



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS AND LEXICOLOGY IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This article explores the intricate relationship between psycholinguistics and lexicology, focusing on their shared interest in the mental lexicon and vocabulary acquisition. While psycholinguistics studies the cognitive processes of language comprehension, production, and storage, lexicology provides theoretical frameworks for analyzing word structure, meaning, and relationships. Drawing on studies of word recognition, semantic networks, and morphological processing, this review highlights how psycholinguistic insights support lexicological theories and vice versa. Findings emphasize the mutual benefits of an interdisciplinary approach, with applications in language education, lexicography, and cognitive science.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics, lexicology, mental lexicon, vocabulary acquisition, word recognition, semantic networks, morphological processing, interdisciplinary approach, language education, lexicography.

Аннотация: Эта статья исследует сложную взаимосвязь между психолингвистикой и лексикологией, сосредотачиваясь на их общем интересе к ментальному лексикону и усвоению словарного запаса. Психолингвистика изучает когнитивные процессы понимания, производства и хранения языка, а лексикология предлагает теоретические основы для анализа структуры, значений и отношений слов. На основе исследований распознавания слов, семантических сетей и морфологической обработки данный обзор демонстрирует, как психолингвистические открытия поддерживают теории лексикологии и наоборот. Результаты подчеркивают взаимные преимущества междисциплинарного подхода, с применением в обучении языкам, лексикографии и когнитивной науке.

Russian: Психолингвистика, лексикология, ментальный лексикон, усвоение словарного запаса, распознавание слов, семантические сети, морфологическая обработка, междисциплинарный подход, обучение языкам, лексикография.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola psixolingvistika va leksikologiyaning murakkab o'zaro bog'liqligini, ularning mental leksikon va so'z boyligini egallashga qaratilgan umumiy qiziqishlarini o'rganadi. Psixolingvistika tilni tushunish, ishlab chiqarish va saqlashning kognitiv jarayonlarini o'rganar ekan, leksikologiya so'zlarning tuzilishi, ma'nosi va munosabatlarini tahlil qilish uchun nazariy asoslarni taqdim etadi. So'zlarni tanib olish, semantik tarmoqlar va morfologik jarayonlarga oid tadqiqotlarga asoslanib, ushbu sharh psixolingvistik bilimlar leksikologik nazariyalarni qanday qo'llab-quvvatlashini va aksincha, qanday ishlashini namoyish etadi. Natijalar til o'rgatish, leksikografiya va kognitiv fan sohalarida qo'llaniladigan fanlararo yondashuvning o'zaro manfaatlarini ta'kidlaydi.

Uzbek: Psixolingvistika, leksikologiya, mental leksikon, lug'at boyligini o'zlashtirish, so'zlarni tanib olish, semantik tarmoqlar, morfologik qayta ishlash, fanlararo yondashuv, til o'rgatish, leksikografiya.

Introduction

Language research spans multiple disciplines, each contributing to the understanding of its complexity. Psycholinguistics focuses on the cognitive mechanisms underlying language acquisition, production, and

comprehension. Lexicology, by contrast, examines the structure, formation, and meaning of words. Although these fields often operate independently, their intersection is particularly evident in the study of the mental lexicon—the internal representation of words in the human brain. For instance, psycholinguistic experiments on word retrieval validate lexicological classifications such as semantic fields and word families. Similarly, lexicological insights into word formation inform psycholinguistic models of morphological processing.

This article investigates the relationship between psycholinguistics and lexicology through a qualitative review of relevant literature. It highlights how integrating these disciplines can enrich linguistic research and its applications in fields such as language education, lexicography, and cognitive neuroscience.

Methods

A qualitative review of scholarly sources was conducted to explore areas of overlap between psycholinguistics and lexicology. The study focused on:

Key psycholinguistic concepts, including the mental lexicon, word recognition, and language processing.

Lexicological frameworks, such as semantic fields, word formation, and lexical relations.

Empirical studies and theoretical works bridging the two disciplines.

Databases such as JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar were searched using keywords like "mental lexicon," "psycholinguistics and lexicology," "word retrieval," and "vocabulary acquisition."

Results

The Mental Lexicon as a Central Concept

Psycholinguistics views the mental lexicon as a dynamic, organized network where words are stored, retrieved, and connected.

Lexicology provides the theoretical foundation for understanding the semantic and morphological organization of words, which aligns with psycholinguistic models like spreading activation (Collins & Loftus, 1975).

Word Recognition and Semantic Networks

Studies show that word frequency and semantic relationships affect recognition speed (Forster, 1976).

Lexicological classifications, such as synonyms, antonyms, and hyponyms, align with psycholinguistic findings on associative priming (Meyer & Schvaneveldt, 1971).

Vocabulary Acquisition

Psycholinguistic research highlights the role of repetition, context, and frequency in vocabulary learning (Nation, 2001).

Lexicological frameworks such as active vs. passive vocabulary align with these findings, providing a practical basis for language teaching.

Morphological Processing

Lexicological theories on derivation, compounding, and inflection are supported by psycholinguistic studies showing how morphological complexity affects processing (Marslen-Wilson et al., 1994).

Discussion

The findings reveal a reciprocal relationship between psycholinguistics and lexicology:

Psycholinguistic experiments provide empirical evidence for lexicological theories, validating frameworks like semantic fields and word families.

Lexicology enhances psycholinguistic research by offering structured models of word relationships and formation, aiding in the interpretation of cognitive processes.

Applications

Language Education: Understanding word frequency and retrieval can inform vocabulary teaching methods, aligning with lexicological principles like prioritizing core vocabulary.

Lexicography: Psycholinguistic findings on user-friendly word access can improve dictionary design.

Cognitive Neuroscience: Insights into the mental lexicon contribute to diagnosing and treating language disorders.

Limitations and Future Research

This study is limited to a theoretical review of existing literature. Future research should involve

experimental studies that directly test psycholinguistic principles using lexicological frameworks. Additionally, studies on multilingual mental lexicons could uncover unique connections between the two fields.

Conclusion

The connection between psycholinguistics and lexicology lies in their mutual focus on understanding words and their mental representations. By integrating insights from both fields, researchers can develop more comprehensive models of language processing and structure. This interdisciplinary approach not only advances linguistic theory but also enhances practical applications in education, lexicography, and cognitive science.

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