions in communication. Lexicology aims to reveal how vocabulary is organized and how lexical units interact within the language system. Through such analysis, it becomes possible to understand the internal structure of vocabulary and its role in conveying meaning.



An important objective of lexicology is the study of word meaning, which is carried out within the framework of lexical semantics. Meaning is a complex phenomenon that includes denotative, connotative, and pragmatic components. Lexicology examines how meanings are formed, how they change over time, and how they depend on context. One of the key semantic phenomena is polysemy, where a single word has multiple related meanings. Alongside polysemy, lexicology also studies homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy, all of which illustrate semantic relationships between words and contribute to the richness of the lexical system.

Lexicology also addresses the issue of semantic change, which is considered one of the most dynamic processes in language development. Meanings may change due to social, political, technological, or cultural factors. For example, scientific and technological progress leads to the emergence of new meanings for existing words, while some meanings become obsolete. Understanding semantic change allows linguists to trace the historical development of vocabulary and predict possible future trends.

Another major area of lexicological research is word formation. Word formation studies the mechanisms through which new words are created in a language. These mechanisms include derivation, compounding, conversion, and borrowing. The study of word formation is closely related to morphology but remains an important component of lexicology because it explains how vocabulary expands and adapts to new communicative needs. Borrowings from other languages are especially significant in the modern world, where globalization and intercultural communication play a major role.

Etymology, as a subfield of lexicology, investigates the origin and historical evolution of words. By analyzing the etymological roots of lexical units, linguists can identify the sources of borrowings and understand the historical contacts between languages. Etymological studies also help explain irregularities in spelling, pronunciation, and meaning, which cannot be understood solely from a synchronic perspective.



Lexicology can be divided into synchronic and diachronic approaches. Synchronic lexicology studies the vocabulary of a language at a particular stage of its development, usually in the present time. Diachronic lexicology, on the other hand, examines the historical changes in vocabulary across different periods. Both approaches are essential for a comprehensive understanding of the lexical system, as they complement each other and provide a fuller picture of language development.

Despite its theoretical richness, lexicology faces several significant problems. One of the main challenges is defining the boundaries of the lexical system, especially in relation to phraseology and grammar.

Lexicology is closely interconnected with other branches of linguistics, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, and stylistics. Although lexicology primarily focuses on meaning and vocabulary, it cannot be studied in isolation from other linguistic levels. Phonology contributes to lexicology by examining the sound structure of words, while morphology provides insight into the internal structure of lexical units. Syntax, in turn, helps explain how words function within larger units such as phrases and sentences. This interdisciplinary nature highlights the complexity of lexical studies and emphasizes the integrative role of lexicology within linguistics.

Another significant aspect of lexicology is phraseology, which studies fixed word combinations, idiomatic expressions, and set phrases. Phraseological units often carry meanings that cannot be derived from the individual components of the expression. As a result, they represent a special challenge for lexicological analysis. The study of phraseology reveals how language reflects national mentality, cultural values, and historical experience. Idioms and set expressions enrich the vocabulary and increase the expressive potential of language.

Lexicology also plays a crucial role in lexicography, the theory and practice of dictionary-making. Lexicological research provides the theoretical foundation for compiling dictionaries, including the selection of words, the description of meanings, and the classification of lexical units. Without lexicology, it would be impossible to



create systematic and reliable dictionaries. In this sense, lexicology serves as a bridge between linguistic theory and practical language use.

From a functional perspective, lexicology investigates the stylistic differentiation of vocabulary. Words may belong to different stylistic layers, such as neutral, colloquial, formal, or technical vocabulary. The choice of lexical units depends on the communicative situation, the speaker's intention, and the social context. By analyzing stylistic variation, lexicology helps explain how vocabulary contributes to effective communication and expressive speech.

Another important problem addressed in modern lexicology is the relationship between language and cognition. Words are not only linguistic units but also reflect how people perceive and categorize reality. Cognitive approaches to lexicology examine conceptual structures, categorization, and metaphorical thinking. This perspective allows linguists to study vocabulary as part of human cognitive activity, rather than as an isolated linguistic system.

In contemporary linguistics, special attention is paid to sociolinguistic factors influencing vocabulary. Social variables such as age, profession, education, and social status affect lexical choice and usage. The emergence of slang, jargon, and professional terminology demonstrates how vocabulary adapts to different social groups. Lexicology analyzes these variations and explains their role in social interaction and identity formation.

Finally, applied lexicology has gained importance in fields such as language teaching, translation, and intercultural communication. Knowledge of lexical semantics, collocations, and phraseology is essential for mastering a foreign language and avoiding lexical errors. In translation studies, lexicology helps identify equivalence between lexical units across languages, taking into account cultural and contextual differences. Thus, lexicology has both theoretical and practical significance.

## Conclusion



In conclusion, lexicology occupies a central position in linguistic studies due to its focus on the vocabulary of a language, which represents one of the most dynamic and essential components of the linguistic system. By examining the object of lexicology—words and lexical units in their semantic, structural, and functional aspects—this field provides a comprehensive understanding of how language functions in communication.

The goals of lexicology, including the analysis, classification, and systematization of lexical units, contribute significantly to the study of meaning, word formation, and semantic relations. Through the investigation of phenomena such as polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, and semantic change, lexicology reveals the complexity and richness of vocabulary. Moreover, the distinction between synchronic and diachronic approaches allows linguists to observe both the current state of vocabulary and its historical development.

At the same time, lexicology faces a number of theoretical and practical problems. The continuous expansion of vocabulary, the influence of globalization, and the emergence of new lexical units present challenges for classification and standardization. Additionally, the subjective nature of meaning and the impact of context complicate semantic analysis. Modern lexicology must also adapt to technological advances, particularly the use of corpora and digital tools, which require new analytical methods.

Overall, the study of the object, goals, and problems of lexicology demonstrates its ongoing relevance in modern linguistics. Lexicology not only enhances our understanding of vocabulary as a living and evolving system but also provides valuable insights for related fields such as lexicography, translation studies, and language teaching. As language continues to develop, lexicology remains an indispensable discipline for the comprehensive study of linguistic phenomena.

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