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Types of Dictionaries and Their Role in Theoretical Aspects of Language Learning

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Annotation:

This article discusses the types of dictionaries and their role in the theoretical aspects of language learning. It explains different classifications of dictionaries in detail and shows how they reflect linguistic structure, meaning relations, grammar, and vocabulary development. The article also includes examples and quotations from famous linguists to support the discussion.

Annotatsiya:

Ushbu maqolada lug'atlarning turlari va ularning til o'rganishning nazariy aspektlaridagi o'rni batafsil muhokama qilinadi. Unda lug'atlarning turli tasniflari va ularning til tuzilishi, ma'no munosabatlari, grammatika va so'z boyligini qanday aks ettirishi yoritiladi. Maqolada taniqli tilshunoslarning fikrlari va misollar ham keltirilgan.

Аннотация:

В данной статье подробно рассматриваются виды словарей и их роль в теоретических аспектах изучения языка. Объясняются различные классификации словарей и показывается, как они отражают структуру языка, семантические связи, грамматику и развитие словарного запаса. Также приводятся примеры и цитаты известных лингвистов.

Key words:

dictionary, linguistics, lexicology, semantics, pragmatics, monolingual, bilingual, multilingual, thesaurus, vocabulary, etymology.

Kalit so'zlar:

lug'at, lingvistika, leksikologiya, semantika, pragmatika, bir tilli, ikki tilli, ko'p tilli, tezaurus, so'z boyligi, etimologiya.

Ключевые слова:

словарь, лингвистика, лексикология, семантика, прагматика, одноязычный, двуязычный, многоязычный, тезаурус, словарный запас, этимология.

Dictionaries are one of the most important tools in language learning and linguistics. They are not only used for finding word meanings, but also for understanding how language works as a system. In theoretical linguistics, dictionaries are considered an important source of linguistic data because they show vocabulary structure, meaning relations, grammar information, and usage patterns. As David Crystal states: "A dictionary is a map of a language." This





means that dictionaries help learners and researchers understand how language is organized and how it functions in real communication.

Dictionaries are widely used in both practical language learning and theoretical linguistics. From a theoretical point of view, they help linguists study words, meanings, grammar patterns, and language development over time. Lexicographers collect, select, and organize words carefully in order to represent real language use. One of the main ways to classify dictionaries is by language. Monolingual dictionaries explain words using the same language. For example, the Oxford English Dictionary gives detailed definitions, pronunciation, grammar forms, and example sentences. These dictionaries are especially useful for advanced learners because they help them think directly in the target language without translation. Bilingual dictionaries, such as English-Uzbek dictionaries, are commonly used by beginners because they make translation easier and help compare two languages. Multilingual dictionaries include more than two languages and are often used in international communication, tourism, and translation studies, where understanding multiple languages is important.

Another important classification is based on content. Linguistic dictionaries focus on the internal system of language, including word meaning, pronunciation, grammar, and usage. This idea is strongly connected with Ferdinand de Saussure's theory, who stated: "Language is a system of signs." This means that every word has meaning only within a system, and dictionaries help explain this system in a structured way. Encyclopedic dictionaries are different because they provide knowledge about real-world objects, events, and people. For example, they can explain historical events like the Industrial Revolution or scientific concepts like gravity. This type of dictionary connects language with culture, history, and knowledge, helping learners understand meaning in a wider context.

In addition, there are specialized dictionaries that are used for specific purposes. A thesaurus, such as Roget's Thesaurus, groups words by meaning and provides synonyms and antonyms. This helps learners improve vocabulary variety and understand semantic relationships between words. Etymological dictionaries show the origin and historical development of words. For example, the word "information" comes from Latin roots meaning "to shape or form the mind," which shows how meaning develops over time. Subject dictionaries, such as medical, legal, or technical dictionaries, are used in professional fields. For instance, medical dictionaries explain terms like "diagnosis," "treatment," and "symptom," which are very important in healthcare communication and education.

From a theoretical linguistic perspective, dictionaries help explain important language concepts such as polysemy (one word with multiple meanings), homonymy (different words with the same spelling or sound), and synonymy (words with similar meanings). According to Noam Chomsky, "A grammar is a device that generates all and only the grammatical sentences of a language." This idea shows that language has a strict structure, and dictionaries help reflect this structure by organizing words and their meanings systematically. Dictionaries also





show how meaning changes depending on context, which is an important part of pragmatics. For example, the word “bank” can mean a financial institution or the side of a river, depending on context.

In conclusion, dictionaries are not only useful for learning vocabulary but also very important for understanding the theoretical aspects of language. They help learners and linguists see how language is structured, how meanings are connected, and how vocabulary develops over time. Many linguists agree that dictionaries act as a bridge between theoretical knowledge and practical language use. Therefore, studying different types of dictionaries is essential for improving both linguistic knowledge and language skills.

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