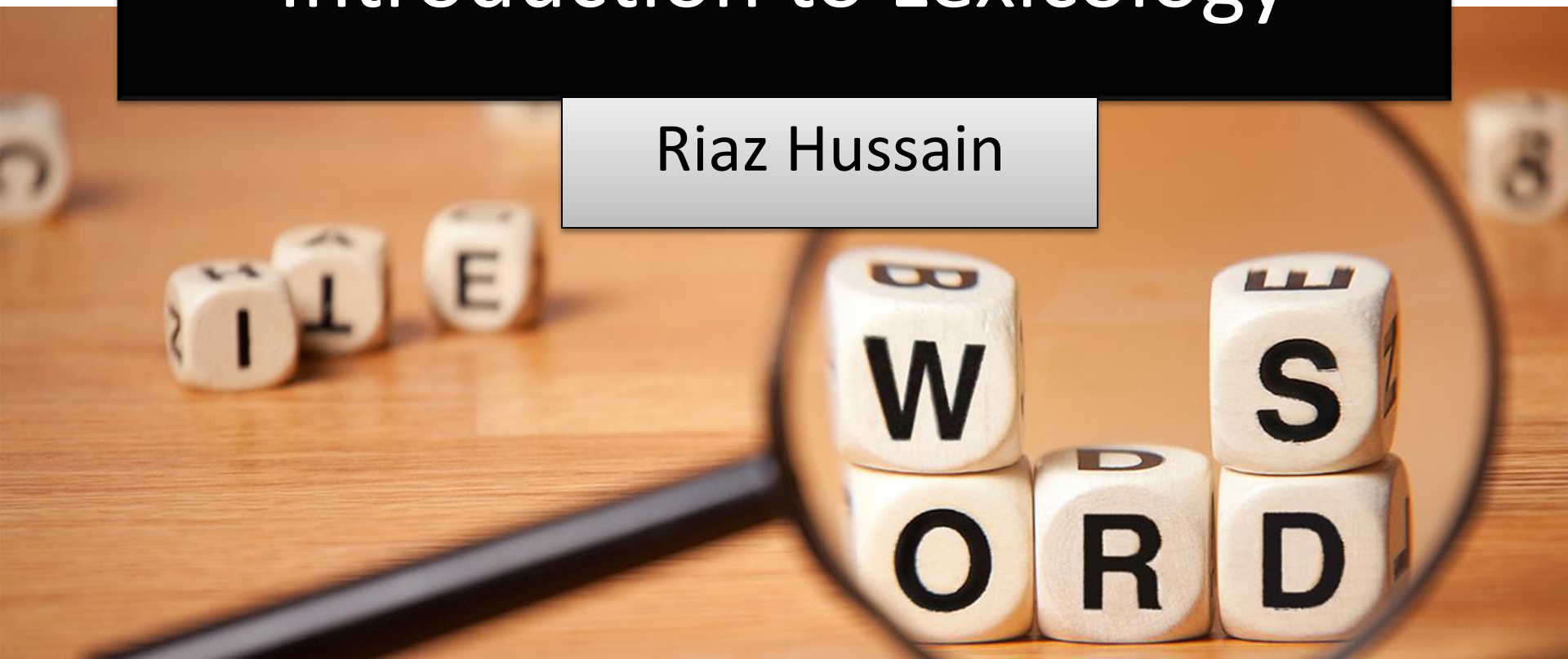


# Introduction to Lexicology

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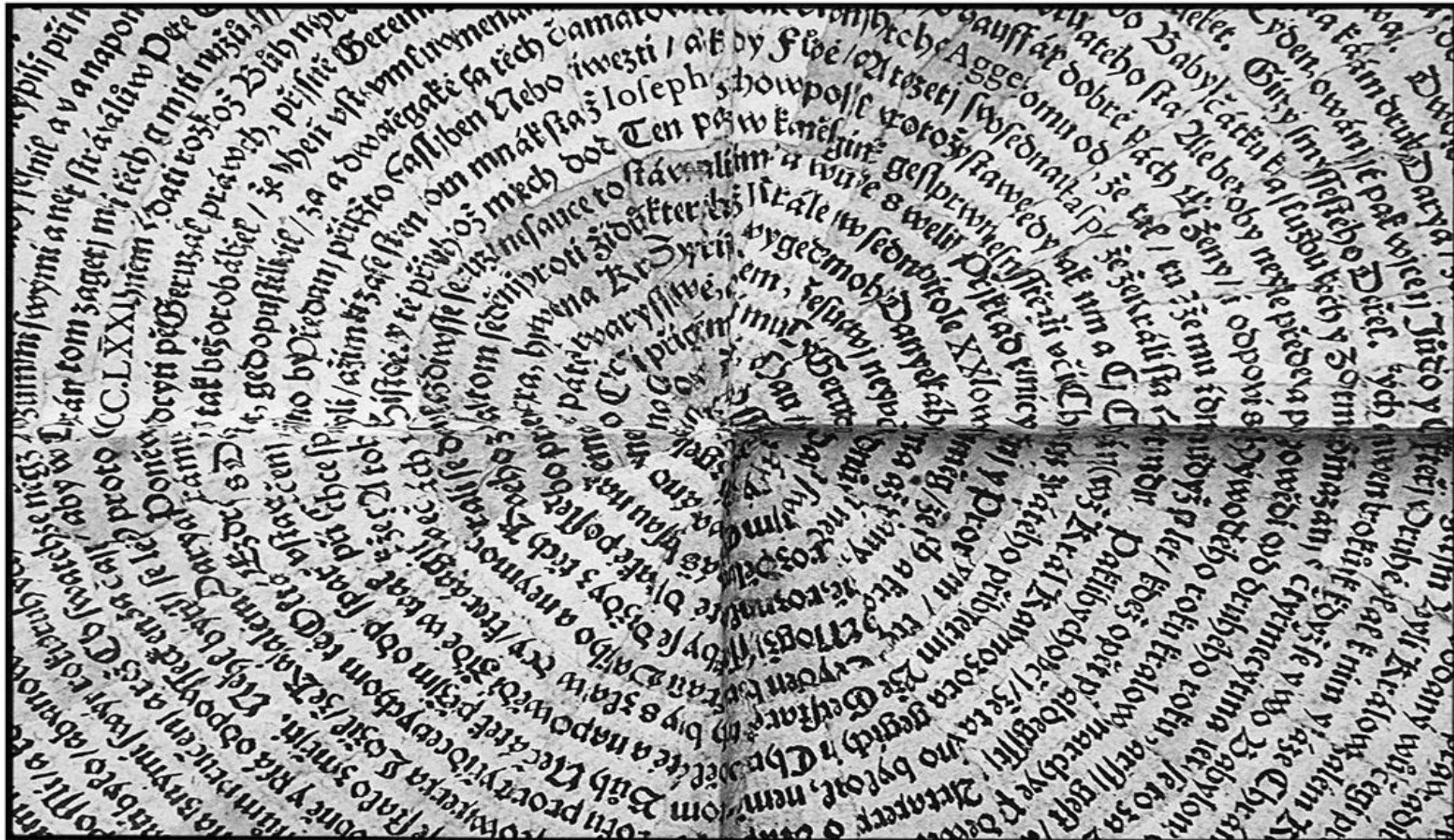
# Overview

- What is lexicology
- Vocabulary and Lexicon
- Lexicology and lexicography
- What is Word ?
- Nine Facets of Words

# lexicology

- Lexicology is the study of words. The literal meaning of the term is the science of the word (*logos* – learning, *Lexus* – word, phrase). It studies the form, meaning, nature and functions of words. In other words, it is the branch of linguistics that studies the stock of words (the lexicon) in a given language. The term first appeared in the 1970s, though there were lexicologists in essence before the term was coined.

It studies the total sum of all the words  
that a language possesses.



Lexicology is concerned with  
vocabulary system of a language



# Vocabulary and Lexicon

The term vocabulary means the total sum of words that there are in the language. The size of the vocabulary of any language is huge. No person can learn or know all the words of the language. Individual people possess their own total vocabulary consisting of all the words they know. Another word used to denote vocabulary is the term lexicon. In modern Linguistics three main meanings of the term lexicon are distinguished: 1) the vocabulary which a speaker of a language has in his or her head, that is, mental lexicon; 2) the set of lexemes of a language and the processes which are related to them; 3) the set of lexical items of a language.



This science studies the properties of the words  
as the basic units of the language.



# Lexicology & Lexicography

An allied science to lexicology is lexicography, which also studies words, but primarily in relation with dictionaries – it is concerned with the inclusion of words in dictionaries and from that perspective with the whole lexicon.

Sometimes lexicography is considered to be a part or a branch of lexicology, but properly speaking, only lexicologists who actually write dictionaries are lexicographers.



