

The background of the book cover is a classical oil painting of a forest. It features several large, mature trees with dense green foliage. A path or clearing is visible in the lower part of the scene, with a large, moss-covered rock in the foreground on the right. The lighting is soft, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

Henri Béjoint

The Lexicography of  
**ENGLISH**

OXFORD

# CONTENTS

---

<i>Contents with subheadings</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<i>List of Plates</i>	xvi
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xix
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Dictionaries and the dictionary	6
2. A brief history of English dictionaries	50
3. The British tradition of the scholarly dictionary	96
4. The American tradition of the utility dictionary	129
5. A new tradition: the dictionary for foreign students	163
6. English dictionaries of the twentieth century: the cultural, the functional, and the scientific	201
7. The study of dictionary users and uses	223
8. Lexicography and linguistics	262
9. Computers and corpora in lexicography	348
10. A theory of lexicography?	381
Conclusion	382
<i>Bibliography</i>	387
<i>Dictionaries</i>	387
<i>Other works</i>	398
<i>Index</i>	443

# CONTENTS WITH SUBHEADINGS

---

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<i>List of Plates</i>	xvi
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xix
Introduction	1
1 Dictionaries and the dictionary	6
1.1 Definitions	6
1.1.1 What is a dictionary?	8
1.1.1.1 A dictionary is a series of separate paragraphs	10
1.1.1.2 A dictionary is meant to be consulted, not read	10
1.1.1.3 Dictionaries have a double structure	11
1.1.1.4 A dictionary is an ordered list of items	15
1.1.1.5 A dictionary lists linguistic units	23
1.1.1.6 A dictionary is a didactic book	24
1.1.1.7 A dictionary gives information about linguistic signs	27
1.1.1.8 A dictionary represents a lexical set	30
1.1.1.9 A dictionary is a special kind of text	32
1.1.1.10 Can anyone define <i>dictionary</i> ?	34
1.1.2 The dictionary and other types of books	35
1.1.2.1 Various types of dictionaries	35
1.1.2.2 The dictionary and other lists of words	35
1.1.2.3 The dictionary and the encyclopedia	36
1.1.2.4 The dictionary and the grammar	38
1.2 Types of dictionaries	40
1.2.1 Dictionary typologies	40
1.2.1.1 Formal typologies	41
1.2.1.2 More sophisticated typologies	42
1.2.1.3 Functional typologies	44
1.2.1.4 Genetic typologies	44

1.2.1.5	The basic types of dictionaries	45
	Monolingual and bilingual dictionaries	45
	General and specialized dictionaries	46
	Encyclopedic and linguistic dictionaries	47
	Foreign learners' and native speakers' dictionaries	47
	Dictionaries for adults and dictionaries for children	47
	Alphabetized and non-alphabetized dictionaries	48
	Electronic and paper dictionaries	48
1.2.2	The monolingual general-purpose dictionary	48
2	A brief history of English dictionaries	50
2.1	Pre-history: from glossaries to dictionaries	50
2.1.1	The origins	50
2.1.2	Glosses and early bilingual dictionaries	52
2.2	Dictionaries from the Renaissance to the eighteenth century	56
2.2.1	Dictionaries of hard words	56
2.2.2	The inclusion of common words	59
2.2.3	The role of the first monolingual dictionaries	62
2.3	The turning point of the eighteenth century	63
2.3.1	The precursors	63
2.3.2	Samuel Johnson	66
2.3.3	The birth of a tradition	76
2.3.3.1	The dictionary as a 'scholarly record of the whole language'	76
2.3.3.2	The dictionary using a corpus	77
2.3.3.3	A dictionary of the literary language	77
2.3.3.4	The normative function of the dictionary	79
2.4	Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century dictionaries	82
2.4.1	British dictionaries after Johnson	82
2.4.2	American dictionaries before Noah Webster, and after	84
2.4.3	The nineteenth-century dictionary and its social roles	89
2.4.3.1	Dictionaries for the middle classes	90
2.4.3.2	Dictionaries to educate the uneducated	90
2.4.3.3	Dictionaries to submit the people or to liberate the masses?	93
2.4.3.4	The dictionary as a patriotic emblem	94

