

01 — Organisation and introduction

Lexicology and Lexicography

Dr. Quirin Würschinger, LMU Munich

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Organisation

Course materials

Course website: <https://wuqui.github.io/Lex252/>

Registration

Any open issues?

Module requirements, exam registration, etc.

Course description

- This course provides an in-depth exploration of English **lexicology** and **lexicography**,
- examining **key areas** including word-formation processes, semantic analysis of word senses, and patterns of lexical innovation, variation and change.
- Grounded in **empirical language data** from dictionaries and corpora, students will develop analytical skills for studying lexis through
 - **dictionaries** like the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and Wiktionary,
 - and **corpora** such as BNC 2014 Spoken and COCA on the corpus platforms Sketch Engine and english-corpora.org.
- The programme emphasises **practical experience** in frequency analysis, collocation analysis, and Word Sketches through collaborative group projects, enabling students to use authentic data and empirical methods for lexicological research projects.

Schedule

	Date	Topic
1	21 Oct.	Organisation and introduction
2	28 Oct.	Words, dictionaries, and the lexicon
3	4 Nov.	Morphology and word-formation: theory and analysis
4	11 Nov.	Dictionaries: fundamentals, examples, use cases
5	18 Nov.	Using dictionaries and analysing data
6	25 Nov.	Corpora: theories, methods, and applications
7	2 Dec.	Semantics: studying meanings and functions of words
8	9 Dec.	Studying lexis empirically
9	16 Dec.	Lexical innovation: new words and meanings
10	13 Jan.	Lexical change: historical and recent changes in the English lexicon
11	20 Jan.	Lexical variation: speakers and communities
12	27 Jan.	Lexical variation: text types, genres, registers
13	3 Feb.	Summary, discussion, review, and outlook

Literature

Key textbooks:

Bauer, Laurie. 2022. *An Introduction to English Lexicology*. Edinburgh University Press.

Lipka, Leonhard. 2002. *English Lexicology: Lexical Structure, Word Semantics and Word-Formation*. Tübingen: Narr.

Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2016. *English Morphology and Word-Formation - an Introduction*. 2nd ed. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag.

Requirements

- Active participation and preparation
- Weekly readings and short exercises
- Term paper; rule of thumb:
 - 3 ECTS: short paper (\approx 3–5 pages)
 - 6 ECTS: long paper (\approx 10–12 pages)

Important

Please check your Studien-/Prüfungsordnung for the exact specification.

Note

Special case: Modulprüfung → see next slide.

Modulprüfung

Wichtige Information nur (!) für Studierende im **BA Anglistik (PStO 2019)**, Studienbeginn WiSe 2019/20 oder später), die diese Lehrveranstaltung als **Modul WP 1.2** belegt haben:

- Modul WP 1.2 ist nur ein Teil des Gesamtmoduls WP 1, das mit einer **Gesamt-Modulprüfung** (gemeinsame Prüfung über beide Modulteile hinweg) endet, die erfordert, dass **beide Modulteile besucht wurden**.
- Bitte überprüfen Sie deswegen anhand der Übersicht unten und Ihres Stundenplans noch einmal, ob Sie in diesem Semester auch tatsächlich eine Veranstaltung **im anderen Modulteil WP 1.1** belegt haben und für diese auch zugelassen wurden. Sollte dies nicht der Fall sein, wenden Sie sich bitte schnellstmöglich an die Studiengangskoordination (studienberatung@anglistik.uni-muenchen.de).
- Die **Anmeldung zur Gesamt-Modulprüfung** erfolgt im Prüfungsanmeldezeitraum (7.1. – 23.1.2026). Bitte melden Sie sich dann bei dem/der Dozent*in an, bei dem/der Sie die Veranstaltung für das **Modul WP 1.1** besuchen.
- Das gleiche gilt für folgende Module in anderen Studiengängen: TUM MA (neu), Modul WP 11.2 (> WP 11.1 muss im gleichen Semester besucht werden)

Note

All of The assessment for WP 1 takes place in WP 1.1.

There is no assessment in this course if you take it as WP 1.2.

WP 1 courses offered this semester

WP 1.1

→ **VVZ** BA Hauptfach (Studienbeginn ab WiSe 2019/20)

→ **VVZ** WP 1 Aufbaumodul Sprachwissenschaft A (9 credits)

→ **VVZ** WP 1.1 Seminar Sprachwissenschaft: Form and Structure (6 credits)

Modulprüfung zusammen mit Modul WP 1.2.

Die Restplatzvergabe ist für Studierende der anglistischen Fächer und ggf. SLK vorgesehen. Studierende anderer Fächer können keine Leistungsnachweise erhalten und werden ggf. nachrangig berücksichtigt.

Wichtiger Hinweis für Studierende der Anglistik, die einen Platz über die Restplatzvergabe bekommen haben: Bitte füllen Sie das Modulzuweisungsformular aus und schicken Sie es der Studienberatung Anglistik über das Kontaktformular.

