



Lexicographic Analysis of the Terms “Morphology” and “Syntax”

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Abstract: The given article deals with the issues of defining terms morphology and syntax in the explanatory dictionaries of English, Russian and Uzbek languages and other scientific sources. The author gives definitions of the terms given in the chosen dictionaries and books, compares and analyses them.

Keywords: term, lexicography, morphology, syntax, parts of speech, word forms, grammatical meaning, morpheme, ways of connection.

Introduction

It is well known that the science of lexicography has been developing recently, and new scientific works are being created in this field. This development did not happen by itself. Undoubtedly, it was based on a number of known circumstances. In particular, the development of applied lexicography depends on a number of factors, such as the increase of the media due to the scientific and technological revolution, the expansion of communication between the social sciences, the scientific description and normalization of language, the growth of speech culture. Also, the increasing social importance of dictionaries is getting special attention in this regard. In particular, explanatory dictionaries are important not only because they incorporate the knowledge acquired by society in a given period, but also as a reliable tool for reproducing the accumulated knowledge to the public and for the acquisition of current scientific knowledge.

It should be noted that the achievements in the field of lexicography depends, first of all, on the practical significance of the dictionaries created and being created. The number of dictionaries created in recent times has increased significantly. Again, they have improved a lot in terms of quality. In addition to the practical significance of lexicography, its theory and special methods have been improved. The efforts and work of lexicographers is especially appreciated.

Explanatory dictionaries provide definitions of terms specific to different fields. In particular, linguistic terms are directly related to it. Thus, explanatory dictionaries can become the object of study in the field of linguistic terminology.

Despite a number of studies in the field of linguistic terminology, there are still many problematic issues to be investigated. Among such issues is defining linguistic terms in dictionaries. Consequently, it can be observed that in each dictionary the same linguistic term is interpreted differently. In this regard, it is worth noting that several dictionaries have different definitions of linguistic terms such as “morphology” and “syntax”. For example, the term "morphology" is defined in the dictionaries we study as follows:

Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (further Oxford Dictionary): morph·ology [mo:ˈfaledzi; NAmE mo:rˈfa:l] 2. (*linguistics*) the forms of words studied as a branch of linguistics¹. According to Oxford dictionary, morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies word forms.

¹ Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary. – Oxford University Press, Seventh edition, 2006. – P. 954.

The term "morphology" is defined in the Russian dictionary edited by S. Ojegov (further Ojegov's Dictionary) as follows: Морфология, *-и, ж. (сней.)*. 2. Раздел грамматики – наука о частях речи, об их категориях и о формах слов. *прил. морфологический, -ая, -ое²*. “Morphology, *fem. (spec.)*. 2. A branch of grammar - the science about parts of speech, about their categories and word forms. *adj. morphological*” (*the translation belongs to the author of the article*). Apparently, according to Ojegov's Dictionary, the term *morphology* given with the sign “*special*” belongs to the feminine gender, and it is noted that it is a branch of grammar about word groups, their categories, and word forms.

The definitions of the term "morphology" in the Uzbek dictionaries can also be compared. For example: Explanatory Dictionary of Uzbek Language (first edition) (further EDUL-1): Морфология [*p<грек*] 2. Сўзларнинг состави ва ўзгариш формалари системаси, грамматиканинг сўз состави ва формаларини ўрганувчи бўлими. *Ўзбек тили морфологияси³*; - Morphology [*R<Greek*] 2. The branch of grammar that studies the structure and system of word changing forms, and word forms. *Morphology of the Uzbek language (the translation belongs to the author of the article)*;

Explanatory Dictionary of Uzbek Language (second edition) (further EDUL-2): Морфология [*юн. morphe – шакл + logos – таълимот*] 2 *тлш.* Тил тизимининг бир сўз доирасида грамматик маъноларни ифодалаш воситаларини камраб олувчи қисми. 3 *тлш.* Грамматиканинг сўз тузилиши (таркиби)ни, сўз доирасида грамматик маъноларнинг ифодаланишини, сўз ўзгартурувчи шаклларни, шунингдек, сўзларнинг сўз туркумлари бўйича гуруҳланишини ўрганувчи бўлими; сўз шакллари ҳақидаги таълимот. *Ўзбек тили морфологияси. Фель морфологияси⁴* - Morphology [*gr. morphe - form + logos - study*] 2. *ling.* The part of the language system that involves the means of expressing grammatical meanings within a word. 3. *ling.* The branch of grammar that studies word structure (composition), expression of grammatical meanings within a word, word modifying forms, as well as the grouping of words into parts of speech; the study of word forms. *Morphology of the Uzbek language. Verb morphology.*