3	The British tradition of the scholarly dictionary	96
3.1	The <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>	96
3.1.1	The first edition, <i>OED</i> <sub>1</sub>	96
3.1.2	The <i>Supplements</i>	110
3.1.3	The second edition: <i>OED</i> <sub>2</sub>	112
3.1.4	Towards a third edition: <i>OED</i> <sub>3</sub>	113
3.2	The family of the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>	115
3.2.1	The <i>Shorter Oxford English Dictionary</i>	115
3.2.2	The <i>Concise Oxford Dictionary</i>	116
3.2.3	Other relatives of the <i>OED</i>	119
3.3	Other traditional British dictionaries	121
3.3.1	General-purpose dictionaries	121
3.3.2	Specialized dictionaries	122
3.3.2.1	Dictionaries of pronunciation	122
3.3.2.2	Dictionaries of synonyms and thesauruses	123
3.3.2.3	Dictionaries of slang	124
3.3.2.4	Dictionaries of new words	124
3.3.2.5	Other dictionaries	125
3.3.3	Dictionaries of other English-speaking countries	125
3.3.3.1	Dictionaries of new Englishes	125
3.3.3.2	The two types of dictionaries	127
3.4	The tradition of the scholarly dictionary	127
4	The American tradition of the utility dictionary	129
4.1	Unabridged dictionaries	129
4.1.1	<i>Webster's Third New International Dictionary</i>	129
4.1.2	Other large dictionaries	135
4.2	Smaller American dictionaries	136
4.2.1	Desk dictionaries	136
4.2.2	College dictionaries	138
4.2.3	Specialized American dictionaries	142
4.2.3.1	Dictionaries of synonyms and thesauruses	142
4.2.3.2	Dictionaries of slang	144
4.2.3.3	Dictionaries of regionalisms	144
4.2.3.4	Other dictionaries	145
4.3	The tradition of the utility dictionary	146
4.3.1	The main characteristics of American GPDs	146
4.3.2	The numbers game	149
4.3.3	Prescriptive dictionaries	151

4.4	Dictionaries for Britain and the USA, and beyond	155
4.4.1	The American dictionary in Britain	155
4.4.1.1	The <i>Collins Dictionary of the English Language</i>	156
4.4.1.2	British dictionaries influenced by the American tradition	157
4.4.2	<i>NODE</i> and <i>NOAD</i> , or two traditions in one dictionary	158
4.4.3	<i>EWED</i> : A dictionary of global English?	159
5	A new tradition: the dictionary for foreign students	163
5.1	The 'Big Five'	164
5.1.1	The Oxford <i>Advanced Learner's Dictionary</i>	164
5.1.2	The <i>Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English</i>	171
5.1.3	The <i>Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary</i>	177
5.1.4	The <i>Cambridge International Dictionary of English</i>	184
5.1.5	The <i>Macmillan English Dictionary</i>	186
5.2	Other dictionaries for foreign learners	190
5.2.1	Learners' dictionaries in America and elsewhere	190
5.2.2	Variations on the theme of the learner's dictionary	191
5.2.2.1	The encyclopedic learner's dictionary	191
5.2.2.2	The onomasiological learner's dictionary	192
5.2.2.3	The learner's dictionary of idioms	194
5.2.2.4	The learner's dictionary of collocations	194
5.2.2.5	Other learners' dictionaries	196
5.2.2.6	Electronic learners' dictionaries	196
5.3	Learners' dictionaries are a new tradition	197
5.3.1	Characteristic features	197
5.3.2	The evolution of the genre	198
6	English dictionaries of the twentieth century: the cultural, the functional, and the scientific	201
6.1	Cultural and functional dictionaries	202
6.1.1	The mouthpieces of a culture	202
6.1.1.1	Politics and religion	203
6.1.1.2	Ethnicity	206
6.1.1.3	The taboos of sex and excretion	209
6.1.1.4	Gender	213
6.1.1.5	Proper names and culture	215
6.1.1.6	What can the lexicographer do?	215
6.1.2	Some dictionaries are more cultural than others	216