	Vst.-Nr.	Veranstaltung	Vst.-Art	Aktion
EDIT	13236	The spelling of English: A diachronic perspective - Mader	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13237	19th-century English - Mader	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13536	English syntax - Arendholz	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13541	Comparing Learner Englishes and New Englishes - Keller	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail

WP 1.2

→ **VVZ** WP 1.2 WU Sprachwissenschaft: Function and Use (3 credits)

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	Vst.-Nr.	Veranstaltung	Vst.-Art	Aktion
EDIT	13538	Pragmatic markers in theory and practice - Benker	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13540	Sociophonetics - Yeo	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13542	Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics - Handl	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13543	North American Englishes - Laliberté-Périn	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	13544	Lexicology and lexicography: The English vocabulary between reference works and usage evidence - Würschinger	Seminar & Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail
EDIT	14131	Phonetik und Phonologie (BritE) (mit Tutorium) - Bauer	Übung	Platzvergabe Listen E-Mail

Course preview

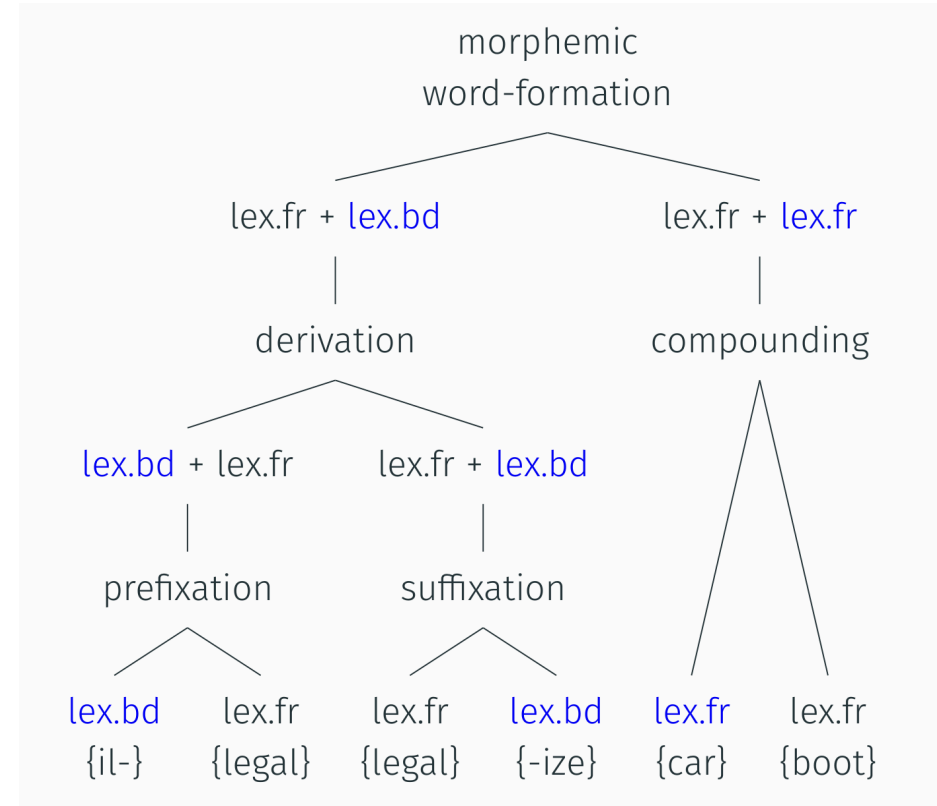
Words, dictionaries, and the lexicon

- What is a word? (**Bauer 2022**)
- What is the lexicon? (**Lipka 1992**)
- Is there structure in the lexicon or is it just a “bag of words”?

The screenshot displays the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) interface. At the top, the header includes the OED logo, the text 'Oxford English Dictionary', and navigation links for 'Dictionary' and 'Advanced search'. Below the header, a dark blue bar shows the number of entries (518,827), meanings (878,485), quotations (3,840,299), and historical thesaurus entries (794,871). The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains search filters: 'SEARCH TERMS' with a text input field and buttons for 'Add term' and 'Update'; and 'DATE OF USE' with radio buttons for 'Use' (selected) and 'First use', and input fields for 'From' and 'To' years, with an 'Update' button. The right column shows search results for 'the', sorted by 'Frequency'. It lists three entries: 'the, adj., pron.², & n.¹', 'be, v.', and 'of, prep.'. Each entry is preceded by a red bar indicating its frequency. The first entry is 'the, adj., pron.², & n.¹' with a definition: 'Before a noun denoting a thing or person that is unique or considered to be unique, or of which there is only one at a time (e.g. the sun, the earth...)'. The second entry is 'be, v.' with a definition: 'In progressive (chiefly non-perfect) tenses. With dynamic sense: to exist as some particular thing or as having some particular quality at a specific...'. The third entry is 'of, prep.' with a definition: 'Preceded by a word of number or quantity.'.

