

# Understanding the Focus of Lexicology

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# Lets go back to definition of Lexicology

- ‘The study of the form, meaning, and behaviour of words’.(Oxford Dictionary)
- ‘The study of words and their meaning and use’ (Cambridge Dictionary)
- The Study of Lexicon / lexis (vocabulary / total stock of words).

# Exploring Relations between Words

What is 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 generalizations and regularities and especially consider relations between elements . Lexicology is therefore concerned with the structures, not with a mere agglomeration of words (Jackson 1988)

# Content Words & Function Words

- Content words carry meaning
- Function words help create grammatical structure.



# Full or Content Words

- Nouns
- Adjectives
- Verbs (main verb)
- Adverbs

**Content words** are **words** that have meaning. They can be compared to grammatical **words**, which are structural. Nouns, main verbs, adjectives and adverbs are usually **content words**. Auxiliary verbs, pronouns, articles, and prepositions are usually grammatical **words**

# Some more content words

- Numbers (two, three)
- Question Words
- Long prepositions (against , Over )
- Demonstratives (**Demonstratives** show where an object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker. They can refer to a physical or a psychological closeness or distance for example: This, that, these, those)
- Intjections (ow ! Ouch!

# Empty Function Words

- Pronouns
- Modal Verbs (that expresses necessity or possibility  
*e.g., must, shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, and might.*
- Auxiliary Verbs (a verb used in forming the tenses, moods, and voices of other verbs e.g. has been)

# More Function Words

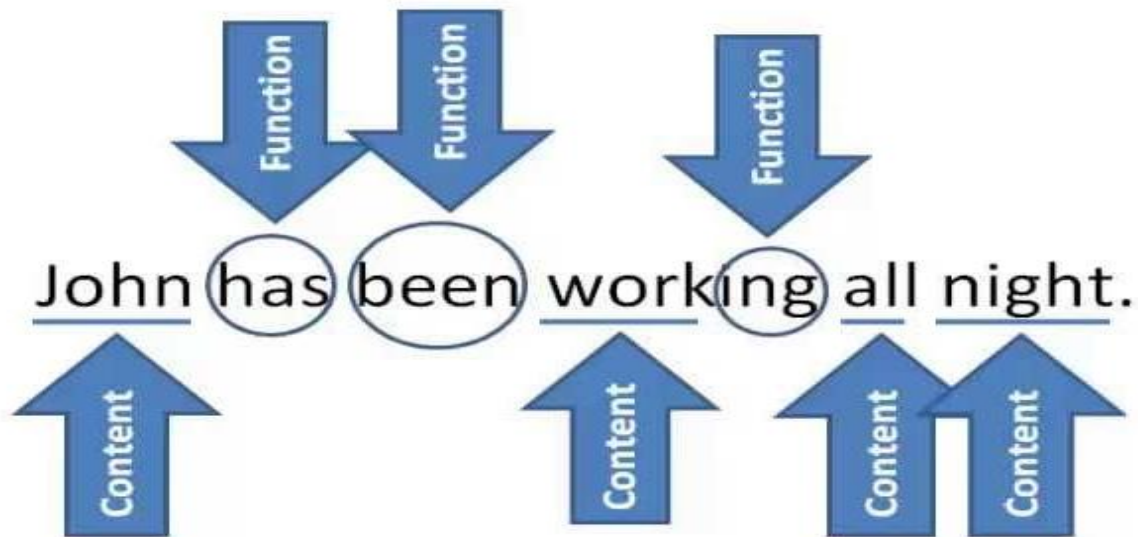
- Short Prepositions
- Possesive Adjectives (your, his their, our)
- Articles ( the, a an)
- Conjunctins (and , but, so)



