



Lexicography As an Independent Theoretical Discipline

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the theory of lexicography. As it is analyzed that the theory of lexicography, rapidly developing the last three decades, along with the practice of creating new types of dictionaries, is formed as an independent theoretical discipline with its own terminological apparatus in several directions as educational, multilingual, scientific and technical.

Keywords:

lexicography, theoretical lexicography, types of dictionaries, terminological apparatus, educational dictionaries, multilingual dictionaries, scientific dictionaries, technical dictionaries.

Practical lexicography is the oldest human activity. If we turn to the Sumerian culture (and this is the 25th century BC), we will see that already at that time people tried to explain obscure words and compiled dictionaries, which they called glossaries or vocabularies. The appearance of dictionaries in the form in which we are accustomed to seeing them, that is, the so-called "early dictionary period", is attributed to the 16th century. Since then, a huge number of different dictionaries have been compiled.

By the 20th century, practical lexicography had accumulated rich experience in the lexicographic description of a language. From the middle of our century, this experience began to be described and generalized, and these generalizations led to the emergence of the theory of lexicography, which is defined today as "expediently organized knowledge that gives a holistic view of the whole series of issues related to the creation of dictionaries and other dictionary-type works."

The theory of lexicography includes:

- consideration of the volume, content and structure of the concept of lexicography;

- the doctrine of genres and types of dictionaries;
- the doctrine of the elements and parameters;
- the doctrine of the basics of lexicographic design and the possibility of computerization;
- the doctrine of familiar vocabulary materials;
- the doctrine of planning and organizing vocabulary work;
- development and formation of lexicography rules. [Morkovkin V.V., 1990, 7].

The universal principles and functions of dictionaries have been formulated today. The main functions of dictionaries are:

- educational;
- systematizing;
- reference;
- normative.

The principles of lexicographic description include:

- the principle of relativity and focus on the addressee;
- the principle of standardization;
- the principle of economy;
- the principle of simplicity;

the principle of completeness;
 the principle of efficiency;
 the principle of semantic gradation of description. [Denisov P.N., 1980].

The universal functions and principles of the dictionary macrostructure define the following universal features of any dictionary entry:

1. The requirement for clear addressing (reference function);
2. Description of the compatibility potentials of the word (principle of economy, completeness, efficiency);
3. Description of the semantic relationships of the word in the lexical system of the language (systematizing function);
4. The presence of illustrative examples, speech contexts (the principle of completeness, efficiency, traditionality) [Denisov P.N., 1980].

However, the process of formation of theoretical lexicography as an independent field of knowledge is uneven and incomplete. Lexicography has not yet acquired the status of a science; its terminological system has not yet been formed, the lexicographic description of which is also a matter for the future. Let us try to briefly trace the features of the development of theoretical lexicography in the second half of the 20th century.

The explosion of linguistic research in the 20th century in a variety of directions and approaches (structural, systemic, semiotic, communicative) led to the creation of a linguistic base for lexicographic descriptions. R.R.K. Hartman believes that lexicographers took as a basis the linguistic postulates that L. Bloomfield first formulated in 1926, when he defined such fundamental concepts as "word", "utterance", "speech community", "part of speech", "language change" [Hartman RRK, 1983, 4].

Probably, it is from the abstract linguistic concepts of the word, lexeme, semantic structure, value types, semantic analysis, etc. the generalization of methods and means of lexicographic description and the development of the metalanguage of the dictionary began, the theoretical foundations of lexicography were formed.

The emergence of theoretical lexicography is accompanied by the appearance of theoretical generalizing works such as: H. Casares "Introduction to modern lexicography" [Casares X., 1958], L.V. Shcherba "An experience of the general theory of lexicography" [Shcherba L.V., 1974], V .V.Vinogradov "Lexicology and lexicography" [Vinogradov V.V., 1977], L.P. Stupin "Lexicography of the English language" [Stupin L.P., 1985], F.W. Householder and Sol Saporta "Problems in Lexicography" [Householder F.W. and Saporta S.,1967], J.Dubois C.Dobois "Introduction a'la Lexicographie: le dictionnaire" [Dubois J. Dobois C.,1971], L.Zgusta "Manual of Lexicography" [Zgusta L.,1971] .