Morphology and word-formation

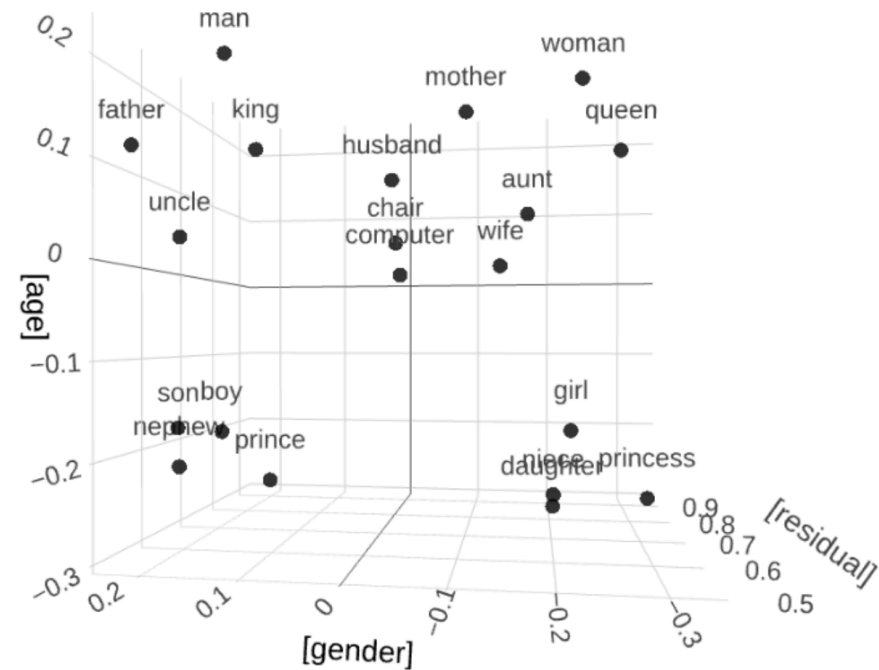
- Cover basics of morphology and word-formation based on the framework by Schmid (2016)
- Apply theoretical foundations to analyse word-formation processes.
- What are differences in behavioural profiles and productivity of morphemic and non-morphemic word-formation processes?
- How can we study morphology and word-formation based on empirical data?



Dictionaries: fundamentals, examples, use cases

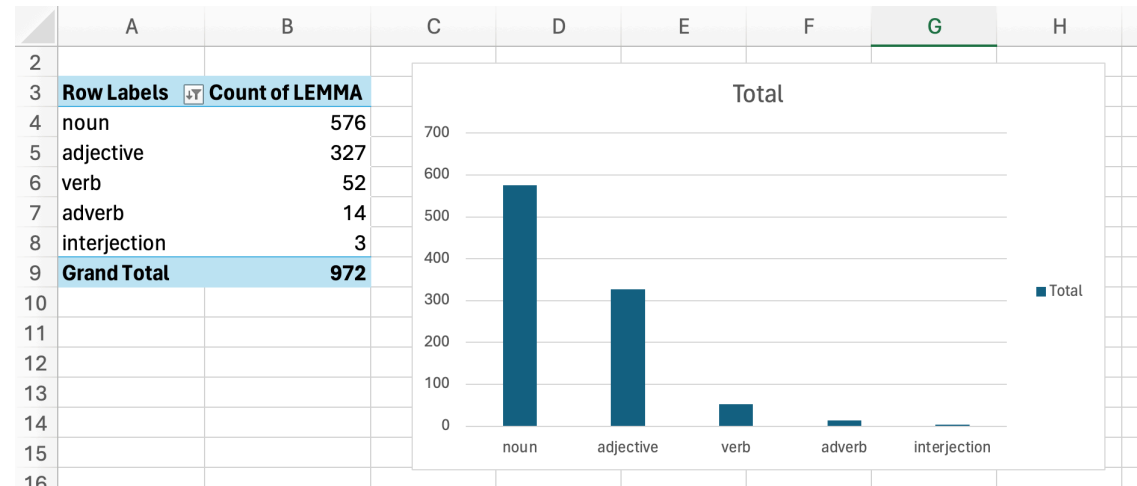
- What is the difference between dictionaries and the lexicon?
- What is the mental lexicon?
- What kinds of dictionaries are there?

Word embeddings.



Using dictionaries and analysing data

- How can we use dictionaries to study the lexicon?
- How do we access data from dictionaries?
- How do we store and process data?
- Hands-on: Practice working with lexicological data.



Corpora: theories, methods, applications

- Introduce corpus linguistics as a usage-based method and contrast it with introspection.
- Tour Sketch Engine (BNC 2014 Spoken) to collect frequency and collocation methods.
- Learn how to search corpora, do frequency analysis and collocation analysis.

