

TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC HÀ NỘI

An Insight into
ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY
TỪ VỰNG HỌC TIẾNG ANH

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PREFACE

This material is compiled, first and foremost, to satisfy the demand for learning and teaching materials in the subject of lexicology at Hanoi University but not to serve any commercial purpose. It comprises, besides the first unit serving as an introduction to the subject, nine other units – each deals with a major matter in the study of the English vocabulary.

The material is intended as a course-book for English language students whose crucial requirement at the university or college is to fully grasp the nature of English words. It is also intended as a reference book for all those who find a thorough understanding of the complex nature of words and a clever and exact use of words very important for them.

The aims of this material are:

- *Providing learners with the very basic understanding of the operation of the English vocabulary,*
- *Enabling learners to know how to make new words, and to be aware of the importance of using the right words in different types of texts,*
- *Providing learners with the basic knowledge of linguistic phenomena concerning the English vocabulary,*
- *Giving learners confidence and refinement in the use of English words and expressions.*

During the process of compilation the compiler tried to make it complete with definitions and examples for most linguistic concepts, terms dealt with in the book and update it with “fresh language” collected from books, study reports, dictionaries, newspapers, reviews, etc. The compiler, making full use of his teaching experience, also complements the work with jokes, puns, anecdotes, extracts to help learners relieve their pains in learning such a hard subject as lexicology. Thus, while studying fundamentals of the main problems associated with English vocabulary, the users can associate them with more authentic everyday language to better understand the practicality of what they are studying and find interest in the subject they are learning.

If a language we are studying can be compared to a society in which we are living, then each word or expression can be compared to a person in that society. Accordingly, the right or the wrong use of a word in a text can sometimes bring about the same advantage or disadvantage that the right or the wrong use of a person in an organization may result in.

The compiler hopes that this material will make a considerable contribution to improving the teaching and learning of lexicology, one of the three main subjects in the study of linguistics, at the English Department of Hanoi University.

*Compiler
Nguyễn Mạnh Hùng*

HOW TO USE THIS COURSE BOOK

Notes for teachers

The contents of each unit in this course book can be presented in the form of:

- a lecture on the topic
- tutorials
- presentations
- group discussions

Notes for students

Before you start work

First of all, look at the contents, familiarizing yourselves with the topics covered.

Make sure that you understand the terminologies by looking at the glossary from page 180 to page 186.

Skim quickly through the entire book, paying attention to subtitles printed in bold-type capital letters to grasp the main content as well as the lay out of each unit.

Working through a unit

Read each part in the unit carefully, highlighting or underlining what you think new or important to you.

Study the examples given. Think if you can have similar ones of your own.

Try to relate what you are reading to relevant matters in your mother tongue.

Study the questions or discussion and activities at the end of each unit to check your understanding of the key issues presented in the unit.

When you have finished

Remember to do the exercises to consolidate your knowledge of the subject you have learned as well as to find out what you are still missing in it.

Revise at regular intervals after finishing a unit. Without revision you are likely to forget and so waste the effort you have exerted. In your initial work and your revision you should consult a good dictionary.

Choosing a dictionary

A good monolingual dictionary is indispensable to anyone wishing to have a full mastery of a language. Arm yourself with a good dictionary that contains:

- Etymology of the word (for example, native or Latin or French, etc.),
- Alternative meanings as well as definition,
- A clear guide to how to use the word,
- Clear examples of the word in different contexts,
- Stylistic characteristics of the word (for example, formal, informal, slang, etc.),
- Idiomatic expressions with the presence of the word.

Suggested readings

1. Alexander (1994), *Right Word, Wrong Word: Words and Structures confused and misused by learners of English*. Longman ELT.
2. Bùi Minh Toàn (1999), *Từ trong hoạt động giao tiếp tiếng Việt*, NXB Giáo dục.
3. Crystal D. (1992), *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. CUP.
4. Đinh Trọng Lạc (1999), *99 Phương pháp và biện pháp tu từ*, NXB Giáo dục.
5. Fromkin V., Rodman R., Hyams. N. (2002), *An Introduction to Language* (7th ed). Thomson/Heinle.
6. Gordon A.I., et al (1983), *Word Finder*. NSW: Reader's Digest Services Pty Ltd.
7. Hurford R.J. and Heasley B. (1983) *Semantics: A Course book*. Cambridge: CUP.
8. Nguyễn Như Ý (1998), *Từ điển Giải thích thuật ngữ ngôn ngữ học*. NXB Giáo dục.
9. Nguyễn Thành Chương (2007), *Enlarging your vocabulary*. NXB Tuổi trẻ.
10. Nguyễn Thiện Giáp (1998), *Từ vựng học tiếng Việt*. NXB Giáo dục
11. Nguyễn Văn Phú (2000), *Tiếng Anh lý thú – Chuyện chữ và nghĩa tiếng Anh*, NXB TP HCM.
12. Phạm Văn Bình (1999), *Tục ngữ nước Anh & thành ngữ tiếng Anh giàu hình ảnh*. NXB Hải Phòng.
13. Phạm Văn Bình (2003), *Thành Ngữ Tiếng Việt* (Vietnamese Idioms). NXB Đại học Sư phạm.
14. Pocheptsov G.G. (1974), *Language and Humour*. Vysca Skola Publishers.
15. Võ Đại Quang (2003), *Semantics* (Ngữ nghĩa học), Đại học Ngoại ngữ - ĐHQGHN.

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