The formation of theoretical lexicography as an independent branch is gradual, and today, both in foreign and domestic linguistics, this process is at an early stage. This is confirmed by the disputes between linguists and lexicographers about the status of lexicography. For example, at the international lexicographic conference in England in 1983, the famous German linguist Herbert Ernst Wiegand begins his report "On the structure and contents of a general Theory of Lexicography" with categorical statements:

- (1) lexicography has never been, is not, and most likely will not become a science...
- (2) lexicography is not a branch of so-called applied linguistics...
- (3) lexicography is not a branch of lexicology ... (literal translation) [Wiegand H.E., 1983, 13].

At the same time, H.E. Wiegand recognizes the theoretical status of modern lexicography, calling it further meta-lexicography, defines the subject of general lexicography (the proper subject of a general theory of lexicography) as a set of 3 types of vocabulary of lexicographic activity:

- a) planning the dictionary (the dictionary plan);
- b) development of the framework (the lexicographic file);
- c) writing the text of the dictionary. [Wiegand H.E., 1983, 14].

In our country, the debate about whether lexicography is a science, art, a branch of

linguistics or an applied branch has gradually lost its sharpness, and today we do not oppose these approaches, but perceive them as different aspects of lexicographic activity. It is quite obvious that the theoretical generalization of all the wealth accumulated by practical lexicography is done primarily in linguistic, lexicological terms, and in this sense, lexicography is a branch of linguistics.

It is noteworthy that theoretical lexicography develops in different directions, and sometimes branches of general lexicography are formed more intensively and relatively faster. This happened with educational and scientific-technical lexicographies. Both took shape as theoretical disciplines during the 1970s and 1980s. To date, there are already generalizing fundamental studies in these areas: "Fundamentals of the theory of educational lexicography" (doctoral dissertation in the form of a scientific report) [Morkovkin V.V., 1990] and "Introduction to terminography" [Grinev S.V., 1996], while there are no monographs and manuals on general lexicography so far.

Responding to the needs of today, new sections of lexicography appear. Information processes have accelerated the creation of all kinds of language formalization methods, including information retrieval thesauri. Theoretical generalizations of the construction of thesaurus-type dictionaries resulted in fundamental works on ideography, such as "General and Russian ideography" [Karaulov Yu.N., 1976], "Linguistic construction and the thesaurus of the literary language" [Karaulov Yu.N., 1981], "Ideographic dictionaries" [Morkovkin V.V., 1970].

The need for teaching dictionaries stimulated the emergence of educational lexicography, the theoretical foundations of which are set out in such major publications as "Essays on Russian lexicology and educational lexicography" [Denisov P.N., 1974] and "Fundamentals of the theory of educational lexicography" [Morkovkin V.V., 1990].

It should be noted that practical educational lexicography is a rapidly developing, perhaps the most fruitful section of modern English lexicography. The educational

orientation of English dictionaries is objectively due to the fact that English is studied all over the world and, perhaps, that is why educational dictionaries are called Learner's Dictionaries by English lexicographers (Dictionaries for students).

A qualitatively new type of English learning dictionaries are the so-called activators - dictionaries of active type (Activators). A series of these magnificent dictionaries of a productive type, published in the last decade of the second millennium, brought English educational lexicography forward.

Another section of lexicography - bilingual translated lexicography - has long been of a practical nature. The issues of the theory of compiling multilingual dictionaries were considered mainly within the framework of articles in collections on the problems of translation activity, as well as in prefaces to major translation dictionaries. Thus, L.V. Shcherba's preface to the Great Russian-French Dictionary [Shcherba L.V., 1939] has always been considered a generalization of the basic principles of compiling bilingual dictionaries. The first monographic edition of this trend was V.P. Berkov's textbook "Bilingual Lexicography" [Berkov V.P., 1996].

Another direction of lexicography, which is developing especially rapidly in our country, is scientific and technical lexicography, the theoretical basis of which has become a very young linguistic branch - terminology. To date, scientific and technical lexicography is represented not only by functional collections of articles "Problems of term definitions in dictionaries of various types" 1976, "Theory and practice of scientific and technical lexicography" 1988, but also by A.S. Gerd's monographic works "Fundamentals of scientific and technical lexicography" [Gerd A.S., 1986], S.V. Grinev "Introduction to terminological lexicography" [Grinev S.V., 1986], Yu.N. Marchuk "Fundamentals of terminography" [Marchuk Yu.N., 1994].

