

LEXICOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS IN MODERN DICTIONARIES

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Abstract

This article discusses the main problems of modern lexicography and dictionary compilation. It analyzes issues such as polysemy, homonymy, pronunciation difficulties, translation problems, neologisms, slang, and electronic dictionaries. The article also explains the importance of lexicography in language learning and communication. Modern technologies and corpus linguistics have improved dictionary making, but many challenges still remain.

Keywords

lexicography, dictionary, polysemy, homonymy, pronunciation, neologism, translation, corpus linguistics

Introduction

Lexicography is the branch of linguistics that studies dictionaries and methods of compiling them. Dictionaries are essential tools for language learning, translation, research, and communication. Modern lexicography has developed rapidly because of globalization and technology. Today dictionaries are available both in printed and electronic forms. Despite these developments, lexicographers still face many challenges while compiling dictionaries. This article discusses the major lexicographic problems found in modern dictionaries.

Polysemy Problem

Polysemy means that one word has several meanings. This is one of the most difficult

problems in lexicography. For example, the word “light” may mean illumination, not heavy, or pale in color. Lexicographers must organize these meanings carefully and clearly so users can understand them easily.

Homonymy Problem

Homonyms are words that have the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings. For example, the word “bank” may refer to a financial institution or the side of a river. Lexicographers must decide whether such words should appear in one entry or separate entries.

Pronunciation Difficulties

English pronunciation is often irregular. Dictionaries must include phonetic transcription to help learners pronounce words correctly. Words such as “though,” “through,” and “tough” are written similarly but pronounced differently.

Translation Problems

Bilingual dictionaries face translation difficulties because some words do not have exact equivalents in another language. Cultural expressions and idioms are especially difficult to translate accurately.

Neologisms and New Words

Technology and social media constantly create new words such as selfie, emoji, podcast, and blogger. Lexicographers must regularly update dictionaries to include modern vocabulary.

Slang and Informal Language

Modern communication includes slang, abbreviations, and internet language such as LOL, ghosting, and flex. Lexicographers often face difficulties deciding whether such words should be included in dictionaries.

Electronic Dictionaries

Electronic dictionaries are fast and convenient, but some online sources may contain

incomplete or inaccurate information. Automatic translations are not always reliable.

Conclusion

In conclusion, modern lexicography faces many important challenges such as polysemy, homonymy, pronunciation difficulties, translation problems, and technological changes. However, dictionaries continue improving with the help of digital technology and corpus linguistics. Lexicography remains an important field for language learning and communication.

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