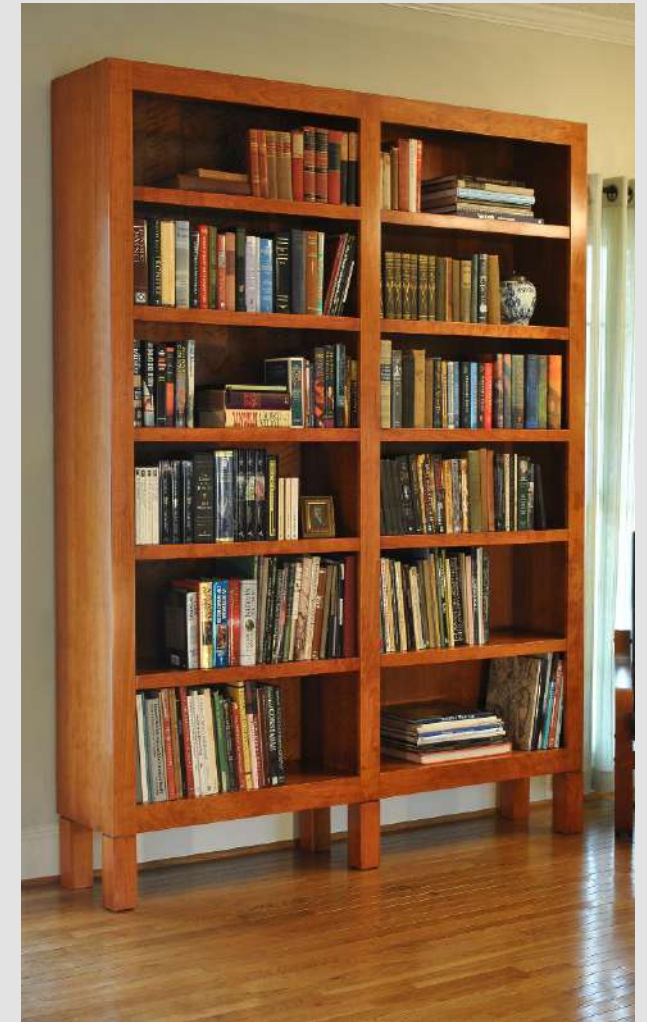


Module I. Lecture 1.
Lexicology as a linguistic discipline.
Links with other branches of
Linguistics



Plan

1. Definition
2. Links with other branches of Linguistics
3. Two approaches to language study
4. Lexical units

Definition of Lexicology

- The branch of Linguistics that deals with the study of words, their forms, meanings, and relationships within a language
- Focuses on the vocabulary as a whole and individual lexical units
- Examines the historical development, usage, and social aspects of words

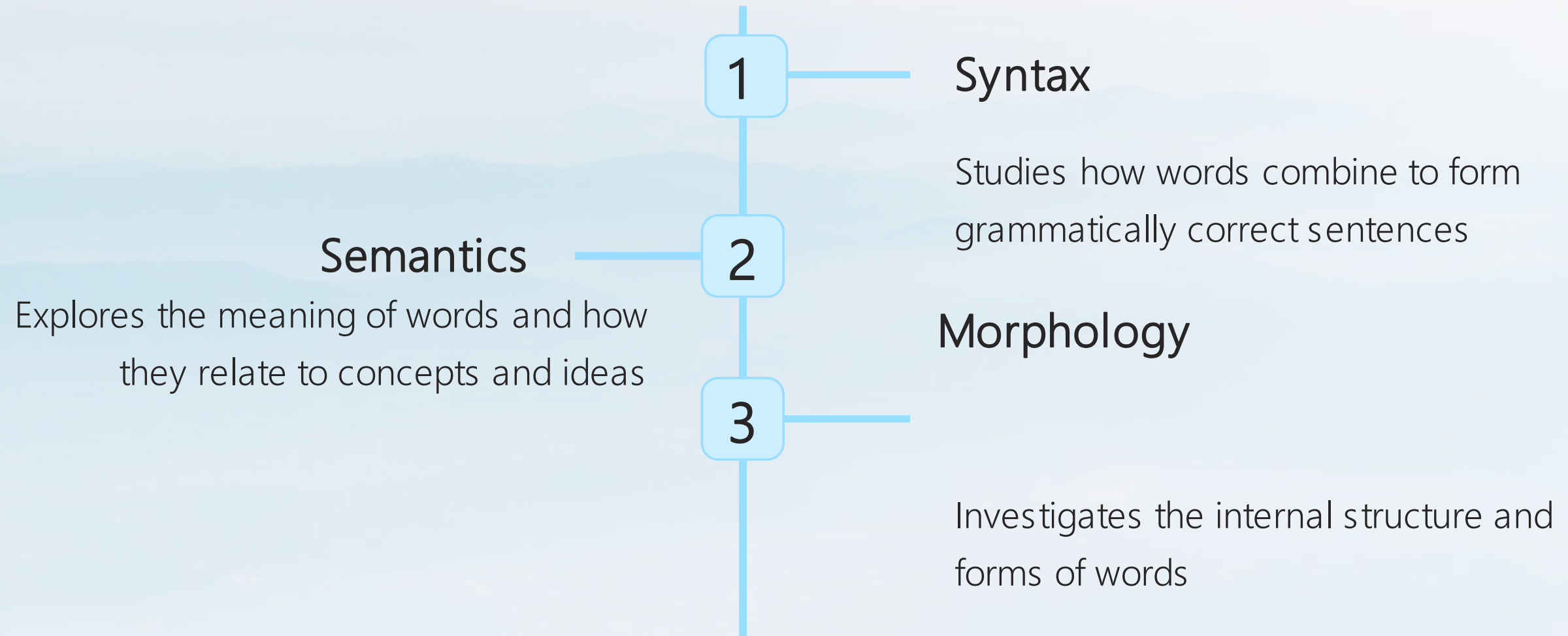
The term «lexicology» is of Greek origin / from «lexis» - «word» and «logos» - «science»/ . Lexicology is the part of linguistics which deals with the vocabulary and characteristic features of words and word-groups. The term «vocabulary» is used to denote the system of words and word-groups that the language possesses.