Apparently, the definitions of morphology in the explanatory dictionaries of the Uzbek language, in our opinion, are not without some lexicographic errors or omissions. The definition of the term in EDUL-1 is given without a sign “*ling.*” and some Russian words are used though alternative Uzbek translations of these words (such as *состав, форма, система*) exist in Uzbek language, and the definition is not complete and sufficient. The same can be said about EDUL-2. It is difficult to form a clear and concise idea of the term *morphology* from these definitions.

Macmillan English Dictionary for advanced learners⁵ (Macmillan Dictionary) defines the term as follows: morphology [mo:ˈfælədzi] *noun* [U] 2. (*linguistics*) the study of how words are formed in a language – *morphological adj*”.⁶

We could find the following definition in Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics (further Longman Dictionary)⁷: morphology [mo:ˈfælədzi // mo:rˈfa:-] *n* *morphological adj.* 1. the study of MORPHEMES and their different forms (ALLOMORPHS), and the way they combine in WORD FORMATION. For example, the English word *unfriendly* is formed from *friend*, the adjective-forming suffix *-ly* and the negative prefix *un-*. 2. a morphemic system: in this sense, one can speak of “comparing the morphology of English with the morphology of German”. See also AFFIX, COMBINING FORM”.⁸

S. Akhmanova's “Dictionary of Linguistic Terms” (Словарь лингвистических терминов) (further DLT) gives the following definition of the term *morphology*: “Морфология *англ.* morphology, *фр.*

² Ожегов С.И., Шведова Н.Ю. Толковый словарь русского языка. – М., 2007. – С. 366.

³ Ўзбек тилининг изоҳли луғати. 1-жилд. З.М.Маъруфов таҳрири остида. – М.: Рус тили, 1981. – Б. 472.

⁴ Ўзбек тилининг изоҳли луғати. 2-жилд. А.Мадвалиев таҳрири остида. – Т.: Ўзбекистон Миллий энциклопедияси, 2006. – Б. 616.

2.1 ⁵ Further we'll use Macmillan Dictionary.

⁶ Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners. – Macmillan Publishers Limited: 2006. – P. 923.

2.1 ⁷ Further we'll use Longman Dictionary

⁸ Jack C., Richards. Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics. – Longman, 1992. – P. 237.

morphologie, *исп.* morfologiya. 1. Раздел языкознания, изучающий разнообразные аспекты строения слова с точки зрения зависимости его значения от составляющих его морфем. Основным предметом морфологии является исследование системы морфологических противопоставлений, свойственных данному языку, т.е. системы его грамматических категорий и способов их выражения, включая учение о формообразовании. *Морфология сравнительная. Морфология сравнительно-историческая.*⁹ - Morphology *eng.* morphology, *fr.* morphologie, *spanish* morfologiya. 1. A section of linguistics that studies various aspects of the structure of a word from point of view of the dependence of its meaning on its constituent morphemes. The main subject of morphology is the study of the system of morphological oppositions which is characteristic of a given language, i.e. the system of its grammatical categories and ways of expressing them, including the study of form structuring. *Comparative morphology. Comparative-historical morphology* (the translation belongs to the author of the article).

J.B. Buranov's opinion on morphology can help students to gain a fuller understanding of this term. In particular, the scientist writes: "Morphology (morphology) from Greek *morphe* - form, *logos* – word - studies morphological structure of words, relationships of morphemes in the formation of grammatical forms, ways of arrangement, oppositions of paradigm-forming forms, parts of speech, and their meanings. The unit of measurement in morphology is a morpheme. According to morphological opposition, in order to have a singular form, it is necessary to have a plural form, in order to have a past tense form there should exist a present tense form. The simple degree form is available because it has a comparative degree form. In general, the science of linguistics is formed on the basis of the theory of oppositions.

