

## COMPILING DICTIONARIES

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**Annotation:** The article “Compiling Dictionary” explores the theoretical and practical principles of dictionary compilation, emphasizing its significance in linguistic research and language preservation. It examines the stages of lexicographic work, including corpus creation, word selection, definition formulation, and the integration of semantic, phonetic, and grammatical information. The study highlights modern challenges in dictionary compilation, such as the incorporation of neologisms, dialectal variants, and the role of computational tools in automating lexicographic processes. By analyzing case studies of successful dictionaries, the article provides insights into maintaining accuracy, cultural relevance, and usability. This work contributes to the field of philology by offering methodologies for creating comprehensive and user-friendly lexicographic resources.

**Keywords:** Dictionary compilation, lexicography, linguistic research, corpus creation, word selection, semantic analysis, grammatical information, neologisms, dialectal variants, computational tools, philology.

The art and science of lexicography have evolved significantly, reflecting changes in linguistic theory, technology, and cultural dynamics. Dictionaries are indispensable tools for preserving language, supporting education, and facilitating communication. This article addresses the essential steps of dictionary compilation, emphasizing how lexicographers balance linguistic accuracy, cultural relevance, and user accessibility.

**Corpus Creation:** A corpus serves as the backbone of dictionary compilation. It is a structured collection of texts (written, spoken, or both) that represent the

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language's usage across different contexts. The creation of a corpus involves several key steps: Lexicographers must determine the purpose of the dictionary (e.g., general, specialized, or learner-focused) and select materials that align with this goal. A diverse range of texts is necessary to capture the variety in language usage. These may include literary works, newspapers, academic papers, social media content, and transcripts of spoken conversations. A corpus should include samples from various genres, registers, and regions to reflect the full spectrum of the language. For example, formal and informal contexts, regional dialects, and technical jargon must be considered.

Semantic Analysis is a critical component of dictionary compilation, as it focuses on accurately defining the meanings of words and their usage. This process involves several important steps and considerations. Identifying Polysemy and Homonymy: Polysemy: Many words have multiple related meanings (e.g., "run" as in "a person runs" vs. "a machine runs"). Lexicographers must distinguish and document these meanings clearly. Homonymy: Words that are spelled or pronounced the same but have unrelated meanings (e.g., "bank" as a financial institution vs. "bank" of a river) are treated separately in dictionaries.

Grammatical Information: Including grammatical information in a dictionary ensures that users can not only understand a word's meaning but also use it correctly. Key aspects of grammatical information include: Part of Speech: Each word is labeled with its grammatical category (e.g., noun, verb, adjective). For example, "run" can function as both a noun ("a quick run") and a verb ("to run fast"). Inflectional Forms: Regular and irregular forms of words are documented, such as plurals for nouns (e.g., "child" → "children") and verb conjugations (e.g., "go" → "went"). Syntactic Patterns: Dictionaries often indicate how a word fits into a sentence.

Neologisms are newly coined words or expressions that reflect changes in culture, technology, and social dynamics. Including neologisms in a dictionary ensures that it remains up-to-date and relevant. Neologisms often arise from technological advancements (e.g., "selfie"), social trends (e.g., "cancel culture"), or linguistic borrowings (e.g., "emoji" from Japanese).

Dialectal Variants refer to words, phrases, or pronunciations specific to particular regions, ethnic groups, or social classes. Including these in a dictionary enriches its representation of the language and highlights its diversity. Regional Variants: Words used predominantly in specific geographical areas (e.g., "y'all" in the southern United States, "bairn" in Scotland). Social Dialects (Sociolects):



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Words associated with particular social groups or professions (e.g., "legalese" in law, "jargon" in technology). Ethnic Dialects: Variants influenced by the cultural or linguistic heritage of an ethnic group (e.g., African American Vernacular English). Phonetic Variants: Differences in pronunciation that lead to distinct spellings (e.g., "color" in American English vs. "colour" in British English). Lexical Borrowings: Dialects often incorporate words from other languages due to historical or cultural influences (e.g., Cajun English with French-origin terms).

The Role of Computational Tools: Technological advancements have revolutionized lexicography. Computational tools assist in corpus analysis, automate word frequency calculations, and even generate draft definitions. These tools streamline the compilation process, allowing lexicographers to focus on fine-tuning and verifying entries. Machine learning and natural language processing further enhance the ability to handle large datasets and identify patterns.

Conclusion: Dictionary compilation is a dynamic and multifaceted endeavor that requires a balance between linguistic precision, cultural representation, and practical usability. The inclusion of neologisms and dialectal variants highlights the evolving and diverse nature of language, ensuring that dictionaries remain relevant in an ever-changing world. Through careful corpus creation and word selection, lexicographers provide a foundation for accurate and representative lexical entries. Semantic analysis and grammatical information further enhance the utility of dictionaries by offering clarity and guidance for language use. Modern challenges, such as the rapid emergence of new words and the variability of dialects, underscore the importance of leveraging computational tools and extensive corpora to support lexicographic work. By addressing these complexities thoughtfully, lexicographers contribute to the preservation, understanding, and accessibility of language. Ultimately, dictionaries serve as vital resources for education, communication, and cultural exchange, bridging the gap between linguistic tradition and contemporary usage.

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