The term «word» denotes the main lexical unit of a language resulting from the association of a group of sounds with a meaning. This unit is used in grammatical functions characteristic of it. It is the smallest unit of a language which can stand alone as a complete utterance.

The term «word-group» denotes a group of words which exists in the language as a ready-made unit, has the unity of meaning, the unity of syntactical function, e.g. the word-group «as loose as a goose» means «clumsy» and is used in a sentence as a predicative.

Lexicology can study the development of the vocabulary, the origin of words and word-groups, their semantic relations and the development of their sound form and meaning. In this case it is called historical lexicology. Another branch of lexicology is called descriptive and studies the vocabulary at a definite stage of its development.

Lexicology and Other Branches of Linguistics



Two Approaches to Language Study

Prescriptive Approach

Focuses on rules and norms of language usage

Descriptive Approach

Observes and analyzes the actual use of language

There are two principal approaches in linguistic science to the study of language material, namely the synchronic and the diachronic approach. With regard to Special lexicology the synchronic approach is concerned with the vocabulary of a language as it exists at a given time, for instance, at the present time. It is special Descriptive Lexicology that deals with the vocabulary and vocabulary units of a particular language at a certain time.

The diachronic approach in terms of Special lexicology deals with the changes and the development of vocabulary in the course of time. It is special Historical lexicology that deals with the evolution of the vocabulary units of a language as time goes by. An English Historical lexicology would be concerned, therefore, with the origin of English vocabulary units, their change and development, the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors modifying their structure, meaning and usage within the history of the English language.



Lexical Units

Words

Basic units of language with specific meanings

Idioms

Expressions with figurative meanings that do not follow normal grammatical rules

Collocations

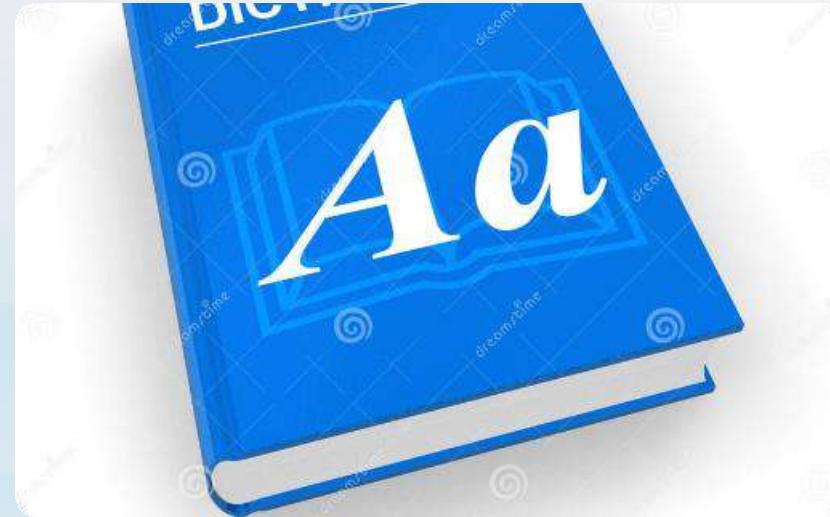
Word combinations that commonly occur together

