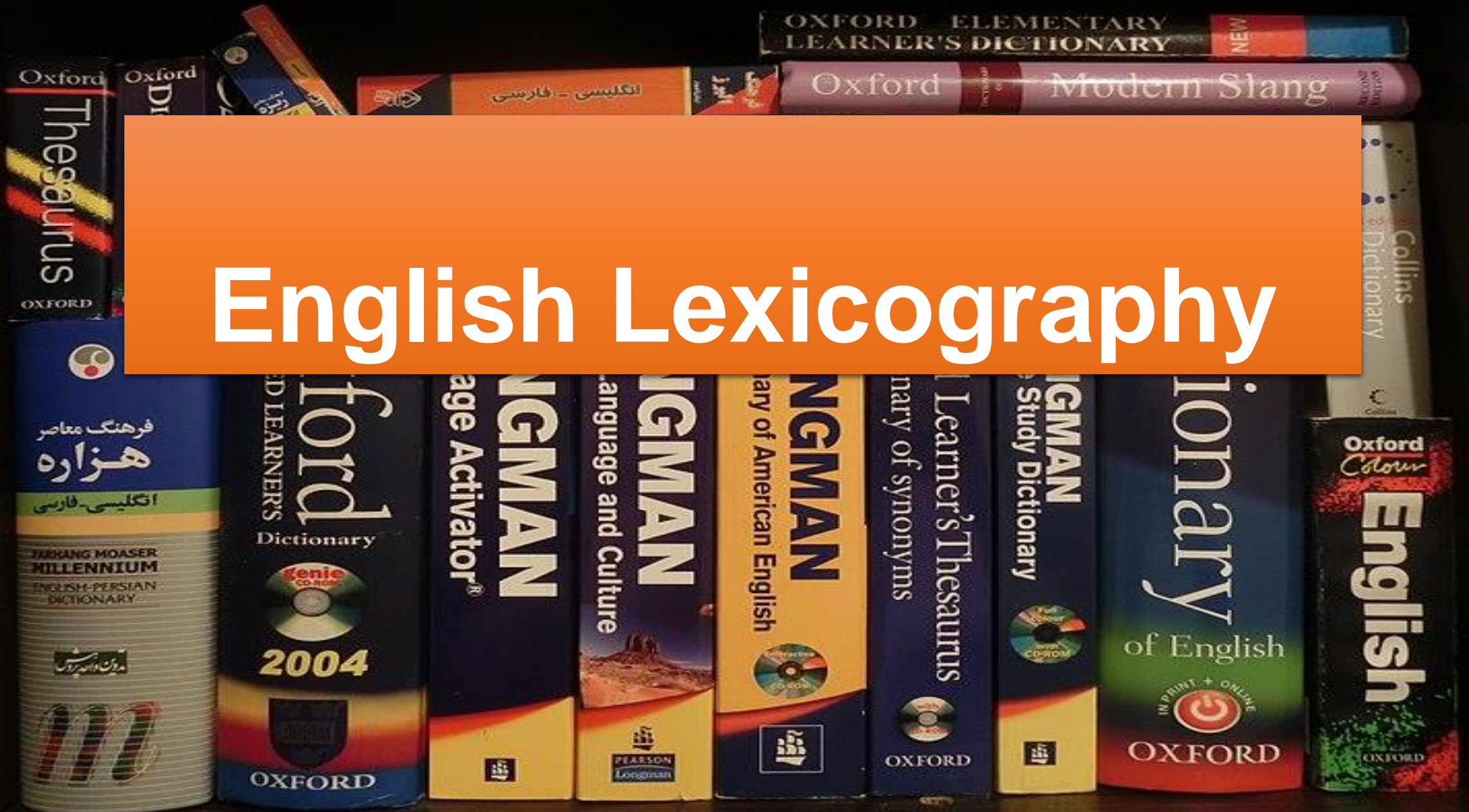


English Lexicography



Overview

- Lexicography & Two senses of Lexicography
- Fundamental questions for lexicographers
- Monolingual Dictionaries
- Functions of a monolingual dictionary
- How does a monolingual Dictionary Explain Meanings
- Functions of a Bilingual Dictionary
- History of English monolingual dictionaries
- Preserving Language through Lexicography Examples of earlier English lexicography
- Selecting and arranging entries
- Etymologies and word histories
- Online English
- Conclusion