Sketch Engine

The screenshot displays the Sketch Engine interface for a concordance search. The search term is "brother" in the "English Web 2020 (enTenTen20)" corpus. The results are shown in a table with columns for rank, source, and context. The word "brother" is highlighted in red in the original image. A green box highlights the "KWIC" button in the top right corner of the interface.

	Details	Left context	KWIC	Right context
1	suntimes.com	at 38 on Saturday from a heart attack, his younger	brother	Matthew Morton revealed.
2	societalsecurit...	vacy and the greater intrusion of new forms of 'big	brother	' surveillance in people's daily lives.
3	gilmerfreepress...	sister, was seen at a propaganda event beside her	brother	and his wife.
4	dailymail.co.uk	aced as they reunited.	brother	Jonah entered the deep main swimming pool at the
5	wikidot.com	I expectant.	brother	who's face practically glowed with envy.
6	wikidot.com	'ess and they send you free stuff!"	brother	got a greedy glint in his eye.
7	arkansasonline....	Monday that killed a college athlete and injured her	brother	. by Nyssa Kruse
8	gilmerfreepress...	ers, Gladys Snyder and Clara Turner of Ohio; one	brother	, Junior McCumbers of Grafton, OH; 24 grandchild

Semantics: meanings and functions

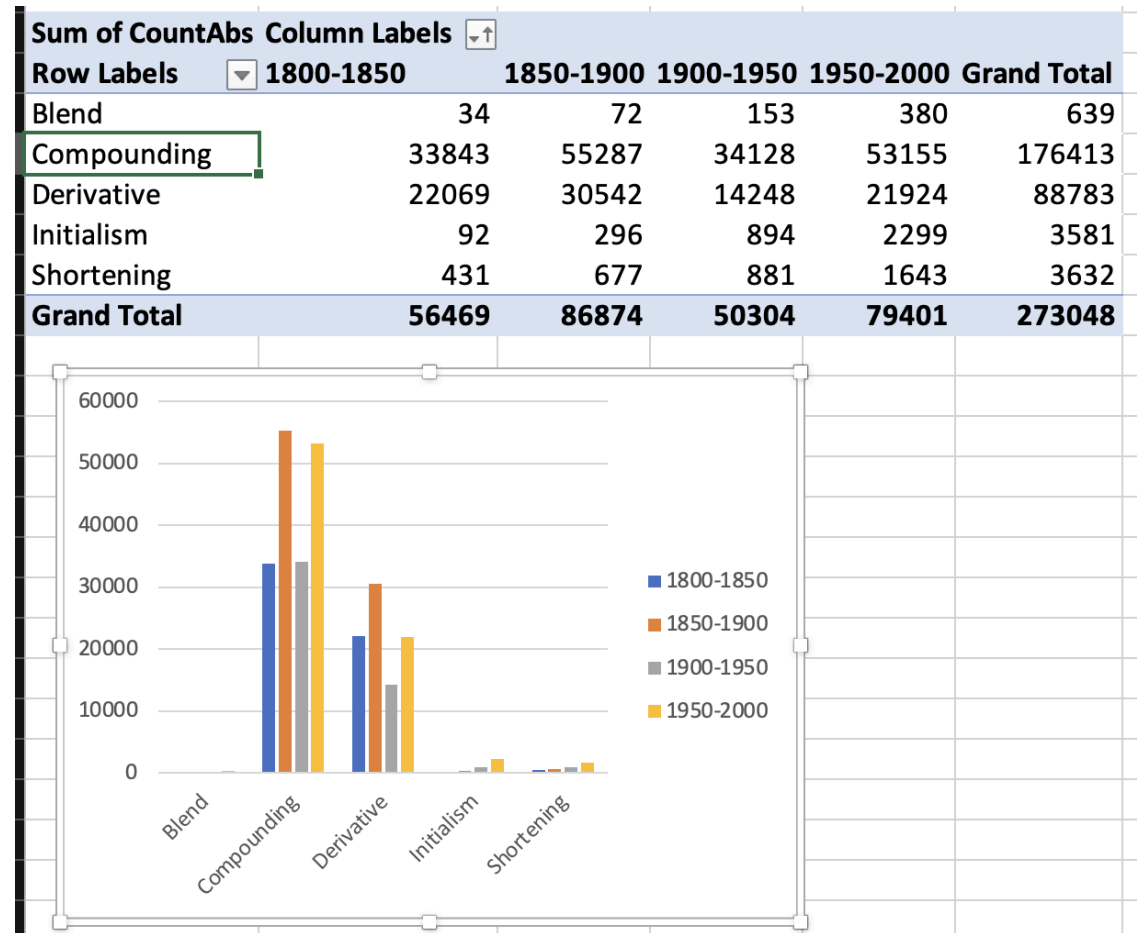
- How can we study meaning in the lexicon?
- How can we use collocation analysis and Word Sketches based on empirical corpus data in Sketch Engine?
- How do we interpret the results?
- Hands-on: Case study on the meaning of source and full forms of clippings (e.g. *brother* vs *bro*)

Table 4. Second-order collocates of tokens of *cardio* and *cardiovascular*.