**Lexicographer**



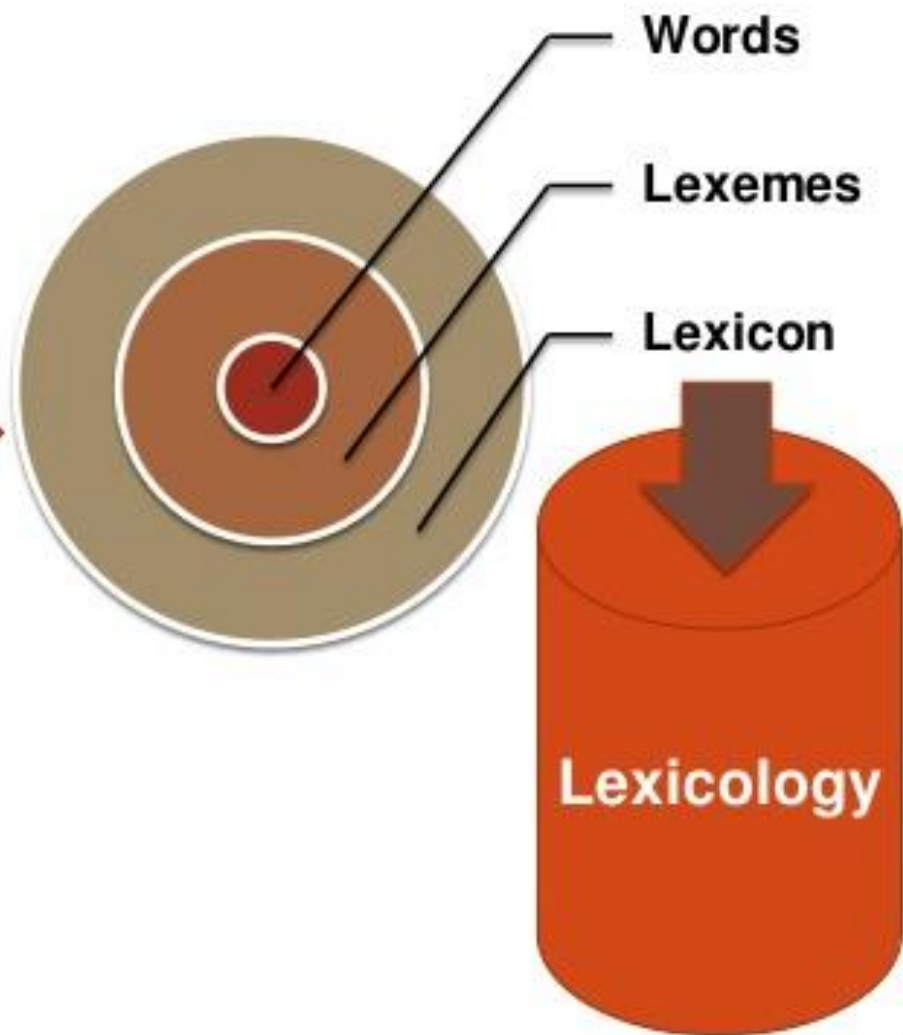
**Lexicography**

**Words**

**Lexemes**

**Lexicon**

**Lexicology**



### **Lexicon:**

The collection of words (the internalized dictionary), that every speaker of the language has.

### **Lexeme:**

The fundamental unit of the lexicon of a language.

### **Lexicography:**

The process of writing, editing, and/or compiling a dictionary.

### **Lexicographer:**

The author or editor of a dictionary.

# The word

- The word can be defined as a structural and semantic entity of the language system. The word is simultaneously a semantic, grammatical and phonological unit



# “word”

- meaning, a group of sounds, with a grammatical function. It is a semantic, phonological and grammatical unit.
- Constantly changing in form and meaning.
- Lexicologists study the contrasts and similarities between words (and phrases), and how these change over time.

# Defining “word”

- The word defined (Jackson & Ze Amvela, 2007, p. 59)
  - “We shall consider the word as an uninterruptible unit of structure consisting of one or more morphemes and which typically occurs in the structure of phrases.”



# Nine Aspects Facets of words

- Phonology – the sound of a word
- Orthography – a word's written form
- Reference – what the word indicates
- Semantics – word meaning
- Register – how a word is used appropriately
- Collocation – words that “go together”
- Word association – the network of mental word links
- Syntax – how a word fits into the grammar
- Morphology – the units that make up the form of a word

Thanks