Lexicography

- Lexicography is the theory and practice of compiling dictionaries. It is the oldest part of lexicology. In Lexicology, word is a part of the system. In Lexicography, word is an individual unit in respect of its meaning and use from the practical point of its use by the reader of the dictionary for learning the language or comprehending texts in it or for any other purpose. The lexicographers are mostly guided by the principle of convenience in retrieval of the data and arrange words usually in alphabetical order.

Two senses of Lexicography

- Lexicography is used in two different senses:
- * Practical lexicography is the art or craft of writing dictionaries.
- * Theoretical lexicography is the theory or scholarly discipline of analyzing and describing dictionaries.

Fundamental questions for lexicographers

- 1. Users – who will use the dictionary?
- 2. Uses – what will the dictionary be used for?
- Answers to these questions will inform design and publication decisions for dictionary maker, e.g. monolingual vs. bilingual, encyclopedic vs. compact, symmetrical vs. asymmetrical bilingual, general purpose vs. specialist etc.

Monolingual Dictionaries

- A Monolingual learner's dictionary (or MLD) is a type of dictionary designed to meet the reference needs of people learning a foreign language. MLDs are based on the premise that language-learners should progress from a bilingual dictionary to a monolingual one as they become more proficient in their target language, but that general-purpose dictionaries (aimed at native speakers) are inappropriate for their needs. Dictionaries for learners include a great deal of information on grammar, usage, common errors, collocation, and pragmatics, which is largely missing from standard dictionaries because native speakers tend to know these aspects of language intuitively. And while the definitions in standard dictionaries are often written in difficult language, those in a monolingual learner's dictionary aim to be simple and accessible.

Functions of a Monolingual Dictionary

- A monolingual dictionary is suppose to answer all of everybody's questions about words, without knowing in advance what the questions are going to be.
- The lexicographer must consider the *needs, expectations, and limitations* of the dictionary user.
- The main advantage of monolingual dictionaries is that they provide more comprehensive information about the target language. This information can include additional meanings of a target word, more examples of how the word is used in context, and, embedded in these examples, useful information about the grammatical behavior of the word. Finally there is, among English teachers, a belief that the process of using a monolingual dictionary aids a student's process of second language acquisition. Not all teachers share this view, however.

How does a Monolingual Dictionaries Explain Meanings

- For example, in the monolingual entry for the adjective *critical*, below, we can see that *critical* has five distinct senses (=meanings), and there are multiple full-length example sentences illustrating how *critical* is used when it carries each of these senses. With these example sentences, idioms and collocations with the word *critical* are highlighted in **bold**, and explanations of their meanings are provided in brackets []. In addition, the comparative ("more critical") and superlative ("most critical") forms of this adjective are shown at the beginning of each sense.

critical /ˈkrɪtɪkəl/ adjective

1 [more critical; most critical] : expressing criticism or disapproval

- You're always so *critical*.
- They are often *critical* of the mayor's policies. [=they often criticize the mayor's policies]

2 : of or relating to the judgments of critics about books, movies, art, etc.

- The book received much *critical* acclaim. [=many critics said good things about the book]
- *critical* writings/theory
- The movie was a *critical* success [=critics liked the movie], but it didn't make much money.

3 : using or involving careful judgment about the good and bad parts of something

- The program presents a *critical* analysis of the government's strategies.
- She has a talent for *critical* thinking.
- We need to look at these proposed changes **with a critical eye** before we accept them.

4 [more critical; most critical] : extremely important

- We have reached a *critical* phase of the experiment.
- It is absolutely *critical* [=vital, essential] for us to remain together.
- This is a matter **of critical importance** to the future of our country.