Lexicology: A Bridge between Language and Culture



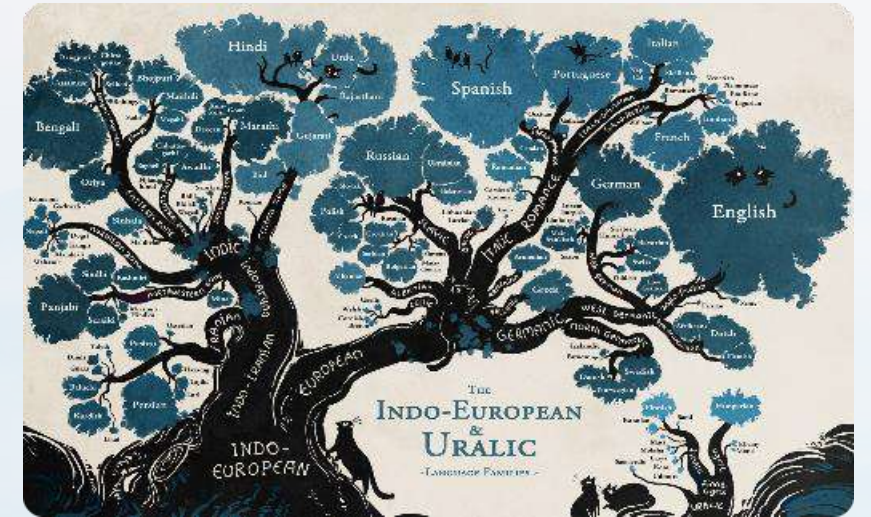
Cultural Context

Words reflect the traditions, beliefs, and lifestyle of a society



Linguistic Analysis

Deepens our understanding of word usage, etymology, and semantic evolution



Historical Perspectives

Traces the roots and changes in word meanings over time

Lexicology studies various lexical units: morphemes, words, variable word-groups and phraseological units. We proceed from the assumption that the word is the basic unit of language system, the largest on the morphologic and the smallest on the syntactic plane of linguistic analysis. The word is a structural and semantic entity within the language system.

It should be pointed out that there is another approach to the concept of the basic language unit. The criticism of this viewpoint cannot be discussed within the framework of the present study. Suffice it to say that here we consistently proceed from the concept of the word as the basic unit in all the branches of Lexicology.

Both words and phraseological units are names for things, namely the names of actions, objects, qualities, etc. Unlike words proper, however, phraseological units are word-groups consisting of two or more words whose combination is integrated as a unit with a specialized meaning of the whole. To illustrate, the lexical or to be more exact the vocabulary units *table*, *wall*, *taxi* are words denoting various objects of the outer world; the vocabulary units *black frost*, *red tape*, *a skeleton in the cupboard* are phraseological units: each is a word-group with a specialized meaning of the whole, namely *black frost* is “frost without snow or rime”, *red tape* denotes bureaucratic methods, *a skeleton in the cupboard* refers to a fact of which a family is ashamed and which it tries to hide.

The Importance of Lexicology

1 Communication and Understanding

Enhances our comprehension and use of words in different contexts

2 Cultural Preservation

Preserves cultural heritage through the study of language and its connection to society

3 Language Development

Aids in language learning, vocabulary expansion, and language teaching



Closing Thoughts: Exploring Lexicology's Boundless World

- Dive deeper into lexicological research to uncover fascinating aspects of language and words
- Discover how words shape our perception of the world and reflect our shared human experience
- Embrace the richness and complexity of lexicology as a stepping stone to understanding language as a whole

A top-down view of a desk with a white wooden surface. In the top left corner, there is a small bouquet of green leaves with yellow flowers. To the right of the flowers is a green ballpoint pen. In the bottom left corner, a pair of black-rimmed glasses is placed. The central focus is a spiral-bound notebook with a white cover and lined pages. The notebook is open to a page with the handwritten text "Thank You For Your Attention" in a black cursive font. The spiral binding is on the right side of the notebook.

Thank You
For Your
Attention