

CHAPTER 8: THE NATURE OF THE LEXICON

1. What is a lexeme?
2. It's quite probable that English has more words than most comparable world languages. Why is that the case?
3. What are abbreviations and what types of abbreviations do you know?
4. What are proper names?
5. What is the difference between active and passive vocabulary?

CHAPTER 9: THE SOURCES OF THE LEXICON

1. The source of the lexicon: where do the items in the English lexicon come from?
2. What is the so-called "common core", what are the "common words" of the English language?
3. Crystal in his book talks about "native vocabulary", when he is listing the sources of the English lexicon: what does it mean? And can you provide some examples?
4. Crystal in his book talks about "foreign borrowings" also called loan words, when he is listing the sources of the English lexicon: what does it mean? And can you provide some examples?
5. How and why is word-formation so important to the development of the English lexicon?
6. What types of word formation do you know? First of all, the three major types of word-formation? Then, the so-called unusual structures?
7. When we talk about lexical creation, what is a coinage?
8. People do some creative and even bizarre things with vocabulary: what is a nonce word?
9. People do some creative and even bizarre things with vocabulary: what is a neologism?

CHAPTER 11: THE STRUCTURE OF THE LEXICON

1. When we talk about the structure of the lexicon, what are we referring to (semantic structure)?
2. A fruitful notion in investigating lexical structure is the semantic or lexical field. How can we define this notion (semantic or lexical field)?
3. To what extent is it possible to assign all the lexemes in English to a semantic field in an unambiguous way and why is this task so difficult?
4. How are semantic fields structured? We have two main dimensions: horizontal and vertical.
5. When we say "you must know a word by the company it keeps", what do we mean? /what is a collocation?
6. What is an idiom? What are the main features which identify an idiom?
7. What are lexical phrases/what types of lexical phrases do you know?
8. What is a synonym?
9. What is an antonym?
10. What is a hyponym/hypernym?

CHAPTER 19: VARIETIES OF DISCOURSE

1. how can we define a "discourse" and why is it interesting to study the way people build up a discourse?
2. what is a text and what is a text variety (also known as register)?
3. what are sociolinguistic and stylistic features?
4. what is the main difference between spoken and written language (i.e., speech and writing)?
5. what is the difference between monologue vs dialogue? And what is a spoken monologue/spoken dialogue?
6. what are the two possible situations in which someone may choose to engage in a monologue, whether spoken or written?
7. how can we classify dialogues?

CHAPTER 20: REGIONAL VARIATION

1. what is the difference between accent and dialect?
2. why is it difficult to estimate how many differences there are between American/British English? And what are the main differences that we may detect eventually?
3. what kinds of distinctions have to be made when describing the lexicon of American/British English?
4. what are the main grammatical differences between American/British English?
5. can you name and describe three US regional dialects?
6. how can we define variation in British English?
7. what are the main features of Estuary English?

CHAPTER 21: SOCIAL VARIATION

1. what is the difference between regional language variation and social language variation and what is social language variation?
2. how can we define received pronunciation and what are its main features?
3. what does the age-old argument between linguistic prescriptivists and descriptivists consist in?
4. what is the difference between correctness and appropriateness?
5. how and why are the notions of appropriateness and naturalness interrelated?
6. what are gender issues in the English language? What does gender-neutral English entail and how can we be gender-neutral in English?
7. what is occupational dialect and can you provide some examples?

CHAPTER 22: PERSONAL VARIATION

1. what is the difference between social and personal variation and what is individuality in language or idiolect?
2. how can we define deviance?
3. How can we define verbal humour?
4. Is there any difference between jokes and puns?
5. what types of humour do you know and can you describe them?
(graphological/phonological/morphological/lexical/syntactic/discourse/variety)

CHAPTER 25: NEW WAYS OF STUDYING ENGLISH

1. Are there any new ways of studying English?
2. What is a corpus and how/why are corpora useful? How can we use them to improve our knowledge of a given language?
3. What is the British National Corpus, how can we describe it?