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**A Review of "Selected Chapters in English Lexicology,  
Part I: Lexical Semantics and Lexicography"  
by Klaudia Bednarova-Gibova**

"Selected Chapters in English Lexicology, Part I: Lexical Semantics and Lexicography" by Klaudia Bednarova-Gibova, published by The University of Presov (Slovakia) in 2018, is, as the author says *"a partial outcome of the English lexicology course taught over the past decade"*.

The book itself is a worth considering source of lexicology essentials designed for English philology students offering them an overall image of the studied language as well as a modern introduction to English lexicology.

For the reason of clarity and digestible presentation, which is fundamental in the case of foreign language students, especially freshmen, the publication has been divided into seven compact parts such as: Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics, Linguistic Sign, Words and their Meaning, Charting Variation in the English Lexicon, Meaning Relations in the Lexicon, Lexical Fields, and finally – Dictionaries as a Gateway to Lexicology. Each part, which is concisely discussed below, has been furnished with an abundance of thematically related material and supported by examples.

**Lexicology as a Branch of Linguistics** makes students acquainted with the concept of lexicology and guides them towards anglophone conceptualization. Gradually, the discussion within the sphere of lexicology is expanded to include lexicography and word-formation. In this way, numerous terms indispensable to follow the discussion, are presented and explained. Finally, the discussion terminates in the presentation of basic approaches

to the study of words and the acquisition of lexis. Since the richness of the student's language is directly related to the richness of his or her lexis, the closing material of this part of the book is of paramount importance.

**Linguistic Sign** is that part of the book which tries to familiarize students with the Saussurean theory of linguistic sign. The introduction to the theory helps to elaborate in the mind a semiotic approach to the internal functioning of publics, especially communication. To communicate, according to the theory, means to be able to create and combine the acoustic image (significant) with the final concept (signifié). This process is clearly and graphically presented in the discussed part of the book. Moreover, some other linguistically relevant concepts, such as arbitrariness, linearity, and discontinuity are thoroughly discussed and explained.

The discussion devoted to the Saussurean theory of linguistic sign and meaning is enriched by a different, but significantly influential, model developed by Ch. K. Ogden and I. A. Richards, and known as semiotic triangle. And again, the model which shows relationships between the sign's components and its referent, is completely described and graphically presented. The juxtaposition of the two approaches to sign and meaning, as offered by de Saussure, on the one hand, and by Ogden and Richards, on the other, makes the discussion complete and comprehensive to the reader, which, in the case of an academic publication of universal character, is a great asset.

Apart from the discussion devoted to the above mentioned linguists and their approaches, the closing part of **Linguistic Sign** focuses on other approaches to familiarize students with some more points of view on sign as represented by Ch. S. Peirce and Ch. Morris.

**Words and Their Meaning** is a subsequent part of the book focused on word, its notion, creation and interpretation. As far as interpretation is concerned, the discussion is accomplished due to its clarity and numerous examples which show various conceptions of word.

Passing on to the analysis of the meaning of word, the author rightly remarks that "*meaning has always been one of the most debatable facets of language*" (p. 39). With this conviction in mind, the discussion is directed at types of word meaning, shifts of word meaning, as well as theories of word meaning. The discussion, covering the three above mentioned areas, has all necessary qualities of academic presentation which gives guidance to a conclusion. Hence, the analysis of the chapter material makes the reader aware of the fact that each presented and discussed theory treated individually is not able to find a solution to all problems in lexical semantics. Thus, as the author

stresses, *"they should be considered as complementary models in order to embrace the ever-growing multitude of semantic intricacies"* (p. 49).

**Charting Variation in the English Lexicon** opens the discussion with the image of the English language as a system being in constant development since some new words appear and some other disappear from its lexis. The opening section of the chapter also puts a stress on the origin and diachrony of English words, drawing a border line between loanwords and native words. Somehow automatically the reader's attention is directed at historical grammar of English or the history of English in order to familiarize readers with a variety of foreign influence upon the language. Apart from numerous lexical influences upon English enlisted in Table 6 (p. 55), a thorough discussion supported with examples is devoted to the three main waves of influence, that is Latin, Scandinavian, and French, each of them is discussed separately and furnished with references. The way of material presentation which underscores the multitude of lexical influence causes that English is perceived as an international language easily and constantly adopting new lexical items from languages spoken all over the world.

With the above coined image of English we pass on to the discussion over stratification of English lexis. Hence, this part of the chapter views English lexis from four distinguished points of view as far as stratification is concerned, that is temporal, territorial, social, and stylistic. Due to the accepted division and a careful presentation of each of the four types of stratification, the reader and especially a student of English becomes aware of the dynamic character of the studied language and its varieties.