5 [more critical; most critical] medical : relating to or involving a great danger of death

- He suffered *critical* injuries in the accident.
- The patient is in ***critical condition***. = The patient is *critical*. [=the patient is very sick or injured and may die]
- a nurse who specializes in ***critical care*** [=the care of patients who are in critical condition]
- patients who are on the *critical* list — sometimes used figuratively
- a government program that is **on the critical list** [=that is in danger of failing or being eliminated]

Coverage

- A dictionary should cover morphological, etymological and semantic aspects of a word.
- In addition to core vocabulary of the language, a monolingual dictionary is supposed to cover
 - slang and neologisms (journalists love them!)
 - technical vocabulary for a technological world
 - names of famous people and places

Oxford English

Powered by
Oxford Corpus

U Bilingual Dictionary Dictionary

اوكسفورڈ انگلش اُردو ڈكشنري

Shanul Haq Haqquee

شان الحق حقّی

The world's most trusted dictionaries

Bilingual Dictionaries

- A bilingual dictionary or translation dictionary is a specialized dictionary used to translate words or phrases from one language to another. Bilingual dictionaries can be unidirectional, meaning that they list the meanings of words of one language in another, or can be bidirectional, allowing translation to and from both languages. Bidirectional bilingual dictionaries usually consist of two sections, each listing words and phrases of one language alphabetically along with their translation. In addition to the translation, a bilingual dictionary usually indicates the part of speech, gender, verb type, declension model and other grammatical clues to help a non-native speaker use the word. Other features sometimes present in bilingual dictionaries are lists of phrases, usage and style guides, verb tables, maps and grammar references. In contrast to the bilingual dictionary, a monolingual dictionary defines words and phrases instead of translating them.

Functions of a Bilingual Dictionary

- Bilingual and monolingual dictionaries both have advantages. The chief advantages of a bilingual dictionary are its brevity and simplicity. In a bilingual dictionary, you can look up a word from the target language (the language you are learning), and you will see a direct translation for this word in your native language, without having to navigate text in the target language that you may not easily understand. This makes a bilingual dictionary quick and easy for a learner at any level to access.

A brief historical survey of English dictionaries

History of English lexicography

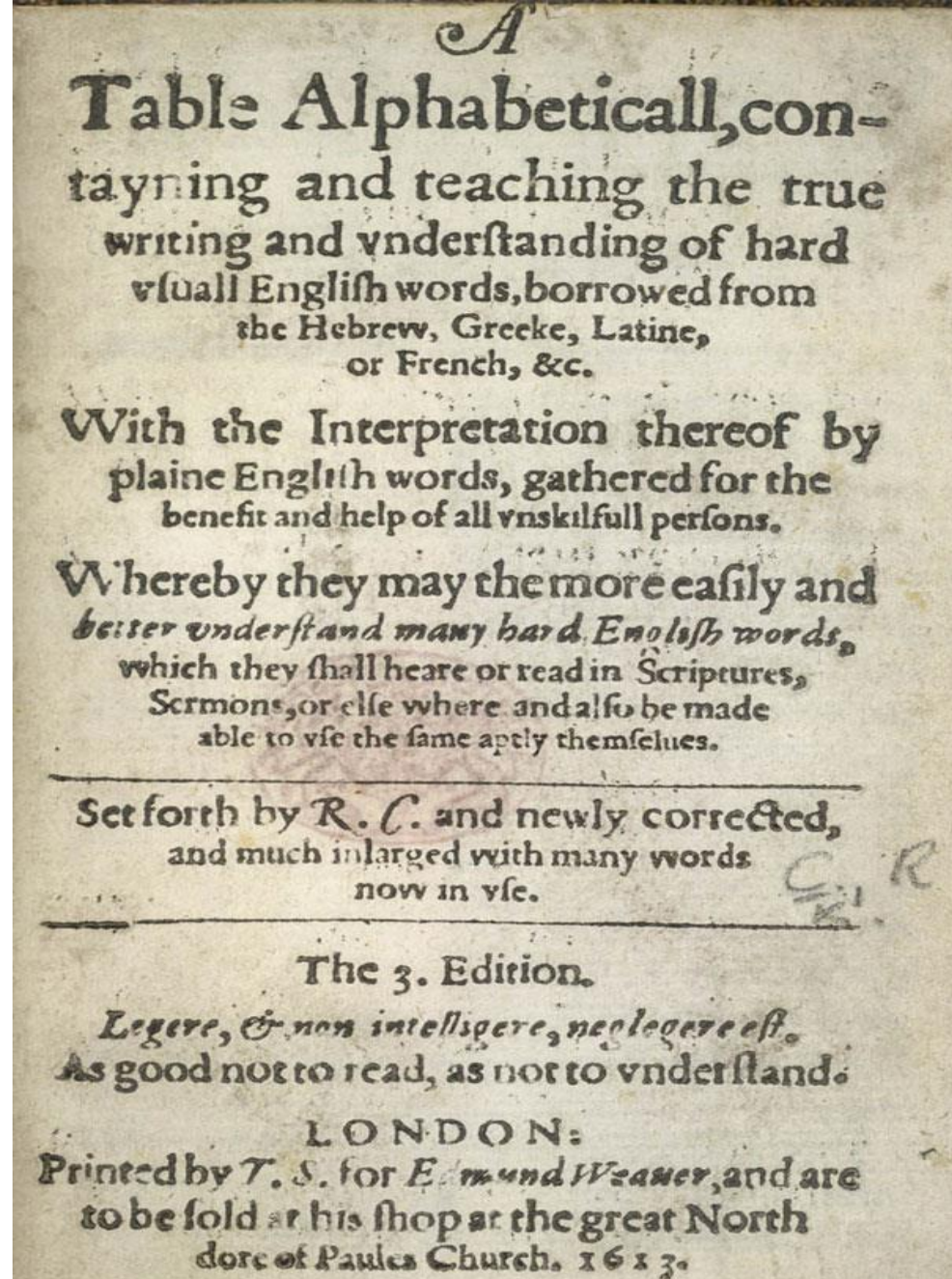
- A need for a dictionary or glossary has been felt in the cultural growth of many civilized peoples at a fairly early period. The history of dictionary-making for the English language goes as far back as the Old English period where its first traces are found in the form of glosses of religious books with interlinear translation from Latin. Regular bilingual English-Latin dictionaries were already in existence in the 15th century. The unilingual dictionary is a comparatively recent type.