Concordance line	Key word	Second-order collocates
(1a)	cardio	muscles, slam, abdominal, eyelids, stamina, circulation, nerves, headache, calves, ...
(1b)	cardio	recipes, oranges, cooked, pies, dishes, salads, sweets, foods, fried, dried, fruit, ...
(1c)	cardiovascular	diabetes, inflammatory, disorders, chronic, disease, renal, arthritis, kidney, liver, ...
(1d)	cardiovascular	chronic, obstruction, lung, asthma, epithelial, disease, hypertension, prevalence, intermittent, ...

Studying lexis empirically

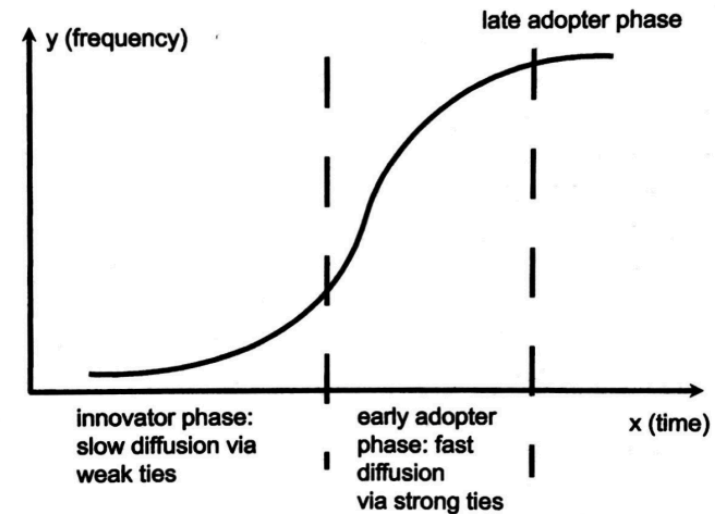
- More practice on using dictionaries and corpora to study the lexicon.
- How can we obtain data?
- How can we store and organise these data effectively?
- How can we analyse these data in Excel?
- How can we create visualisations of our results?



Lexical innovation: new words and meanings

- New products and practices enter the linguistic system on the level of lexis.
- Why do speakers coin new words?
- Which new words are being coined and spread successfully?
- Are there patterns among recent neologisms? (e.g. word-formation processes, semantic domains)
- Which trajectories of spread do we observe?







Kerremans (2015)



Lexical change: historical and recent shifts

- How has the English lexicon changed over time?
- Which kinds of recent changes do we observe?
- How can we use diachronic data to study language change in the lexicon? (dictionaries, corpora)

Decline in usage of the term *telephone* in the COCA.

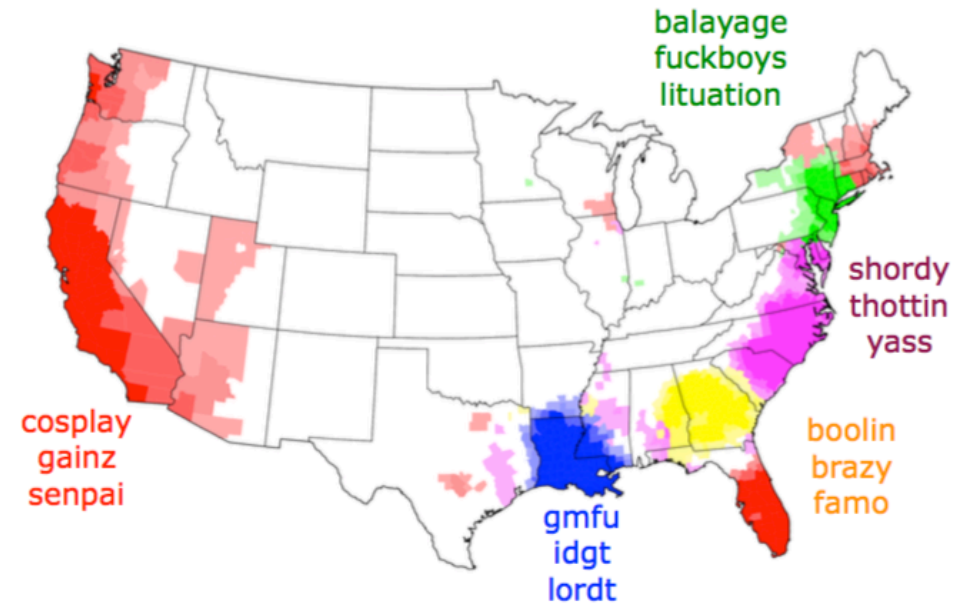
1990-94	1995-99	2000-04	2005-09	2010-14	2015-19
7050	6507	4352	3221	2346	1920
121.1	125.2	124.6	123.1	123.3	122.8
58.21	51.97	34.92	26.18	19.02	15.64
					

Lexical variation: speakers and communities

- How do speakers use language in different contexts and communities?
- Can we observe individual variation between speakers?
- How can we study this based on empirical data from dictionaries and corpora?

