

DICTIONARIES: THEIR TYPES AND FUNCTIONS

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Abstract: *This article provides a detailed scholarly analysis of dictionaries and their types. It examines the content, structure, and functions of explanatory, orthographic, translation, phraseological, synonym, antonym, etymological, orthoepic, terminological, and encyclopedic dictionaries. In addition, the article highlights lexicography as a field and emphasizes its scientific and practical significance.*

Keywords: *explanatory dictionaries, translation dictionaries, orthographic dictionaries, synonym dictionaries, antonym dictionaries, phraseological dictionaries, etymological dictionaries, orthoepic dictionaries, encyclopedic dictionaries, general functions of dictionaries.*

The development of a language depends on its internal resources, lexical richness, and the order and consistency within the linguistic system. Such order is mainly shaped through dictionaries, as they serve as the memory and mirror of a language. Dictionaries accumulate the lexical wealth of a language and present it to users in an organized manner. Therefore, dictionaries play an invaluable role in linguistics, education, translation, literature, and even in everyday life. It is well known that lexicographic activity has existed since ancient times in the history of Turkic peoples. The history of Uzbek lexicography can be said to begin with Mahmud Kashgari's *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk*. This dictionary not only describes words and their meanings but also serves as a rich source of information about the history, customs, and geographical distribution of Turkic peoples. *At-Tuhfat az-Zakiyya fi al-Lughāt at-Turkiyya* is among the ancient dictionaries created after Mahmud Kashgari's work. These dictionaries possess great historical and educational value.

The Concept of a Dictionary

The concept of a dictionary has been defined in various ways. The word dictionary originates from Arabic and conveys meanings such as "language," "dialect," "speech," "word," and "expression." A dictionary is a reference work that includes words, phraseological units, paremias, morphemes, and other linguistic units arranged according to specific principles and purposes, providing information about their meanings, usage, origin, and translations into other languages.

Types of Dictionaries

1. Explanatory dictionaries

Explanatory dictionaries comprehensively reflect the core lexical stock of a language. In such dictionaries, the meaning of each word is explained on a scientific basis, and when necessary, multiple meanings are presented sequentially. Many explanatory dictionaries also include information about a word's origin, usage sphere, and examples. These dictionaries enrich a person's speech and serve as a primary source for establishing literary language norms. Official language use, educational curricula, textbooks, and examination standards are largely based on explanatory dictionaries. Normative explanatory dictionaries include only literary language units, excluding dialectal and colloquial words.

2. Translation dictionaries

Translation dictionaries serve as a bridge between two or more languages. They are essential for language learners, translators, and readers of foreign literature. Such dictionaries provide basic meanings, figurative meanings, stylistic nuances, collocations, and phraseological equivalents. For example, a single English word may have several Uzbek equivalents, and translation dictionaries explain the contexts in which each variant is used.

3. Orthographic dictionaries

Orthographic dictionaries are the main sources that establish written language norms. They indicate the correct spelling of words. Incorrect spelling negatively affects the quality and clarity of texts; therefore, orthographic dictionaries are widely used by teachers, students, journalists, writers, and officials.

The main functions of orthographic dictionaries include:

- maintaining orthographic norms;
- indicating words written together or separately;
- presenting the standard literary form of variant words;
- showing the written form of syllables that may be omitted in pronunciation.

4. Synonym dictionaries

Synonym dictionaries compile words with similar meanings that differ in stylistic coloring or expressive intensity. They help avoid repetition and enrich textual expression. For example, synonyms of happy include joyful, glad, content, and pleased. Such dictionaries enhance expressive richness and improve lexical choice culture.

5. Antonym dictionaries

Antonym dictionaries present words with opposite meanings, such as light–dark, friend–enemy, hard–soft. They strengthen contrast in texts and help convey ideas more emphatically. A notable example is An Explanatory Dictionary of Uzbek Antonyms compiled by Sh. Rahmatullayev and N. Mamatov.

6. Phraseological dictionaries

Phraseological dictionaries include stable expressions, idioms, proverbs, and colloquial phrases. Their meanings are often figurative rather than literal. For example, the expression “his heart is like a mountain” conveys a sense of great joy.

7. Etymological dictionaries

Etymological dictionaries explain the historical roots of words, their source languages, and semantic changes over time. They reflect historical development, cultural exchange, and the evolution of borrowed words. For instance, many technical terms originate from Russian and English, while religious terms often derive from Arabic.

8. Orthoepic dictionaries

Orthoepic dictionaries indicate correct pronunciation, including stress placement, vowel length, and the articulation of soft or hard sounds. Notable works include *The Orthoepic Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* by M. Sodiqova and O‘. Usmonov (1977) and *The Dictionary of Uzbek Literary Pronunciation* by E. Begmatov (1984).

9. Encyclopedic dictionaries

Encyclopedic dictionaries provide concise and precise information about people, place names, historical events, and scientific concepts, in addition to lexical units. They typically explain concepts denoted by proper nouns and are traditionally referred to as qomus in the history of Eastern, including Uzbek, scholarship.

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