

Ideographic Description of Linguistic Terminology

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Abstract

The article deals with the problem of linguistic terminology. Over the past 30 years many foreign and local dictionaries on linguistics were published, but major part of the dictionaries describes terminology in fragmented way and rapidly becoming obsolete. Analysis of linguistic dictionaries was conducted to identify and describe the today's lexicographical methods and tools for describing of the lexicographical terms.

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Linguistic terminology in our country belongs to the rapidly developing and at the same time to little orderly scientific terminology.

Many aspects of the current state of linguistic terminology, and first of all its irregularity are described by G.Muninym in the article "Introduction to the problem of terminology" (Introduction au problem terminologies), which is placed as a preface to the French dictionary of linguistic terms (G.Mounin, 1974). All sorts of difficulties of lexicographical description of linguistic terms, including the reasons which explain the complexity and often inability to systematize them are provided and analyzed in the article. For these reasons, first of all, concerns the all growing number of newly introduced author's terms, which will inevitably give rise to polysemy, synonyms and homonyms in terminology. All these phenomena are typical for other young humanitarian sciences. But, unlike other sciences, linguistics deals with language – multi-functional universal sign system. Language in this case becomes subject of description.

The subject feature of linguistics, on the one hand, stimulates the development of terminology and ways to describe this terminology, on the other – makes difficult to organize the development methods of formal description.

Over the past 30 years many foreign and local dictionaries on linguistics were published. But major part of the dictionaries describes terminology in fragmented way and

rapidly becoming obsolete. Current working dictionaries in our country are: Dictionary of linguistic terms O.S Akhmanova (1966), Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary (1990) and a brief glossary of new linguistic terms (1995). But these dictionaries are not enough to describe all modern linguistic system of terminology.

Thus, there remains an urgent need to complete the regulatory system explanatory dictionary.

At the same time, in the past 10–15 years linguistic terminology becomes the object of active research for linguists, terminologists, logicians and lexicographers. The results of morphological, semantic, logical-conceptual, functional and stylistic analysis of linguistic terms can be found in the periodic Gorky's inter-university compendium "Term and the word". Linguistic terminology becomes the subject for a number of dissertation researches: S.D.Shelova (1976), L.A.Pekarskaya (1979), V.V.Belyi (1982), L.I.Ruchinova (1982), V.A.Halebskii (1985).

Terminology interest to linguistics is caused by the need to streamline the linguistic terminology for pragmatic purposes, to ensure, on the one hand, the information activities of society, on the other hand, the development of humanitarian education. Streamlining the linguistic terminology, like any other scientific terminology, requires a complex linguistic and logical-conceptual analysis. This logical-conceptual analysis should form the basis of a complete normative terminological linguistics dictionary.

Experience of ideographic description of one of the sections of linguistic terminology is presented today by Thesaurus on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics according to S.E.Nikitina and Experimental System explanatory dictionary of stylistic terms by S.E.Nikitina and N.V.Vasilyeva.

The practical value of the first dictionary located first of all in its use as an information retrieval language. It does not solve the problem of the normative dictionary of linguistics, but is a necessary step in the work to streamline the linguistic term system. Method of rigid logic-conceptual hierarchy seems to be one components of ideographic description technique of terminology for training purposes. The second dictionary is an synthesis of explanatory and ideographic dictionary, which allows someone to use it not only as a means to clarify the meaning of terms, but also as a means of ordering stylistic terminology.

Lexicology (the science of word) as a branch of linguistics was established in Soviet linguistics and lexicological terminology was emerged in our country. This terminology of lexicology is the core of linguistic terminology, since the word – the basic unit of language and every linguistic research, one way or another, dates back to the lexical level.

It is noticeable that lexicology of the English language (initially as a scientific discipline of the higher education, and then as a terminological system) has also been formed in the Soviet language school on the basis of common descriptive lexicography. The primary sources of English lexical terms today can be considered educational and scientific texts on English lexicology, and as secondary – dictionaries and manuals.

Thus, the relevance of a comprehensive analysis of the linguistic terminology is not in doubt, and it should be noted that promising direction of terminological research – is ideographic description metalanguage of linguistics and all its sublanguages.

The main objective of this part of the study is to find ways and means of lexicographical description of lexical terms for training purposes.

