

ABOUT DICTIONARIES AND THEIR TYPES

Tilovova Guzal Rustamovna

Senior Lecturer, University of Economics and Pedagogy

Bozorova Gulsanam Alisher qizi

1st-year Student, University of Economics and Pedagogy

Department of Philology and Uzbek Language Teaching

Annotation: *This article explores the concept of dictionaries, their role in the language system, and their significance. It provides information about various types of dictionaries—translation, orthographic, synonym, etymological, phraseological, terminological, and explanatory dictionaries. In addition, the article discusses the role of dictionaries in developing correct speech habits, preserving linguistic richness, and supporting academic research. The purpose of the work is to highlight the invaluable importance of dictionaries in studying the lexical wealth of the Uzbek language.*

Keywords: *dictionary, explanatory dictionary, orthographic dictionary, language, lexicon, terminological dictionary, linguistic wealth, lexicography, electronic version, etymological dictionary, synonym, antonym, homonym.*

Language and the Role of Dictionaries

Language is the primary means of human communication, as well as a mirror of thought and culture. The richness, beauty, and level of development of any language are determined by the size and diversity of its vocabulary. Dictionaries play a crucial role in collecting, preserving, and systematizing this lexical wealth. Through dictionaries, we gain clear knowledge about the meanings, spellings, pronunciations, origins, and usage domains of words. Therefore, dictionaries are considered essential sources for learning, teaching, research, and practical use of a language. The word *lugʻat* (dictionary) originates from the Arabic word *lugʻoch*, meaning “word” or “speech.” A dictionary is a scientific reference work that organizes linguistic units systematically and provides information about their meanings, pronunciations, spellings, origins, and grammatical features.

In linguistics, the term dictionary is used in two senses:

As the total vocabulary of a language (e.g., “the lexicon of the Uzbek language”).

As a reference work containing information about words (e.g., “an explanatory dictionary”).

Dictionaries have existed since ancient times and were originally created to study foreign languages and to support translation. Today, dictionaries exist not only in printed form but also widely in electronic formats.

Types of Dictionaries. In linguistics, dictionaries are classified according to their purpose, content, and structure. The major types include:

1. **Explanatory dictionaries** – clarify the meanings, stylistic features, usage areas, and examples of words.
2. **Orthographic dictionaries** – regulate correct spelling of words.
3. **Translation dictionaries** – provide equivalents of words in another language.
4. **Phraseological dictionaries** – explain the meanings of idioms, proverbs, and set expressions.
5. **Synonym, antonym, and homonym dictionaries** – describe semantic relationships among words.
6. **Terminological dictionaries** – explain terms related to specific fields (technology, economics, medicine, etc.).
7. **Dialect dictionaries** – collect words characteristic of specific regional dialects, such as the Tashkent, Qashqadaryo, or Khorezm dialects.
8. **Etymological dictionaries** – provide information about the origin, historical changes, and development of words.
9. **Orthoepic and orthographic dictionaries** – present correct pronunciation and spelling norms; these are valuable for improving speech culture and literacy.

The Importance of Dictionaries

Dictionaries play an essential role in learning and properly using a language, enriching vocabulary, and regulating both written and spoken communication. They serve the following functions:

- Systematize the lexical wealth of the language
 - Help users learn new words
 - Strengthen literary norms
 - Facilitate translation and educational processes.
- The field that studies dictionary compilation is known as lexicography. In Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as Hodi Zarif, T. Mirzayev, and Sh. Rahmatullayev have made significant contributions to the development of lexicography.

Conclusion

In conclusion, dictionaries are fundamental resources for collecting, preserving, and studying the vocabulary of a language. They serve as essential tools for using language correctly and fluently, understanding word meanings accurately, and improving speech culture. Every learner, student, and language enthusiast can enrich their knowledge by making a habit of using dictionaries regularly. A dictionary is the mirror of a nation's intellect, the heart of the language, and the key to its culture.

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