The theory of compiling dictionaries today has not reached the level of scientific theory, but it is constantly accumulating its own conceptual apparatus, its own terminology. "Theory" begins where special concepts are formed, defined, and

a system of these concepts is formed. The process of formation of lexicographic terminology can be traced if we turn to domestic lexicographic collections, the problems of which reflect the process of formation of lexicographic terminology.

The collection "Soviet lexicography" -1988 noticeably promotes the formation of lexicographic terminology:

1. The content of the theory of lexicography itself is determined, the components of which are - "the typology of dictionaries (and vocabulary) and the theory of semantization (interpretation and demonstration of meanings)" [Denisov P.N., p.19].

2. The terms lexicographic parameter and lexicographic parametrization are introduced for wide use [Karaulov Yu.N., p.8].

3. The concepts of active dictionary type and passive dictionary type are discussed [Sorokoletov F.P., pp. 38-39].

4. The term "lexicography of the syntactic properties of a word" is used (which can be understood as a synonym for "lexicographic description") [Apresyan Yu.D., p.64].

In the same year, another collection "National specificity of the language and its reflection in the normative dictionary" was published, in the preface of which "problems of lexicographic science and practice" are defined in proper lexicographic terms:

1. Categorical description of units of different levels of the language in lexicographic form.

2. Functional diversity of texts as the basis of normative dictionaries.

3. Functional typology of dictionaries as a basis for creating dictionary libraries of various profiles.

4. Dictionaries - minima and standard dictionaries of various sizes for monolingual and bilingual dictionaries of general and special purposes.

5. Metalanguage of lexicology and lexicography.

6. Theory and practice of experimental lexicography. ["National specificity of the language and its reflection in the normative dictionary", 1988.5].

The term system of scientific and technical lexicography is being formed even more intensively. It is enough to analyze the table of contents of the book [Problems of definitions of terms in dictionaries of different types, 1976, pp. 265-266].

Along with the traditional problems of practical lexicography: "selection of units and the formation of a vocabulary", "variants of interpretation of various kinds of lexical units in different types of dictionaries", "the problem of homonymy and polysemy", such fundamental special concepts of the theory of the term as "types of terminological meanings", "semantic characteristics of the term", "criteria of terminology" and, finally, questions of theoretical lexicographical significance: "on the classification of dictionaries", "consistency and coherence in vocabulary and the system of dictionaries", "models of dictionary definitions", "dictionary as a means of terminology systematization".

Turning to the text of the articles, it is not difficult to notice that almost every article discusses the concepts of "lexicographic definition", "interpretation", "explanation", "scientific definition", "system of concepts", "type of dictionary", "classification of vocabulary", etc.

The normative formulation of the fundamental concepts of scientific and technical lexicography is given in the collection of articles "Theory and Practice of Scientific and Technical Lexicography" of 1988, which discusses the theoretical foundations of terminology, the typology of scientific and technical dictionaries, as well as issues of educational terminological lexicography and the use of computers in special dictionaries.

The theory of English and American lexicography of the 70-80s in terms of the emergence of generalizing fundamental research is also in the process of formation. Based on the material of the article by R.I. Rozina "New in the theory and practice of English lexicography" and the bibliography of lexicographic works given in it [Rozina R.I., 1988], as well as on later foreign lexicographic publications, we can conclude that all problems of lexicography are discussed mainly within the

framework of articles and abstracts on the pages of collections:

"Lexicography and Dialect Geography." Wiesbaden, 1973; "In Honor of A.S. Hornby". Oxford, 1978; "Methodological problems in Monolingual and Bilingual Lexicography". New York, 1978; Babel. 1974-1980; "Review of Applied Linguistics". Leuven, 1979; Dictionaries and their users. Exeter, 1979; "Lexicography: Principles and practice". London-New York, 1983; "Proceedings Papers from the International Conference on Lexicography". Exeter, 1983.

Concluding what has been said about the status of modern domestic and foreign lexicography, it should be noted that the theory of lexicography, which has been rapidly developing over the past three decades along with the practice of creating new types of dictionaries, is being formed as an independent, theoretical discipline with its own terminological apparatus in several directions at once: educational, multilingual, scientific and technical.

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