Terminology becomes the subject of lexicographic description in the process of creating the dictionary. Each individual dictionary puts its objectives and description of the problem, using a set of tools to describe the terminology. In addition, every dictionary itself is quite a complex structure. It is unlikely that today we can find a short, universal definition dictionary slender conventional classification of dictionaries. This is due to ever-increasing variety of dictionaries, and including scientific type. And diversity is explained by mixing of different sets of parameters in the practice of creating dictionaries, which, in turn, hampers the establishment of rigid classifications of dictionaries. A characteristic feature of modern scientific dictionaries is a mixed type of macrostructure and microstructure (using in one of the philological and encyclopedic dictionary, ideographic and alphabetical, historical and descriptive description).

Terminology as an object of lexicographical description is fundamentally different from the terms as the object of lexicographic description. To illustrate, you can compare the alphabetical list of a group of terms, followed by foreign equivalents, etymology, frequency, referring to the author, and so on, with the same group of the terms provided in the form of a list of generic semantic nests or definitions of the system of cross-references and etc. The choice of different means of lexicographical description of the term due to the different

objectives and tasks description. However, it is obvious that the second method requires a preliminary description of the lexicographical and always logical-conceptual analysis of terminology as a system of special concepts, and we can assume that ideographic description requires appropriate terminology of lexicographical methods.

Analysis of domestic and foreign linguistic dictionaries

Analysis of linguistic dictionaries was conducted to identify and describe existing today lexicographical methods and tools for describing lexical terms. To do this, all the English and Russian dictionaries, containing basic lexicological terms were selected. A relatively small number of the most diverse vocabularies allows us to present an overall picture of linguistic terminology as an object of lexicographic description. 12 linguistic dictionaries that contain English linguistic terms were analyzed.

Let us consistently and briefly describe and illustrate their features on some of them.

A Glossary of Language Learning Terms. Dictionary declared as a short "review" of grammatical terms (contains approximately 300 terms) of them — 22 lexical. The dictionary is intended for students and young students. **The structure of the entry includes:**

- **term;**
- very simple, **brief definition;**
- **reference.**

For example: **derivation** — the origin or history of a word or the
tracing of its origin or history. See "derive".

Concise Handbook on Linguistics. Relatively small dictionary (146 pp.) Contains 70 lexical terms and is intended for students and teachers. It aims to give a very brief and simple explanations.

The structure of the entry:

- **term;**
- **the definition of generic;**
- **descriptive definition;**
- **examples** (speech).

For example: **affix** — a bound syll. morpheme, attached to a base or root as a prefix (*predict*) a suffix (*diction*) or infix (*Reeducation*).

empty word - has no lexical content: "a", "could".

Encyclopedia of Linguistics. Information and Control. Fundamental encyclopedic dictionary, which contains as a component of general and applied linguistics – the section "Semantics" (the study of vocabulary and meaning), which represented approximately 35 lexical terms. **The structure of the entry includes:**

- **term;**

- **explanation / description**, for example: "**Affix** – If a word can be segmented into more than one morpheme of which one is a root, any morpheme which is not a root is an **affix**";

- **the definition of generic**, for example: "Morpheme – the smallest grammatical unit";

- **references**

of generic: *accent see language varieties*

to terms-through derivatives

terminological field: *collocate see Semantics: collocation*

To the terms associative, with clearly-defined conceptual relations: *homophones see grammar structure* (hereinafter, the nature of relations established by us).

Glossary of Linguistic Terminology. Voluminous (about 3000 terms, including more than 100 lexical) dictionary of modern linguistic terminology is intended for students. **The structure of the entry:**

- **term;**

- **determining**, for example: "**affixation** – a morphological process consisting of adding affixes to a root or stem. Syn. : Addition;

- **synonyms / antonyms**, example: *amelioration*;

syn ∴ *elevation, melioration enhancement* *opp* ∴ *degeneration, peroration*;

– **references:**

a) synonymous reference, for example: **compound**. *Syn: Base Form*;

b) to the terms of the conceptual level,

for example: **book word** *see learned word*;

c) the terms for the species, for example: **clipping** *see affix clipping*;

d) associative terms: **connotation** *see semantic potentialities*.

Russian-English Glossary of Linguistic Terms. It contains the most commonly used linguistic terms, needed to learn the language and to teach it. **The dictionary entry contains:**

Russian terms and English equivalents.