The first Unilingual English Dictionary

- The first unilingual English dictionary, explaining words by English equivalents, appeared in 1604. It was meant to explain difficult words occurring in books. Its title was “A Table Alphabetically, containing and teaching the true writing and understanding of hard usuall English words borrowed from the Hebrew, Greeke, Latine or French”. The little volume of 120 pages explaining about 3000 words was compiled by one Robert Cawdrey, a schoolmaster. Other books followed, each longer than the preceding one. The first attempt at a dictionary including all the words of the language, not only the difficult ones, was made by Nathaniel Bailey who in 1721 published the first edition of his “Universal Etymological English Dictionary”. He was the first to include pronunciation and etymology.

Robert Cawdrey

- Robert Cawdrey
- A Table Alphabetical of Hard Usual English Wordes (1604)



The desire to 'fix' the language

- The belief that English in c. 1700 had reached the height of perfection
- Proposals by Dryden, Swift, and others to set up an Academy on the French model, to control language change and to rule against slang and informal usage
- came to nothing, partly because of Johnson's dictionary (next slide).

Samuel Johnson's dictionary (1755)

- Based on citations from “the best authorities”.
- “Those who have been persuaded to think well of my design require that it should fix our language...
- “When we see men grow old and die ... we laugh at the elixir that promises to prolong life to a thousand years; and with equal justice may the lexicographer be derided who, being able to produce no example of a nation that has preserved their words and phrases from mutability, shall imagine that his dictionary can embalm his language and secure it from corruption and decay.” —Preface, Dictionary, 1755

Preserving Language through Lexicography : S. Johnson

- Learned academies on the continent had been established to preserve the purity of their respective languages. This was also the purpose of Dr Samuel Johnson's famous Dictionary published in 1755.¹ The idea of purity involved a tendency to oppose change, and S. Johnson's Dictionary was meant to establish the English language in its classical form, to preserve it in all its glory as used by J. Dryden, A. Pope, J. Addison and their contemporaries. In conformity with the social order of his time, S. Johnson attempted to "fix" and regulate English. This was the period of much discussion about the necessity of "purifying" and "fixing" English, and S. Johnson wrote that every change was undesirable, even a change for the best. When his work was accomplished, however, he had to admit he had been wrong and confessed in his preface that "no dictionary of a living tongue can ever be perfect, since while it is hastening to publication, some words are budding and some falling away". The most important innovation of S. Johnson's Dictionary was the introduction of illustrations of the meanings of the words "by examples from the best writers", as had been done before him in the dictionary of the French Academy.