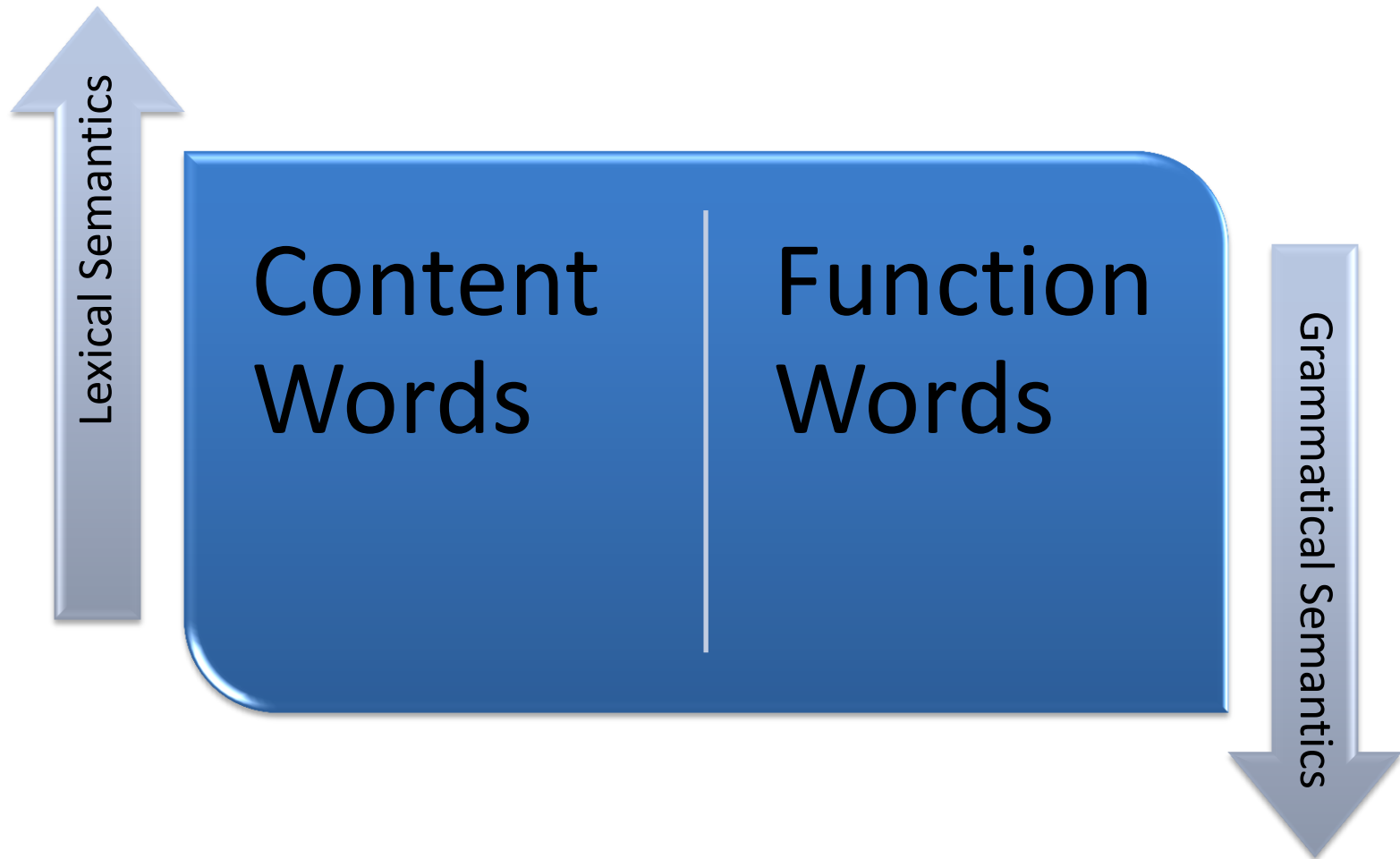
# Lexicology and Content Words

- 'Lexicology is the study of content words or lexical items , Halliday & Yallop(2007).
- It is the scientific study of lexical structures.

# Content Words and Function Words



# Two Directions



# References

- Halliday, M. A. K., & Yallop, C. (2007).  
Lexicology: A short introduction. London:  
Continuum.

Thank you