**Meaning Relations in the Lexicon** concentrates on the four basic logical relations of: (a) identity, (b) inclusion, (c) overlap, and (d) disjunction. To better understand their nature, each type of relationship is matched with its semantic counterpart. And thus, the relationship of identity corresponds to that of synonymy between lexemes, inclusion is viewed through the prism of hyponymy/hyperonymy, while the relation of overlap is analyzed as semantic compatibility/affinity, and finally, disjunction is examined as semantic incompatibility/disaffinity between lexemes.

The division into the four categories – logical relations not only clarifies the discussed material but the discussion itself facilitates comprehension due to the use of numerous examples which help to create a complete image of the complexity of semantic relations. Moreover, the author's guidance through the four basic semantic relations familiarizes students with the working of the language lexical system as well as with the abundance of required terminology. Having passed through the contents of **Making Relations in**

**the Lexicon**, English Philology students, especially freshmen, become acquainted with the intricacies of the lexical system at each level of its dynamic formation and development.

**Lexical Fields** is yet another part of the book devoted to the study of lexicon. At first, the definition of the term **lexical field** is given to explain the mechanism of field creation. Hence, the reader learns that although the members of lexical fields are not synonymous, they are put together by a common semantic unit known as common dominator of meaning. The understanding of this mechanism is crucial for the students of modern philology, especially when they strive with their vocabulary extension and expansion.

The opening discussion of the chapter is the first step towards yet a deeper penetration of the problems related to the working out of lexical fields. Creating them, a philology student has to take into account that lexical fields may also split into two distinctive categories: linear and hierarchical. Moreover, students also learn that one lexeme can appear in more than one lexical field.

As far as a hierarchical lexical field is concerned, the reader's attention is directed towards two types: (a) branching hierarchies, characteristic of the relation of dominance and the relation of difference, and (b) non-branching hierarchies which are based on the principle of order which permits their lexical units to be arranged in a sequential order. The thorough presentation and discussion on lexical fields is given in a highly professional academic language but plain and comprehensive at the same time.

The final chapter under the title **Dictionaries as a Gateway to Lexicography** is devoted, as the title implies, to dictionaries viewed as tools to be used by lexicographers and philology students.

The contents of the chapter inform us that dictionaries are the products of lexicography and lexicographers who try to do their best to work out a universal product which at the same time does not deviate from the rules that are sanctioned by lexicography. Although dictionaries vary and differ in their treatment of dictionary items and preferences to structures where some rely on microstructure while some other on mesostructure, macrostructure or megastructure, all of them serve one purpose – they are reference works containing a list of words in an alphabetical order, giving their meaning, translation or other information.

With reference to the above mentioned differences, dictionaries essentially differ in their arrangement - those which are arranged alphabetically, and those where words are grouped in topics, that is thematically or by lexical fields. Moreover, dictionaries vary in the size of format: large dictio-

naries, medium sized dictionaries, and small dictionaries; they also differ in the number of languages: monolingual dictionaries and bilingual dictionaries.

Numerous examples of dictionaries and their presentation in the chapter give the student an overall image of the basic tool for success in language studies and the instruction how to use it. The discussion on dictionaries in the final chapter has a practical aspect since students are very rarely instructed on how to work with dictionaries effectively.

The presented above revision of the book entitled "**Selected Chapters in English Lexicology, Part I: Lexical Semantics and Lexicography**" by **Klaudia Bednarova-Gibova**, gives a general image and profile of the publication. The image would not have been complete if some adjunct parts of the revised book had not been discussed. First of all a substantial aid for the reader is the closing part of each chapter where he finds the summary of the chapter material but also questions and tasks to think about. Not only does the closing part offer a revision of the presented material but it also stirs students into its deeper penetration and critical inspection.

In addition to the seven main chapters discussed above, the publication contains two more parts which have to be considered as extra support to the reader. These are the **Glossary of Terms** used in the publication and **Bibliography and References**. Especially Bibliography and References, although an additional part, can be viewed as a guide to lexical semantics and lexicology.

Taking the above presented opinion and remarks into consideration, it can be clearly stated, without question and reservation, that the book by Klaudia Bednarova-Gibova becomes a sort of compendium designed for freshmen of English, especially English linguistics. Despite its limited size (114 pages of format A4), **Selected Chapters in English Lexicology, Part I: Lexical Semantics and Lexicography** appears to be a very interesting offer filling the gap, as the author says, "*in the need for a modern introduction to English lexicology*". *Nomen omen*, the approach and presentation of the material are very modern as well as exciting and stimulating. In this respect, the publication deserves a special attention of academics engaged in fostering future English philologists as it becomes a rudimentary source of information in the discussed subject matter. Moreover, since the book is very neatly organized and characteristic of a plain and digestible language, it can be recommended as a source of aid and support that may be drawn upon when needed by first-year students of English, serving them as introduction to English lexicology. Therefore, the reviewed publication by **Klaudia Bednarova-Gibova** is that sort of resource book which every

student of English should be acquainted with, and which would stimulate the reader to further studies in the field.

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