S. Johnson (1755) Dictionary

- Published on 15 April **1755** and written by Samuel **Johnson**, **A Dictionary** of the English Language, sometimes published as **Johnson's Dictionary**, is among the most influential **dictionaries** in the history of the English language.

A
D I C T I O N A R Y
O F T H E
E N G L I S H L A N G U A G E :
I N W H I C H
The WORDS are deduced from their ORIGINALS,
A N D
ILLUSTRATED in their DIFFERENT SIGNIFICATIONS
B Y
E X A M P L E S from the best WRITERS.
T O W H I C H A R E P R E F I X E D ,
A H I S T O R Y of the L A N G U A G E ,
A N D
A N E N G L I S H G R A M M A R .
B Y S A M U E L J O H N S O N , A . M .
I N T W O V O L U M E S .
V O L . I .

Cum tabulis animarum cenforis fumet honesti :
Audebit quaecunque parum splendoris habebunt,
Et sine pondere erunt, et honore indigna ferentur.
Verba movere loco ; quamvis invita recedant,
Et verferentur adhuc intra penetralia Vestae :
Obscurata diu populo bonus eruet, atque
Proferet in lucem speciosa vocabula rerum,
Quae prius memorata Catonibus atque Cethegis,
Nunc situs informis premit et deferta vetustas. H O R .

L O N D O N ,
Printed by W. STRAHAN,
For J. and P. Knapton ; T. and T. Longman ; C. Hitch and L. Hawes ;
A. Millar ; and R. and J. Dodsley.
M D C C L V .

Pronunciation in Johnson's Dictionary

- Pronunciation was not marked, because S. Johnson was keenly aware of the wide variety of the English pronunciation and thought it impossible to set up a standard there; he paid attention only to those aspects of vocabulary where he believed he could improve linguistic usage. S. Johnson's influence was tremendous. He remained the unquestionable authority on style and diction for more than 75 years. The result was a lofty bookish style which received the name of "Johnsonian" or "Johnsonese".

Historical Survey of English Dictionaries

R. Cawdrey (1604): A ***Table alphabeticall***

- explains “hard words”

S. Johnson (1755): ***Dictionary***

- Citations from literature. Full vocabulary coverage.

N. Webster (1828): ***American Dictionary of the English Language***

- A nationalistic adventure. Webster’s debt to Johnson.
- “consulting the opinions of some gentlemen in whose judgment I had trust” (seeking agreement on definitions – convention)

J. A. H. Murray et al. (1884-1928): ***OED***

- Historical principles. Interaction with literary, medieval and Indo-European scholarship.

Isaac Funk (1894): ***Funk and Wagnall’s Standard Dictionary of the English Language***.

- put the “most important current definition” first.

Merriam Webster’s Second New International Dictionary (1933)

- Monumental. Many discursive, quasi-encyclopedic explanations.

The first monolingual English dictionary

Robert Cawdrey (1604): *A Table Alphabeticall ... of hard usuall English wordes, borrowed from the Hebrew, Greeke, Latin, or French, etc. ... gathered for the benefit and help of Ladies, Gentlewomen, or any other unskillful persons*

Entries from Cawdey 1604

alchimie, the art of turning other mettals into gold

alien, a stranger

alienate, to estrange, or with-drawe the mind, or to make a thing another mans

allegorie, similitude, a misticall speech, more then the bare letter

allegiance, obedience of a subiect

allusion, meaning and pointing to another matter then is spoken in words

allude, to speake one thing that hath resemblance and respect to another

altercation, debate, wrangling, or contention

altitude, height

amaritude, bitternesse

ambage, long circumstance of words

From Johnson 1755 (1)

ALCHYMY,

1. the more sublime and occult part of chymistry, which proposes, for its object, the transmutation of metals, and other important operations.

