

Typological Classification of Dictionaries and Their Functional Significance

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Abstract: This article explores the typological classification of dictionaries and their functional significance in language studies. Dictionaries can be categorized into monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual types depending on the number of languages they include. Monolingual dictionaries, such as Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, provide definitions and examples within a single language and are crucial for understanding its internal structure. Bilingual and multilingual dictionaries serve as translation tools, facilitating communication and semantic equivalence across languages. The work of V. K. Muller, particularly his Russian-English Dictionary, is highlighted as a foundational contribution to translation lexicography. This article analyzes the linguistic features, classification, and practical significance of various types of dictionaries in contemporary linguistics.

Keywords: Lexicography, dictionary typology, monolingual dictionary, bilingual dictionary, multilingual dictionary, translation dictionary, language learning, semantics.

Introduction: Lexicography is a vital branch of linguistics that focuses on the theory and practice of dictionary compilation. Dictionaries serve as key tools for organizing lexical units, explaining their meanings, and demonstrating practical usage. Based on the number of languages they cover, dictionaries are classified into monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual types.

Monolingual dictionaries, such as Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, provide definitions and examples within the same language, helping learners and linguists understand the internal structure and semantics of a language. Bilingual and multilingual dictionaries, on the other hand, function as translation tools that facilitate semantic correspondence and communication across languages. Notably, V. K. Muller’s Russian-English Dictionary was one of the first large English–Russian translation dictionaries and has significantly influenced subsequent lexicographic works. This study examines dictionary typology, its linguistic features, and the practical relevance of

different dictionary types in modern linguistics.

Since the creation of the world, humanity has sought to communicate with one another through various means. Initially, communication was carried out through gestures; later, people began to communicate by imitating sounds. This process gradually developed, leading to the emergence of different languages. It is impossible to imagine a language without its lexical layer, that is, without its existing words and word combinations.

The need to collect lexical units in one place and organize them led to the emergence of another branch of linguistics—lexicography. In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, dictionaries, which form the basis of lexicography, are defined as follows: A dictionary is a book that compiles the words of a language in a certain order (usually alphabetical), providing their explanations or translating them into another language. The given definition is general and does not cover many features of a dictionary such as synonyms, etymological origins, and figurative meanings. Lexicography, however, is the theory and

practice of compiling dictionaries. Thus, it would not be an exaggeration to say that lexicography is a branch of linguistics that studies the principles of compiling dictionaries and their theoretical aspects.

Dictionaries play a significant role in the development of humanity. They serve as an inanimate translator between speakers of different languages, acting as a bridge between them. At times, they also function as a key intermediary for speakers of the same language, helping them understand specialized discourse and grasp the meanings of terms within a particular field.

We can observe that dictionaries are classified into several types based on their size, purpose and function, type of lexical units, method of description, number of languages included, and the scope of word usage. For example, according to their size, dictionaries are divided into large, medium, and small types. Large dictionaries usually contain more than one hundred thousand words. As an example, we can mention the encyclopedic dictionary *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, created by W. H. D. Pleay and others. Medium-sized dictionaries are semi-abridged or desk-sized dictionaries containing between forty thousand and one hundred thousand words. Sh. Butayev's *English–Uzbek Dictionary* can be considered an example of a medium-sized dictionary.

Small dictionaries, on the other hand, are abridged or pocket-sized dictionaries that include between ten thousand and forty thousand words, such as F. Rahmatov's *English–Uzbek Dictionary*. These types of dictionaries are particularly convenient because they can be easily carried around at all times.

The types of lexical units presented in dictionaries, according to their classification methods, are divided into encyclopedic (not limited to language but covering all branches of society) and linguistic (philological) dictionaries. Encyclopedic dictionaries differ from other dictionaries by their broad scope; they not only provide the meanings of words but also include facts about them, various information, diagrams, events, photographs, and maps. Linguistic dictionaries, on the other hand, present words in terms of their linguistic and speech-related features, such as grammatical, stylistic, etymological, pronunciation, spelling, phraseological units, synonyms, antonyms, morphemes, and other linguistic phenomena. Such dictionaries approach lexical units strictly from a linguistic perspective and do not provide additional information related to the word, historical events, or other extralinguistic details.

As time progresses, the need for repeated editions of terminological dictionaries continues to arise. "...Creating explanatory terminological dictionaries

that cover the terms of each field as comprehensively as possible, accurately and fully reflect the essence of phenomena, and define the terms is one of the primary tasks of specialists in that field. For this purpose, the first explanatory dictionary of Uzbek linguistic terms was compiled and published by the O'qituvchi publishing house in 1985". This dictionary was republished in 2002, and the author notes: "However, a number of reasons and requirements brought the revision and republication of this dictionary onto the agenda. The most important of these was the granting of state status to the Uzbek language". Thus, terminological dictionaries require revision and republication based on both direct and indirect reasons.

Dictionaries, in turn, are classified according to the number of languages they include: monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual dictionaries. For example, *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* and *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* are considered monolingual dictionaries. In such dictionaries, words and phrases are explained in the same language, usually with definitions and examples. Bilingual and multilingual dictionaries, since they combine different languages, are also referred to in linguistics as translation dictionaries. The *Russian-English Dictionary* created by V. K. Muller was one of the first large English–Russian translation dictionaries and served as a foundation for later dictionaries. Multilingual dictionaries, on the other hand, include lexemes from more than two languages and function as translation tools across multiple languages.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the typological classification of dictionaries is essential for understanding their functions and practical applications. Monolingual dictionaries provide insights into the internal structure and semantics of a language, while bilingual and multilingual dictionaries are indispensable tools for translation and cross-linguistic communication.

The pioneering work of V. K. Muller and his *Russian-English Dictionary* illustrates the historical and practical significance of translation dictionaries. In today's globalized world, multilingual dictionaries are increasingly important for academic, educational, and professional purposes. Therefore, the study and development of modern, comprehensive dictionaries remain a key task in contemporary lexicography.

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