Faculty of Education, Masaryk University in Brno
Lexicology – Autumn Semester 2004

Syllabus: SEMINARS

Week 1
Introduction and bibliographical information.
Lexicology as a linguistic discipline.
The act of naming. Naming unit - conventionality and universality.
Linguistic sign, its types and properties.
Reference and denotation.

Week 2
Semantic nucleus, semantic environment, semantic/lexical field.
Classification of meaning. Conceptual and associative meaning.
Change of meaning (extension, restriction, pejoration, amelioration).

Week 3
Inflectional and derivational morphology. Morphemes - free and bound. Root, affix, stem.

Week 4
Compounding – coordinate and subordinate, endocentric and exocentric compounds.

Week 5
Derivation. Back formation. Conversion. Abbreviation: clippings, acronyms, blends.

Week 6
Collocations/word groups and phraseological units. Lexical chains.

Week 7
Semantic relationships between lexical units (sense relations): polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, synonymy and antonymy (complementarity, converseness).

Week 8
Language figures: metaphor, metonymy, simile, taboo, euphemism, dysphemism, understatement, hyperbole, synechdoche, litotes. Loan words.

Week 9
Form classes - nouns. Number, countability, definiteness, case, gender.

Week 10
Form classes - adjectives. Central and peripheral adjectives. Stative and dynamic adjectives. Gradability.

Week 11
Form classes - pronouns. Reference - anaphora, cataphora, exophora/deixis. Adverbs.

Week 12
Form classes - verbs. Transitivity. Stative and dynamic verbs. Tense, voice, aspect, mood.

Week 13
Final test. Colloquy.

Lexicology

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Analyse the following signs. Are they iconic, indexical or symbolical?

III [three]

™

→

®

∩

;

Σ

∅

∀

❐

AC   (abbrev. for **average cost)**

BBC

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Handout - week 2
SEMANTIC NUCLEUS, SEMANTIC ENVIRONMENT, SEMANTIC/LEXICAL FIELD.
CLASSIFICATION OF MEANING. CONCEPTUAL AND ASSOCIATIVE MEANING.
CHANGE OF MEANING (EXTENSION, RESTRICTION, PEJORATION, AMELIORATION).

*1. What are the differences in the **semantic nucleus (i.e. the denotative/cognitive/conceptual meaning)** between the following English and Czech expressions?*

morning	-	ráno
take	-	vzít
settle	-	usadit (se)
car	-	auto
wood	-	les
power	-	
cow	-	kráva
lid	-	víko/víčko
cap	-	
house	-	dům
cottage	-	chalupa
clock	-	hodiny
engineer	-	inženýr
trade	-	obchod

*2. What are the differences in the **semantic environment (the connotative and stylistic meaning)** between the following English and Czech expressions?*

ivy	-	břečťan
shaggy dog story	-	rozvláčná povídačka
porch	-	(Am) veranda
it´s all Greek to me	-	?
to have guts	-	?
heath, moorland	-	vřesoviště
cricket *(game)*	-	
continental	-	kontinentální

Notes: saucepan lid, lid on a jar, piano lid, dustbin lid; bottle cap, pen cap (*Br* pen lid), lens cap (on a camera); grandfather clock, alarm clock, wall clock, sundial, hourglass, egg timer

Lexicology - Autumn 2004
Handout - week 3

1. Are the following statements true? If not, how can you modify them to make them true?
One morpheme can also be one word.
Morph is a minimal unit of meaning.
A root is a bound morpheme.
A free morpheme is the one added to the root in derivation.
English words are the largest elements between which other elements can be inserted with relative freedom.
DRIVER and DRIVERS are two different words.
DRIVER and DRIVERS are two different lexemes.
DRIVER and DRIVE are two different lexemes.
New lexemes can be created by derivation.
Collocations, word groups and idioms are roughly the same.

2. What is the difference between a stem and a root?

3. How many allomorphs of the indefinite article can you find in the following sentences? How are they conditioned?
We have a dog.
She passed me an apple.
He isn´t just an architect, he´s the best architect you can get.
There´s a pen next to the computer.

4. Can the following be classified as one word? And lexeme?

Oilfield	red-handed
old-timer	red-light district
fishburger	better
workaholic	to be given
-ing	to set st./sb. aside
hyper-	wristwatch
redcurrant	an expensive watch
red wine	persona non grata

5. a) How can you classify the following differences between singular and plural forms of nouns, between infinitive/present and past tense forms of verbs, and positive and comparative forms of adjectives? How are they conditioned?
Do the two words in a pair belong to the same lexeme?
Which of them are instances of suppletion?
wife - wives
goose - geese
chamois - chamois
phenomenon - phenomena
larva - larvae
spectrum - spectra
bacillus - bacilli
shelf - shelves
child - children

bad - worse
go - went
speak - spoke
be - was/were

b) How about plurals of the following?
cabbage
calculus
fish
antenna
person

6. Analyze the following words. What are their morphological components?

Prepare	half-witted
preparatory	bad-mouthed
preschooler	switchboard
prescriptive	swordsmanship
sycophantic	nation
turntable	donation
syllable	donkey
impeccable	turnkey
imbalance	frightfully
imbibe	get-together
irrevocable	atonement

7. List some English noun-forming suffixes and some nouns having the suffixes.

List some English adjective-forming suffixes and some nouns having the suffixes.

List some English verb-forming suffixes and some nouns having the suffixes.

Now do the same for Czech:
noun-forming suffixes

adjective-forming suffixes

verb-forming suffixes

Which of them are still productive?

8. Can you adduce three examples of grammatical morphemes and lexical morphemes? How do they differ?

COMPOUNDS

1. Give some examples, if there exist, of

compound conjunctions

compound numerals

compound prepositions

compound adverbs

compound nouns of the following make-up:

> **noun + noun**

> **adjective + noun** (so-called Germanic type)

> **noun + adjective** (so-called French type)

> **noun + verb**

> **verb + noun**

> **verb + adverb**

> **adverb + verb**

compound verbs consisting of a **verb + verb**

formally endocentric compounds

semantically endocentric compounds (so-called modifying compounds)

formally exocentric compounds

semantically exocentric compounds (so-called bahuvrihi compounds)

2. Are the following lexemes compounds, derivatives, or something else?
(to) make up
(to) give away
make-up
easternmost
miniskirt
automatic
auto-destruction
childish
childless
childlike
childproof
off-the-peg
offset
oddball
(to) outnumber