There is nothing more dangerous than this licentious and deluding art, which changeth the meaning of words, as *alchemy* doth, or would do, the substance of metals, maketh of anything what it listeth, and bringeth, in the end, all truth to nothing.

Hooker.

O he sits high in all the people's hearts;
And that which would appear offence in us,
His countenance, like richest *alchemy*,
Will change to virtue, and to worthiness. *Shakesp. J. Caesar.*

Princes do but play us; compared to this,
All honours mimick, all wealth *alchemy*. *Donne.*

From Johnson 1755 (2)

ALCHYMY,

2. A kind of mixed metal used for spoons, and kitchen utensils.

The golden colour may be some mixture of orpiment, such as they use to brass in the yellow *alchymy*.

Bacon.

White alchymy is made of pan-brass one pound, and arsenicum three ounces; *or alchymy* is made of copper and auripigmentum.

Bacon's Physical

Remains

They bid cry,

With trumpets regal found, the great result:

Tow'rds the four winds, four speedy cherubim

Put to their mouth the sounding *alchymy*,

By herald's voice explained. *Milton's Paradise Lost, book 2*

Aspects of Johnson

- Literary style of definition writing
- Citations from literature, especially poets
- Reliance on scientific and technical authority
- Very full coverage of the vocabulary
- Few concessions to make things easier for the reader

Some 20th-century English Dictionaries

W. Geddie (1901): ***Chambers 20th-Century Dictionary***

- A vast ragbag. Many rare Scottish dialect terms. Some witty definitions, e.g. “**éclair**, a confection long in shape but short in duration”

H. W. Fowler (1911): ***Concise Oxford Dictionary***

- A distillation of OED. Interesting approach to sense groupings.

P. Hanks (1979): ***Collins English Dictionary***

- Coverage of technical vocabulary and names. Guidance on usage.

P. Hanks and J. Pearsall (1998): ***New Oxford Dictionary of English***

- Corpus-based *and* citation-based. Distinguishes core senses from subsenses. Major vocabulary surveys, e.g. of languages, flora and fauna, technology etc. Syntactic information. Corpus-based guidance on usage.

Some EFL dictionaries

A.S. Hornby (1947): ***Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary***

- Pedagogical. Gives syntax, e.g. verb patterns, count vs. uncount nouns.

P. Procter (1978): ***Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English***

- Restricted defining vocabulary. More elaborate syntax.
- Semantic fields in the electronic version.

J. M. Sinclair, P. Hanks, et al. (1987): ***Cobuild***

- Corpus-based; real-language examples. Full-sentence definitions, showing how to use the word normally and naturally.

P. Procter (1993): ***Cambridge International Dictionary of English***

- Corpus-based; gives syntagmatics and semantic fields.

M. Rundell (2001): ***Macmillan English Dictionary***

- Much pedagogical help with vocabulary building.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 6th edition (2000)

alchemy *noun* [U]

1 a form of chemistry studied in the Middle Ages which involved trying to discover how to change ordinary metals into gold. **2** (*literary*) a mysterious power or magic that can change things.

Cobuild (1987)

alchemy

1. **Alchemy** was a form of chemistry studied in the Middle Ages, which was concerned with trying to discover ways to change ordinary metals into gold.
2. **Alchemy** is the power to change or create things in a way which seems mysterious and magical. [LITERARY] □ *Let us imagine that by some political alchemy it had been possible to make all men equal.*

Arrangement of senses

- On historical principles? (oldest sense first)

camera 1. a small room. 2. the treasury of the papal curia. 3. a device for taking photographs.

- Or representing conventional contemporary usage?

camera 1. a device for taking photographs. 2. **in camera**: in a small room (used of a judge hearing evidence in private).

What is the function of etymologies?