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English language. The most comprehensive encyclopedia of the latest edition. The dictionary contains lexicological 4 term. **The structure of the entry:**

– **term;**

– **the definition of generic;**

– **description;**

– **examples;**

– **description of the context**

abbreviation — *a shortened or contracted form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole.*

dialect — *a variety of a language that is distinguished from other varieties of the same language by features of phonology, grammar and vocabulary and by its use by speakers who are set off from others geographically or socially.*

vocabulary - [], pl.,

1. *the stock of words used by a particular people, class, person: "His French vocabulary is rather limited. The scientific vocabulary is constantly growing"*

2. *a list or collection of the words / phrases of the language. Branch of science.*

word – a unit of language, consisting of one or more spoken sounds or their written representation, that can stand as a complete utterance or can be separated from the elements that accompany it in an utterance by other such units . Further describes the basic morphological and syntactic features.

Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary. It contains about 70 lexical terms. **The dictionary entry includes:**

- **term;**
- **etymology;**
- **determination;**
- **a description of the concept;**

– **an encyclopedic description with a citation**, the reference to authors, scientists involved in the matter, indicating the literature on the subject, etc. Examples of encyclopedic descriptions are omitted because of its bulkiness;

- **examples**, for instance: slang - slang ...: *junkie, gal*;
- **reference**, for example: Allomorphs – morf; Antonims -Antonimiya.

Dictionary of American linguistic terminology by E. Hamp. The dictionary is a linguistic terminology in excerpts and extracts, resulting in the author's definition or description of special concepts with reference to the author's name and the literature used. **The dictionary entry contains:**

- **Russian term, English equivalent;**
- **quote-definition**, for example: the Word — *the minimum*

free form. *Bloomfield*;

- **quote-description**, for example: Lexicology ...;
- **a reference** to the literature.

9. Glossary of linguistic terms by Zh.Maruzo. The dictionary contains about 1,000 terms, of which about 50 lexical. **The structure of the entry:**

- **term;**
- **English, French, Italian equivalents;**

– **interpretation / description.** For example: *the word* — result of determining the compatibility with the set values of certain sounds that are suitable for a particular grammatical use;

– species concepts through these **types of terms**,

for example: *the word* — easy, root, farm ...;

– **examples** (speech);

– **reference.**

10. Glossary of linguistic terms by O.S Akhmanova. From 7000 terms in the dictionary is given about 160 lexical. **The structure of the entry:**

– **term;**

– **French, English, German, Spanish equivalents;**

– **determination;**

– **the variety of species concepts**, such as: *stylistic connotation, connotation;*

– **examples** (speech);

– **synonyms** with droppings "the same thing";

– **reference:** to the corresponding dictionary entry; the place of the interpretation of the term; on the phonetic version, for example: *allomorphs* — see *allomorph.*; to the term, constituting a terminological phrase and opens the dictionary entry to the interpretation of this terminological phrases.

Thesaurus for Theoretical and Applied Linguistics. The dictionary is intended for IPS as information retrieval language, built on a rigid hierarchical description of the terminology. The dictionary entry is a list of semantic or conceptual term bonds. The maximum number of connections, such as synonyms, correlates, ancestral, species concepts, integer ... and so on, up to 28. Quantitative and substantial saturation of the entry, thus, make it difficult to use a dictionary as a linguistic dictionary guide or as ideographic dictionary. In the first section of the dictionary "morphology" contains about 25 lexical terms. From the entire totality of links 3 conceptual connections are most interesting: synonyms, generic and specific concepts. However, analysis of lexical entries of terms does not give us the opportunity to use ideographic description lexical terms in the dictionary, because

synonymous and the concept of generic terms are given in Russian and very often do not correspond to the English lexicological terms. So synonym of the term **abbreviation** in the dictionary gives as "**hard-abbreviated word**" (purely Russian term), and, for example, specific English terms to the term "**affix**" are unlikely to include the **ending** term.

Thus, only one of the linguistic dictionaries — thesaurus, built on the hard ideographic description of a large number of lexical terms, turned out to be of little use in this study and can not be used as an educational dictionary-reference book. The results of the logic-conceptual analysis of terminology of lexicology can be transferred only to the extent that the Russian lexicological terms correlate with English.

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