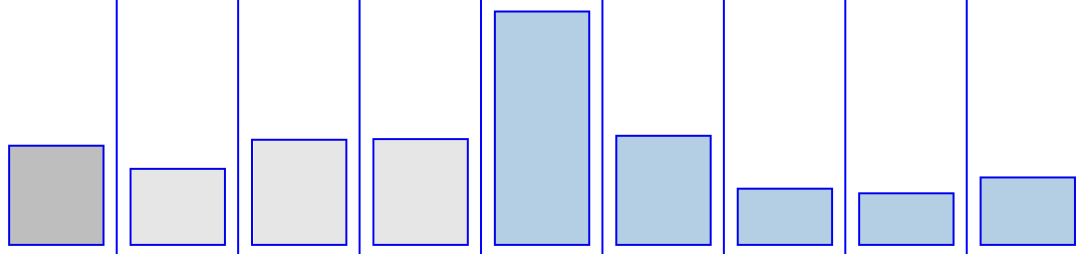
Grieve, Nini, and Guo (2018)

Hubs of Lexical Innovation: Examples (Factor Loadings)



Lexical variation: text types, genres, registers

- How can we model variation in language use between text types, registers, genres, and medium?
- How do speakers use language in different contexts? (e.g. formal vs informal)
- Does variation in use between text types correlate with language change?
- Shift focus to diaphasic variation and register-sensitive vocabulary.
- Case study: language change in the system of modal verbs ([Hilpert and Mair 2015](#))

SECTION	ALL	BLOG	WEB	TV/M	SPOK	FIC	MAG	NEWS	ACAD
FREQ	42598	4127	5543	5753	12698	5512	2956	2610	3399
WORDS (M)	993	128.6	124.3	128.1	126.1	118.3	126.1	121.7	119.8
PER MIL	42.90	32.09	44.61	44.92	100.67	46.58	23.44	21.44	28.37
SEE ALL SUB- SECTIONS AT ONCE									

Text type variation in the use of *ought* in the COCA.

Introduction to Lexicology and Lexicography

What is a *word*?

How many words?

Paul was drinking beer in his favourite bar. He enjoyed having a drink every now and then. He thought he did not drink much, but his wife thought that he drank.

How many words?

Paul was drinking beer in his favourite bar. He enjoyed having a drink every now and then. He thought he did not drink much, but his wife thought that he drank.

→ 31 running words/tokens

Types vs tokens

	type	token
1	DRINK ^v	<i>drinking</i>
		<i>drink</i>
		<i>drunk</i>
2	DRINK ⁿ	<i>drink</i>

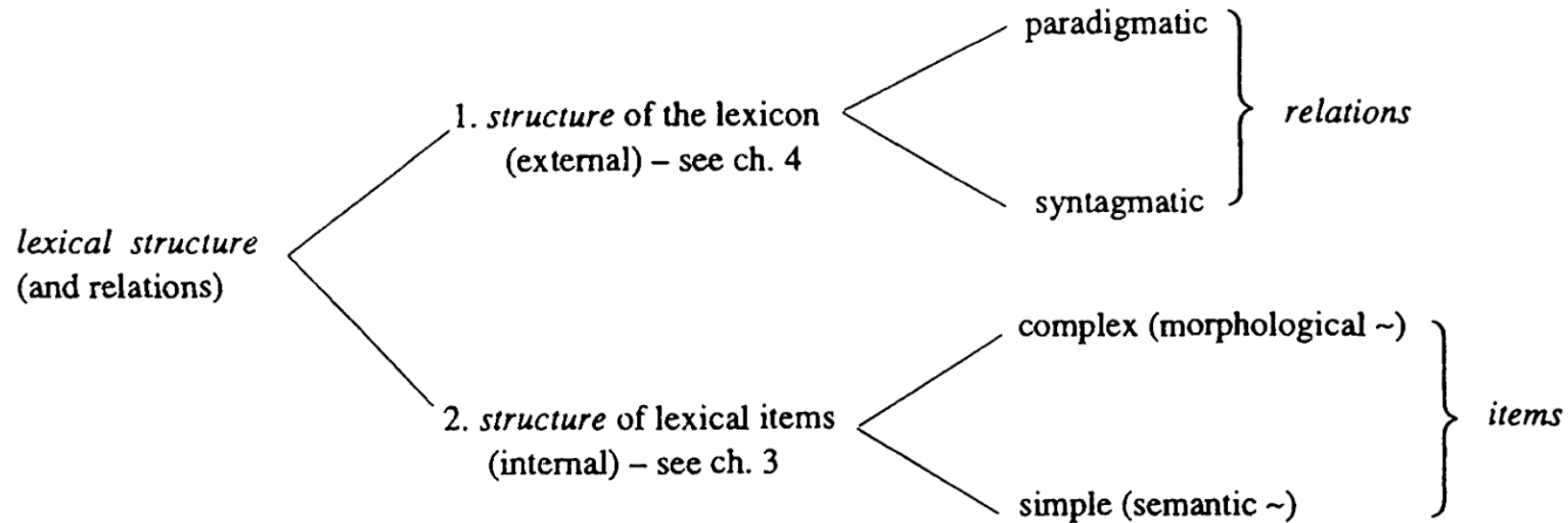
- *tokens*: *he*¹, *he*² ...
- *word forms*: *drinking*, *drank* are word-forms of DRINK^v
- *types/lexemes*: e.g. DRINK^v

What is the lexicon?