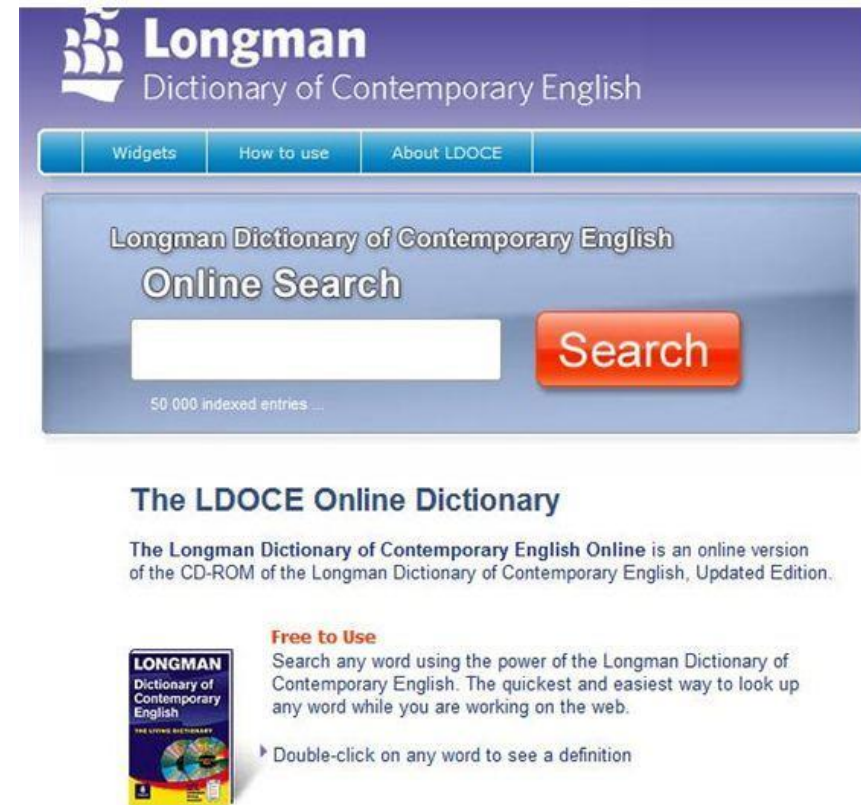
- To record the morphological and phonological development of words, from ancient languages (French, Latin, Greek, Old Norse, *Germanic, *IndoEuropean, etc.), up to their first occurrence in English?
- Or to tell the story of the word's history? EG

Camera ... [from Latin **camera** 'small room'. The modern sense developed in the 19th century via the 18th century term **camera obscura**, denoting a darkened upper room with a (rotating) angled mirror at the apex of the roof, which projected an image of the surrounding landscape onto a flat surface in the room]

- Or both?

Online Dictionaries

- The age of the Internet brought online dictionaries to the desktop and, more recently, to the smart phone. Skinner in 2013 noted that, "Among the top ten lookups on Merriam-Webster Online at this moment are holistic, pragmatic, caveat, esoteric and bourgeois. Teaching users about words they don't already know has been, historically, an aim of lexicography, and modern dictionaries do this well.



Online Dictionaries

- The following is a concise list of online English dictionaries whose definitions are based upon well-established content.
- American Heritage Dictionary American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Ed.
- Collins Online Dictionary Collins Unabridged English Dictionary; Collins Unabridged Thesaurus; Collins Webster's American English Dictionary
- Dictionary.com Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary
- Merriam-Webster Online Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary
- Oxford Dictionaries Online Oxford Dictionary of English; New Oxford American Dictionary; Oxford Thesaurus of English; Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus
- **Advanced learner's dictionaries**
- Oxford Advanced Learner's Online Dictionary
- Online Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary
- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English
- Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners

Conclusions

- In this discussion we surveyed English lexicography from the the 17th century to modern times. We discussed different aspects of monolingual and bilingual dictionaries. We also discussed role o etymology in dictionary-making The purpose(s) of monolingual dictionaries:
 - To answer all of everybody's questions about words, without knowing in advance what the questions are going to be.
 - The lexicographer must consider the *needs*, *expectations*, and *limitations* of the dictionary user.
- A dictionary is supposed to cover (in addition to core vocabulary)
 - slang and neologisms (journalists love them!)
 - technical vocabulary for a technological world
 - names of famous people and places

Thank you very much