Syntax as an important component of grammar has been studied and is being studied in almost all languages. Extensive information is given about its object, basic unit, relationship with other sciences. If we consider how the term *syntax* is given in the above-mentioned dictionaries, we can see that there is a diversity in this regard as well. For example:

In the Oxford dictionary: syn-tax [ˈsɪntæks] *noun* [u] 1.[*linguistics*] the way that words and phrases are put together to form sentences in a language; the rules of grammar for this - compare MORPHOLOGY.¹⁰

In Ojegov's dictionary: Синтаксис, *-а, м.* 1. Раздел грамматики – наука о законах соединения слов и о строении предложений. // *прил.* синтаксический, *-ая, -ое.*¹¹ - Syntax 1. A branch of grammar - a science about the laws of combining words and the structure of sentences. // *adj.* syntactic.

In Macmillan Dictionary: syntax [ˈsɪntæks] *noun* [U] 1. (*linguistics*) the rules about how words are arranged and connected to make phrases and sentences.

In the Longman Dictionary: syntax 1 [ˈsɪntæks] *n* syntactic *adj.* the study of how words combine to form sentences and the rules which govern the formation of sentences. In TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, the syntactic component is one of the three main parts of the grammar. This component contains the rules for forming syntactic structures (see BASE COMPONENT) and rules for changing these structures (see TRANSFORMATIONAL COMPONENT). See also MORPHOLOGY, PHONOLOGY, SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE.

Apparently, *syntax* in the Oxford Dictionary is the science of how words and phrases combine to form sentences, in S. Ojegov's Dictionary it is the science of word association and sentence construction, in the Macmillan Dictionary the rules of connection of words for phrases and sentences, and in the Longman Dictionary the connection of words as well as the rules governing the formation of speech.

In DLT the term *syntax* is defined as follows: "Синтаксис *англ.* syntax, *фр.* syntaxe, *нем.* Syntax, *исп.* sintaxis. 1. Раздел языкознания, предметом которого является как предложение

⁹ Ахманова О.С. Словарь лингвистических терминов. – М.: Советская энциклопедия, 1966. – С. 243.

¹⁰ Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary. – Oxford University Press, Seventh edition, 2006. – P. 1501.

¹¹ Ожегов С.И., Шведова Н.Ю. Тольковый словарь русского языка. - М., 2007. – С. 718.

выступающее в качестве основной единицы речи, так и словосочетание, выступающее в качестве сложного, неопредельного составляющего предложения. *Синтаксис предложения. Синтаксис словосочетаний*".¹² – Syntax-*eng.*, syntaxe-*fr.*, syntax-*germ.*, sintaxis-*span.* 1. A section of linguistics, the subject of which is both a sentence acting as the main unit of speech, and a phrase acting as a complex, non-limiting component of a sentence. *The syntax of the sentence. The syntax of word combinations.*

In EDUL-1 the syntax is: “1. Бирор тилга хос гап курилиши, гапда сўзларнинг бирикиш усуллари; 2. Грамматиканинг гап ва гапда сўзларнинг ўзаро бирикишини ўрганадиган бўлими” - 1. A sentence structure of a certain language, methods of combining words in a sentence; 2. A branch of grammar that studies a sentence and combination of words in sentences. But in EDUL-2 it is stated that the term originated from Greek language and its two meanings are noted: 1) сўзларнинг сўз бирикмаси ва гапларга бирикиш усуллари, сўз бирикмаси ва гапларнинг турлари ва маънолари; 2) грамматиканинг сўзларнинг сўз бирикмалари ва гапларга, содда гапларнинг эса қўшма гапларга бирикиш усуллари, уларнинг тузилиши, маъноси ва вазибаларини ўрганадиган бўлими - 1) ways of combining words into sentences and word combinations, types and meanings of word combinations and sentences; 2) a branch of grammar that studies the methods of combining words into combinations and sentences, simple sentences into compound sentences, their structure, meaning and functions.

The given definitions do not fully meet the requirements of explanatory dictionaries - brevity, conciseness, consistency, and according to our opinion, some definitions are not clearly stated, there are many repetitions there. Also, the relationship of syntax with phonetics is not determined only by intonation, etc.

Concluding all above mentioned information, we can suggest the following definition of *syntax*: “Syntax [gr. syntax - construction, order] *ling.* A branch of grammar that studies the rules of word combining and sentence construction, the connection of sentences in the text, which develops and studies the rules of speech formation. Objects of syntax are word combination and sentence. Accordingly, it is divided into syntax of word combinations and syntax of sentence.

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¹² Ахманова О.С. Словарь лингвистических терминов. – М.: Советская энциклопедия, 1966. – С. 409.