6.1.3	The common features of modern dictionaries	217
6.1.3.1	Dictionaries are more user-friendly	217
6.1.3.2	Dictionaries represent more varieties of English	218
6.1.3.3	Dictionaries have more terms	219
6.2	The end of a period?	220
6.2.1	Lexicographers: slaves or masters?	220
6.2.2	Lexicography: an art, a craft, or a science?	222
7	The study of dictionary users and uses	223
7.1	Who uses dictionaries, and what for?	224
7.1.1	Who are dictionaries for?	224
7.1.1.1	Evidence from the dictionary	224
7.1.1.2	What do dictionary users need to know?	225
7.1.2	What are dictionaries for?	227
7.1.2.1	What the lexicographers say	228
7.1.2.2	What the dictionary reviewers say	228
7.1.2.3	What the users say	230
7.1.3	How are dictionaries really used?	230
7.1.3.1	The myriad ways of using a dictionary	230
7.1.3.2	The users buy the dictionary they have in their heads	231
7.1.3.3	The dictionary is the Bible	232
7.1.3.4	The dictionary is a shibboleth	232
7.1.3.5	The dictionary is an arbiter	233
7.1.3.6	The dictionary is eternal	234
7.1.3.7	The dictionary is infallible on the meanings of words	235
7.1.3.8	The dictionary has all the words of the language	235
7.1.3.9	The dictionary has all the answers to all questions	236
7.2	The scientific study of dictionary use	238
7.2.1	Questions of method	239
7.2.2	Studies of reference needs	240
7.2.2.1	What do the users look up?	240
7.2.2.2	Dictionaries are for meaning and spelling	243
7.2.2.3	The lexicographer's paradox	244
7.2.3	Studies of how dictionaries are used	245
7.2.3.1	The look-up process	245
7.2.3.2	General look-up strategies	247
7.2.3.3	Understanding the definitions	248
7.2.3.4	Where do the users look for multiword items?	249
7.2.3.5	Conclusions: are dictionaries used competently?	250

7.2.4	Studies of how dictionaries help	251
7.2.4.1	Is there a better definition style?	251
7.2.4.2	How should information for expression be conveyed?	252
7.2.4.3	Does the dictionary help users understand words?	253
7.2.4.4	Dictionaries and understanding a text	253
7.2.4.5	Conclusions: does the dictionary help?	254
7.2.5	Different types of dictionaries	255
7.2.5.1	Bilingual, bilingualized, or monolingual?	255
7.2.5.2	Paper or electronic?	256
7.2.6	How useful are the studies of dictionary use?	256
7.3	Better dictionaries or better users?	258
7.3.1	Better dictionaries	258
7.3.2	Educate the dictionary users	259
7.3.3	Learn more about language and its acquisition	260
8	Lexicography and linguistics	262
8.1	Linguists and linguistics in English and American dictionaries	262
8.1.1	Linguists and dictionaries in the USA	263
8.1.1.1	Linguists to boost the sales	263
8.1.1.2	The influence of structuralism	264
8.1.1.3	Can a dictionary be generative?	267
8.1.1.4	A renewed interest in the lexicon	267
8.1.2	Lexicographers and linguists in Britain	268
8.1.2.1	Linguists-cum-lexicographers	268
8.1.2.2	The case of the <i>OED</i>	269
8.1.3	Where are we?	271
8.1.3.1	Things are better than ever, but ...	271
8.1.3.2	... they are not ideal	272
8.2	Linguistic questions in lexicography	275
8.2.1	Questions of nomenclature	276
8.2.1.1	Choosing the lexical items for the wordlist: nature	276
8.2.1.2	Choosing the lexical items for the wordlist: importance	278
8.2.1.3	Choosing the lexical items for the wordlist: frequency	279
8.2.2	Questions of macrostructure	282
8.2.2.1	The different types of macrostructure	282
8.2.2.2	Entries, sub-entries, and run-ons	283
8.2.3	Questions of polysemy	285
8.2.3.1	The two sorts of lexical item	285
8.2.3.2	The identification of word meanings: tradition ...	286



