

## **The Evolution of Meaning: The Causes of the Evolution of the Meaning of Words, The Restriction and Extension of Meaning**

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**Abstract.** *This article is about the causes of the evolution of the meaning of words, the restriction and extension of meaning. Lexicology is the branch of linguistics that analyzes the lexicon of a specific language. A word is the smallest meaningful unit of a language that can stand on its own, and is made up of small components called morphemes and even smaller elements known as phonemes, or distinguishing sounds. Lexicology examines every feature of a word – including formation, spelling, origin, usage, and definition.*

**Key words:** *Evolution of word meaning, intralinguistic causes, extralinguistic causes, restriction of word meaning, extension of word meaning, metonymy, synecdoche, metaphor, catachresis, naming, meaning figurative.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lexicology is a study of words. Thus, lexicology is a branch of linguistics that studies vocabulary of a language, its particularities, the ways of its enrichment. The lexicology of French today aims to get away from the particularities of the lexicon of the French language of our days, to study the various resources external (the imprints) and internal which allow to enrich your vocabulary as well as the causes and pathways of the evolution of the meaning of words.[1]

Lexicology is a part of linguistics which is linked in its history, its functioning with: Phonetics and phonology which deal with sounds. The morphology that takes care of the units minimal in form and meaning. Lexicology deals with the masses of words that form the lexicon of a language, and the lexical reserve of individuals. During their history men acquire knowledge, ideas news.

#### ***Glossary and vocabulary***

There are two places of existence for lexical units. On the one hand, for designate the lexical units used and understood by an individual, we use the vocabulary term. Each individual has their own vocabulary, which is part of his idiolect, his individual way of expressing himself. [2]

At the same time, all speakers who speak the same language share a mass of lexical units. No speaker possesses all, but together, their combined vocabularies define a higher unit that exists at the level of the community: we call it the lexicon.

#### ***Passive vocabulary and active vocabulary***

Speakers of a language each have two ways of using their vocabulary. There are lexical units that they use (that they pronounce or that they write). Some of these units are used every day (e.g. the, I, be), while others are used more rarely. [3] For example, think about the last time you used the word fork. The vocabulary we use in the speech and writing is called active vocabulary.

Alongside their active vocabulary, each speaker also has a vocabulary passive. The limits of passive vocabulary are also difficult to measure, for many reasons. First, having lexical creativity mechanisms gives each speaker the opportunity to understand new words. [4]

**What is lexicography? Lexicography:** Technique of making dictionaries. Lexicography will include the techniques used since the 17th century and still today, in the making of dictionaries:

If lexicology, a branch of linguistics, attempts to provide a description of scientific segments of the linguistic statement, lexicography, follows traditional rules resulting from long practice, considers the units to classify not as elements of a set but as entities linguistics defined conventionally and which the lexicographer A. Rey calls "lexicographic processing unit". [5]

The language must follow these changes. Over the centuries the lexicon has changed. Some number of words falls in oblivion with the disappearance of objects (archaisms). Number of words appear with the appearance of new objects or notions due to progress (neologisms: sputnik, portable, democratize). Over the centuries words change their meaning (resistance, Resistance).

## METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Victor Hugo once declared that style is "creation in the word" (Works complete, Volume V, 1834-1839). This thought shows above all the importance of the level lexico-semantics of language, choice what we do there creating a statement, speech in general (Nota Bene: Jules Marouzeau associates choice with style (Marouzeau 1969) and Roman Jakobson offers his function definition poetic in speaking of two processes linguistics essential: selection and combination (Jakobson 1960)). [6] But how to do this choice concerning figures of speech, how to know how to "express yourself in a way striking, with charm or with emotion"

Extralinguistic causes or linguistics external: Main linguistics external: Sociolinguistics - study of behavior language specialists collectives.

Ethnolinguistics - study of languages and language uses of peoples, ethnic groups, in relation to social conditions specific and so much as an expression of their culture. [7]

Geolinguistics (dialectology) – linguistic study of variants regional of a language dialects and patois. Psycholinguistics – study of interindividual aspects.

Neurolinguistics – study of the correlation between language structure and the neurological structure of the speaker. Linguistics East linked with sociology, ethnology, geography, psychology or neuroscience. Linguistic applied – it is a linguistic which is linked to practices.

Lexicography - it is the activity of dictionary makers. Grammar school - Study how we can do grammar to learn the rules grammar at school. RA Budagov said: "The causes which determine the evolution of the meaning of words are multiple and varied. [8] The causes of evolution semantics of words are conditioned by the evolution of notions and by the needs of communication between men. We must distinguish between extra- and intralinguistic causes.

Extralinguistic causes. Changes in meaning are related to extralinguistic causes. due to the development of social, economic and cultural life, to the progress of mentality human.

Intralinguistic causes have a character purely linguistics. Thus the aging of a word can bring the appearance of a new meaning in another already existing word. Demotivation of words creates favorable conditions for their evolution semantics.

The extension of the meaning of words is an opposite phenomenon of restriction of the meaning of words. [9] The word that endures an extension of the meaning begins to designate a more general notion, less particular. Thus the word basket from Latin *panarium* firstly designated a basket for any provision. From our days quarantine can last a fortnight, the etymological links with the numeral forty having erased. Lexical field.

## RESULTS

**Definition:** the lexical field is a set of words associated with the same theme. Example: soap = foam, laundry detergent, bar soap, etc.

The words in a lexical field can be linked to aspects of the theme, such as: professions, works, people, etc. example: teach = school, educator, ...

**Synecdoche.** We take the part for the whole and the whole for the part. This kind of metonymy East called Also synecdoche . The man maybe named by a part of his body: It is a good head! She works like a little hand ( worker beginner ). It's a heart Golden! How bad language! A gray beard (an old man ). An old mustache (a soldier).

**Catachresis.** We have to consider as a kind of metaphor also catachresis. Like metaphor, catachresis Or forgetting the meaning primitive of the word, acts by the extension of meaning. In pronouncing the word sparrow one does not think of war against a monk of which a gray cassock suggested the idea of giving his name to this little bird. [10]

Lexicology East linked to other branches of linguistics: grammar, phonetics, stylistics. Lexicon and grammar are related to one another. For example, the meaning of the word depends often its grammatical links with other words.

Ex: - take a handkerchief out of your pocket; - leave the house. On the other hand, we see the lexicalization of terms grammatical . Example: a save who can, a drop, a step, a point, a war are become a part of the negation, therefore this is the grammaticalization of the units lexicals. [11]

Lexicology East in contact with phonetics. Each word has its own phonic aspect without which he would no longer exist.

The richness of the vocabulary in homonyms explains itself firstly by evolution phonetics of the language. *Ex.: the word "sea" is formed from the Latin word " marem ", "mother " - " mathrem ", " mair " - " major".*

## CUNCLUSION

Lexicology has many points of contact with stylistics. It is the continual passage of metaphors stylistic to those linguistics in common use. We now say "time flies, a heart hot" not thinking hardly in character imagined these expressions. While maintaining close relationships with other aspects of linguistics, lexicology has its object of study, its goals and its laws. It studies the vocabulary ( lexicon ) of a language, the laws which govern the formation of the usual words of the general language common to everyone. Lexicology historical ( diachronic ) deals with the evolution of vocabulary . On the contrary, descriptive lexicology or synchronic has the task to study vocabulary in a period determined by the language.

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