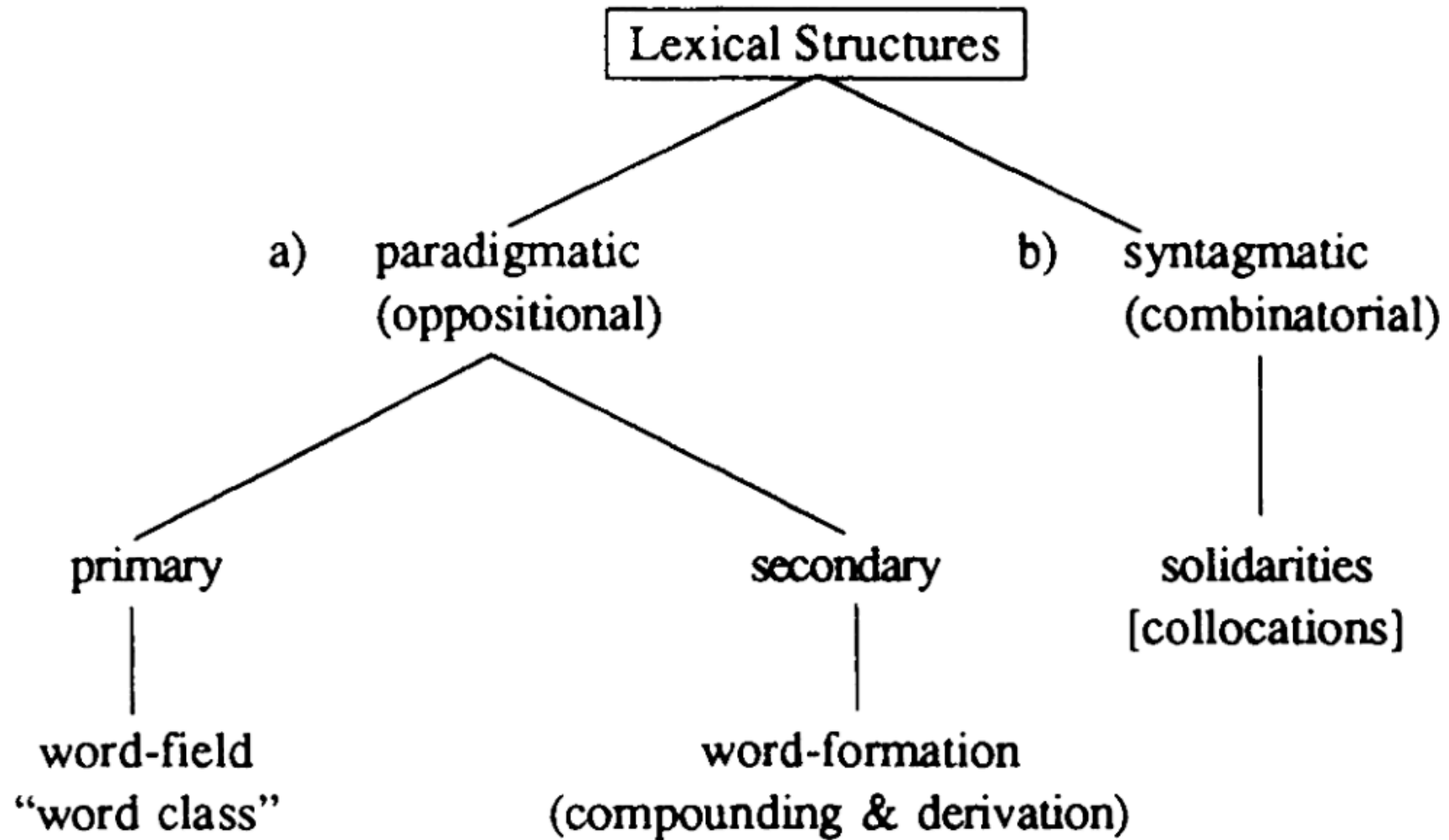
Does the lexicon have structure?

Does the lexicon have structure?

Lipka, Leonhard. 1992. *An Outline of English Lexicology*. Forschung Und Studium Anglistik. Tübingen: Niemeyer.