8.2.3.3	Word meanings: contributions from semantics	288
8.2.3.4	Word meanings: contributions from corpus linguistics	292
8.2.3.5	Splitting or lumping senses?	293
8.2.3.6	Different sorts of polysemy	296
8.2.3.7	Regularities in the lexicon and the dictionary	297
8.2.3.8	Do word meanings exist?	300
8.2.3.9	New ways of presenting polysemous entries	303
8.2.3.10	Ordering meanings	305
8.2.4	Multiword items	308
8.2.4.1	The different sorts of multiword items	308
8.2.4.2	The treatment of phrases in dictionaries	314
8.2.4.3	The treatment of collocations in dictionaries	316
8.2.5	Definition	319
8.2.5.1	Different types of definition	319
8.2.5.2	The rules of definition: 1. simplicity	324
8.2.5.3	The rules of definition: 2. non-circularity	325
8.2.5.4	The rules of definition: 3. closedness	327
8.2.5.5	The rules of definition: 4. substitutability	328
8.2.5.6	Different definitions for different types of word	329
8.2.5.7	Linguistics and dictionary definitions	331
8.2.5.8	Do dictionary definitions define?	334
8.2.5.9	Can dictionaries do without definitions?	336
8.2.6	Words in contexts	337
8.2.6.1	Information for expression	337
8.2.6.2	Extended units of meaning	340
8.2.6.3	The idiom principle	343
8.2.6.4	Lexical sets	344
8.3	Do dictionaries influence linguistics?	345
9	Computers and corpora in lexicography	348
9.1	Corpora for dictionaries	349
9.1.1	The history of corpus lexicography	351
9.1.2	Different sorts of corpora	351
9.1.3	Corpus design	352
9.1.4	The uses of a corpus in dictionary making	355
9.1.4.1	Corpus evidence vs. introspection	356
9.1.4.2	Corpus-based or corpus-driven lexicography?	357
9.1.5	The annotation of the corpus	357
9.1.5.1	Mark-up	358
9.1.5.2	Annotation	359

9.1.6	Corpus query systems	361
9.1.7	Corpora for dictionaries of English	364
9.1.7.1	National corpora	364
9.1.7.2	Monitor corpora	364
9.1.7.3	The Brown corpus and its family	365
9.1.7.4	Synchronic and diachronic corpora, spoken corpora, etc.	365
9.1.7.5	Publisher corpora	366
9.1.7.6	Corpora for other languages	367
9.1.8	The web as a corpus	367
9.1.9	Lexicographers and corpora: ... yes of course	368
9.2	Electronic dictionaries	371
9.2.1	The advantages of electronic dictionaries	371
9.2.2	Electronic dictionaries of English	373
9.2.2.1	Dictionaries on CD-ROM	373
9.2.2.2	Online dictionaries	373
9.2.2.3	Pocket electronic dictionaries	374
9.2.3	The end of the paper dictionary?	375
9.3	Dictionaries and linguistic research	376
9.3.1	Machine-readable dictionaries	376
9.3.2	Lexical databases	377
9.3.2.1	WordNet and EuroWordNet	377
9.3.2.2	FrameNet	378
9.3.2.3	Other lexical databases	379
9.4	Will there be lexicographers in 3000?	379
10	A theory of lexicography?	381
	Conclusion	382
	<i>Bibliography</i>	387
	<i>Dictionaries</i>	387
	<i>Other works</i>	398
	<i>Index</i>	443