Fundamental types of lexical structures

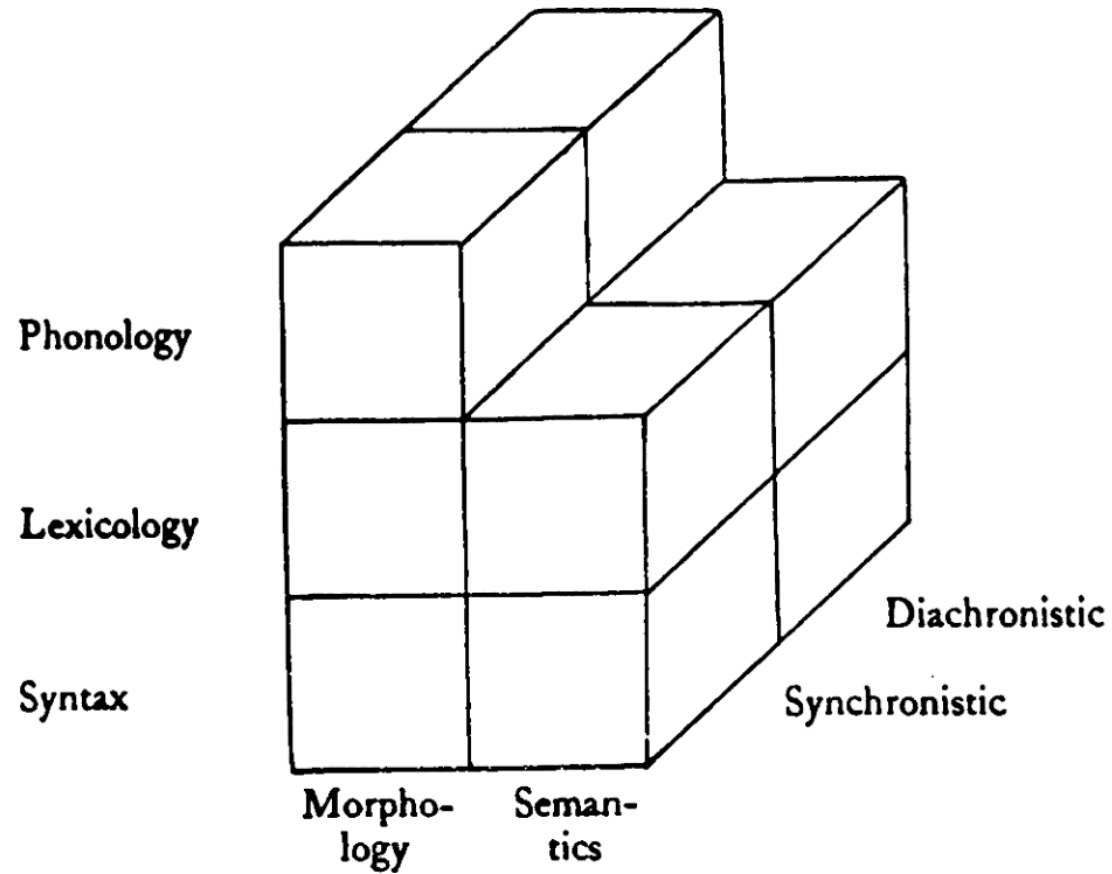


Quote

“What is most important, however, is that in lexicology the stock of words or lexical items is not simply regarded as a list of *isolated elements*. Lexicologists try to find out *generalisations* and *regularities* and especially consider *relations* between elements. Lexicology is therefore concerned with *structures*, not with a mere agglomeration of words.” (Lipka 1992: 1)

The role of the Lexicology in language

(1)



Lipka (1992)

Practice: using dictionaries

What kinds of lexicological information can we find in the OED?

e.g. about phonology, word-formation, semantics, sociolinguistics, register, usage frequency

For next week

Read: Bauer ([2022](#)), ch. 1.

You can download the PDF excerpt [here](#).

References

- Bauer, Laurie. 2022. *An Introduction to English Lexicology*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Grieve, Jack, Andrea Nini, and Diansheng Guo. 2018. "Mapping Lexical Innovation in American English." *Journal of English Linguistics* 46 (4): 293–319. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0075424218793191>.
- Hilpert, Martin, and Christian Mair. 2015. "Grammatical Change." In *The Cambridge Handbook of English Corpus Linguistics*, edited by Douglas Biber and Randi Reppen. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hilpert, Martin, David Correia Saavedra, and Jennifer Rains. 2023. "Meaning Differences Between English Clippings and Their Source Words: A Corpus-Based Study." *ICAME Journal* 47 (1): 19–37. <https://doi.org/10.2478/icame-2023-0002>.
- Kerremans, Daphné. 2015. *A Web of New Words*. Bern: Peter Lang. <https://doi.org/10.3726/978-3-653-04788-2>.
- Lipka, Leonhard. 1992. *An Outline of English Lexicology*. Forschung Und Studium Anglistik. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2016. *English Morphology and Word-Formation - an Introduction*. 2nd ed. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag.