For my parents

The Oxford Guide to Etymology

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Contents

Glossary

The following is a very selective list, chiefly of terms which occur frequently in the text, especially those whose meaning could be confused. See also in the index for other terms which are discussed and defined in the main text of the book. The words which are included here are defined narrowly from the point of view of their usage in etymological research. For general dictionaries of linguistics, which offer definitions which reflect the full range of use in linguistic writing, see Matthews (2007) or Crystal (2008), or (expressly from the perspective of historical and comparative linguistics) Trask (2000).

< Developed from, comes from. Used in this book to link forms which are related by direct phonetic descent, by borrowing, or by word formation processes, as well as to represent the stages in the semantic development of a word. By some scholars used only to link forms related by direct phonetic descent: see 1.2.1.

> Develops to, gives. See further under '<' above.

ablaut Realization of grammatical or derivational relationships through vowel alternation in the root (i.e. a type of root allomorphy); used especially as the name of a process of this type which was highly productive in proto-Indo-European: see 4.4.1.

affix see **affixation**

affixation Addition of **bound forms** or **affixes** to words (or other morphological bases) in order to form derivative words (i.e. as a word formation process) or in order to realize grammatical distinctions (i.e. **inflection**). An affix added to the beginning of a word or stem is called a prefix, and one added to the end of a word or stem is called a suffix. Infixes, which interrupt a morphological base, are also sometimes found, as are circumfixes, which involve addition simultaneously of material at the beginning and the end of a base. See 2.2.3, 4.1.

after In etymologies = 'on the model of'.

amelioration Acquisition of more positive meaning. See 8.6.3.

analogy Alteration of existing forms or meanings (analogical change) or creation of new forms or meanings (analogical creation) on the basis of

parallels elsewhere in the linguistic system. **Proportional analogy** shows the pattern A : B = X : Y, where Y is the altered or newly created form. See 7.4, 7.4.1.

analysable (Of a word) capable of being analysed (by speakers) into its constituent morphemes. See 2.1.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.4, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7. Compare **monomorphemic**, **transparent**.

assimilation (In sound change) a change by which two consonants become more similar or identical in articulation: see 7.3. Compare **dissimilation**. Sometimes also used in etymology to denote the type of associative change in word form also known as **contamination** (see 7.4.4).

associative change in word form Change in word form resulting from **analogy**, **levelling**, **contamination**, or **folk etymology**. See 7.4.

back formation A word-formation process in which reanalysis of an existing word as showing a particular affix leads to the creation of a new word which is taken to be its morphological base; e.g. *peddle < pedlar*. See 4.4.5.

base (In morphology) the word form or stem form on which **affixation** operates. See 4.1.

bleaching A type of meaning change in which the semantic content of a word becomes reduced as the grammatical content increases: see 8.6.1.

blend A type of word formation in which two truncated word stems combine to form a new word, e.g. *smog < smoke* and *fog*. See 4.4.4.

blocking (In word formation) prevention of the general adoption of a new word by the prior existence of a synonym. See 4.2.

borrowing Process by which a language takes a word, meaning, phrase, construction, etc. from another language. Types of borrowing include **loanword**, **loan translation**, **semantic loan**, **loan blend**. See 5.1. Compare **transfer**.

bound form A morpheme which can only occur as a component of other words, rather than on its own as an independent word form. See 4.3.1.

broadening Process by which a word comes to have wider semantic application. See 8.6.1. Compare **narrowing**.

calque = **loan translation**

circumfix See **affixation**

clipping A process of shortening of a word form without change of meaning or word class, usually leaving a form which is morphologically incomplete or **unanalysable**. See 4.4.3. Compare **ellipsis**.

code-switching Phenomenon where bilingual speakers switch between use of one language and use of another, in the knowledge that they are addressing others who also have some knowledge of each language. See 6.9.

cognate Developed from a common ancestor. Among the cognates of Old English *sæd* are Old Dutch *sat*, Old Saxon *sad*, Old High German *sat*, Old Icelandic *saðr*, Gothic *saþs*; these words are all cognate. See 1.2.3.

combining form A type of **bound form** which occurs only in compounds, typically combined either with an independent word or with another combining form; used especially of such elements ultimately derived from Latin and Greek occurring in modern European languages, which are sometimes called **neo-classical combining forms**. See 4.3.1.

complex (Of a word) consisting of more than one **morpheme**. See 2.2.1. Compare **monomorphemic**.

compounding The combination of two words to form a new word, especially when this preserves all of the phonetic substance of each word or its morphological stem. See 2.2.3, 4.3.

conditioned (Of a sound change) only occurring in a particular phonetic context in a word. See 7.2.2. Compare **isolative**.

contamination A type of associative change in word form resulting from semantic association between two words, e.g. Old English *mǣst* 'most' occurring in place of the expected form *māst* as a result of semantic association with *lǣst* 'least'. See 7.4.4. Compare **analogy, folk etymology**.

conventional (Of meaning) established, not inferred afresh from context each time a word is encountered; = **institutionalized**.

conversion The process by which a word in one class gives rise to an identical word form in another word class. See 4.4.2.

cranberry morph An **unanalysable** element occurring in a word which otherwise has the appearance of being an analysable compound or derivative. See 2.6.

denotatum The thing, concept, etc. which a word denotes or refers to.

derivation Word formation by **affixation**. (Sometimes used much more broadly as a synonym of **etymology**.)

derivative A word formed by **affixation** (i.e. **derivation**). (Sometimes used much more broadly to denote any word form developed historically from another word form.)

diagrammatic iconicity A type of **iconicity** which involves associations and connections entirely within the world of linguistic signs. See 4.5. Compare **imagic iconicity**.

diphthong A vowel which changes in quality perceptibly within a single syllable, as opposed to a **monophthong** (or pure vowel). Thus *pine* /paɪn/ shows a diphthong, while *pin* /pɪn/ and *preen* /priːn/ both show monophthongs.

dissimilation (In sound change) a change by which two consonants become less similar in articulation: see 7.3.

donor In a borrowing situation, the language from which another language borrows. See 5.1.

doublet Each word in a group of two or more words which all show the same ultimate etymology. See 6.7.

ellipsis The shortening of an existing compound or phrase so that one element comes to take on the previous meaning of the whole compound or phrase. See 4.4.3. Compare **clipping**.

etymology The tracing of the form and meaning history of a word, where there is a doubt about a stage in a word's history, or where the documentary record fails; (an account of or hypothesized explanation for) the form and meaning history of a word. See 1.1, and chapter 10.

etymon The antecedent form of a word. Frequently a distinction is made between an immediate etymon, i.e. the direct parent of a particular word, and one or more remote etymons. Thus Old French *frere* is the immediate etymon of Middle English *frere* (modern English *friar*); Latin *frāter*, *frātr-* is a remote etymon of Middle English *frere*, but the immediate etymon of Old French *frere*.

folk etymology A type of associative change in word form in which one or more syllables of a word are replaced by another word, especially where some semantic association is perceived or felt to exist. See 7.4.5. Compare **contamination, analogy**.

grammaticalization The process by which words develop meanings and functions which are more grammatical. See 3.4, 8.1, 8.7.2.1.

harmful homonymy = **homonymic clash**

homograph A word which is identical in written form to another unrelated word, but is not necessarily identical in pronunciation.

homonym A word which is identical in form to another unrelated word. (Sometimes used of words which are identical only in spoken form = **homophone**.) See 2.1.4, 3.8.

homonymic clash A situation where **homonyms** exist, especially where this results in ambiguity. Hence a (contested) mechanism which tends to reduce the incidence of such clashes. See 3.8.

homonymiphobia = homonymic clash

homonymy The state of being a **homonym** of another word. A situation where two or more homonyms exist.

homophone A word which is identical in pronunciation to another unrelated word, but is not necessarily identical in written form.

iconic That shows **iconicity**.

iconicity The property of a linguistic form (or construction etc.) whose form reflects a semantic connection either with the external, non-linguistic world (**imagic iconicity**) or within the linguistic system (**diagrammatic iconicity**). See 4.5; also 1.3.2.

imagic iconicity A type of **iconicity** which involves a connection between linguistic form and the external, non-linguistic world. Onomatopoeic words show this type of iconicity. See 4.5. Compare **diagrammatic iconicity**.

imposition = transfer

_i_-mutation (In Old English and most of the other early Germanic languages) raising and/or fronting of a vowel which occurred when an /i/ or /j/ followed in the next syllable See 7.2.4; also 4.4.1.

infix See **affixation**

inflection A change in word form (especially an ending) which realizes a grammatical distinction. See 2.1.4.

institutionalized (Of a word) being the usual or conventional word occurring in a given meaning in a given context; (of a meaning) being the usual or conventional meaning of a given word in a given context. Compare 2.1.4, 2.3.

internal borrowing Borrowing which occurs within a language; spread of a word, meaning, construction, etc. See 6.4.

_i_-umlaut = _i_-mutation

isolative (Of a sound change) not determined by any particular phonetic context in the word. See 7.2.1. Compare **conditioned**.

levelling Generalization of a single (stem or inflectional) form to different parts of a **paradigm**, by **analogy**. See 3.1, 7.4.2.

lexeme A unit comprising one or more word forms which realize different grammatical forms of a single word; often represented in small capitals. E.g. _giraffe_ and _giraffes_ are word forms of the lexeme GIRAFFE; _man_ and _men_ are word forms of the lexeme MAN; _be, was, is,_ and _are_ are word forms of the lexeme BE. See 2.1.4.

lexical diffusion The spread of a sound change gradually from one lexical item to another, rather than affecting all items showing the same phonetic environment simultaneously. See 7.6.

lexical gap A situation where a particular slot in the set of possible (or expected) meaning relations in a language is not filled by any word form, thus (hypothetically) creating a gap which (from a functionalist perspective) requires to be filled. See 1.2.1, 5.3.

lexical item = lexeme. Sometimes also used to denote a broader class including idioms and other multi-word expressions: see 2.1.5.

lexicalization Process by which words become **opaque** in form or meaning, or both. See 2.3.

lexicalized That has undergone **lexicalization**.

lexis Vocabulary, words collectively. The lexis of a language is those words in use in that language, usually in a specified time period and in a specified place.

loan blend A borrowing of a complex word with substitution of one or more native morphs for morphs in the borrowed word. See 5.1.4.

loan translation A borrowing which shows replication of the structure of a foreign-language word or expression by use of synonymous word forms in the borrowing language. See 5.1.2.

loanword A borrowing of a word form and its associated word meaning, or a component of its meaning. See 5.1.1.

merger (As a type of sound change) loss of a distinctive contrast between two phonemes. See 7.2.3. Also (in lexicology) collapse of two distinct **lexemes** as a single **lexeme**. See 3.5.

metanalysis The redistribution of material across word or morpheme boundaries, e.g. _a nadder > an adder_. See 7.5.

metathesis A type of sound change in which a particular sound changes its position in the sequence of sounds in a word. See 7.3.

monomorphemic Consisting of only one **morpheme** or meaningful unit, e.g. _friar, sad, deer_. See 2.2.1. Compare **analysable**.

monophthong see **diphthong**

morpheme A minimal meaningful unit within a complex word. Compare **monomorphemic, complex, analysable**.

narrowing Process by which a word comes to have more restricted semantic application. See 8.6.2. Compare **broadening**.

naturalized (Of a word, in a borrowing situation) showing adaptation to the borrowing language (usually phonological adaptation). See 5.1.

neo-classical combining form see **combining form**

nonce (Of a word form, etc.) 'one-off', used on one occasion only. See 2.1.3, 2.3.

obstruent Any consonant which is formed with an obstruction of the airflow, i.e. a stop (in English /p, b, t, d, k, g,/), an affricate (in English /tʃ, dʒ/), or a fricative (in English /f, v, s, ʃ, z, ʒ/).

onomatopoeia A form of **imagic iconicity** in which the form of a linguistic sign echoes a sound in the external, non-linguistic world with which it is associated in meaning. See 4.5.

opaque (Of the meaning relation between the component parts of a word) not readily understood, not transparent. See 1.3.2, 2.3. Compare **transparent**.

paradigm The set of grammatical forms shown by a word. See 2.1.4.

pejoration Acquisition of less positive meaning. See 8.6.3.

phonaestheme (In the analysis adopted in this book) a sequence of sounds (not constituting a morpheme) found in a group of semantically similar words and which speakers identify as reflecting the perceived semantic similarity between these words, even though the words in the group often have no historical relationship with one another. See 4.5.3.

polygenesis Independent development of the same form or meaning in two different times and/or places. See 3.2, 8.3.

polysemous Showing more than one (conventional, established) meaning. See 2.1.4, 8.2.

pragmatics (The study of) the specific meanings shown by words, constructions, etc. in the context of a particular instance of language use, including implicatures as well as literal meanings. See 8.2.

prefix see **affixation**

productive (Of an affix, or a word formation process, etc.) that enters freely into the production of new words. (The term is not used in the same way by all scholars.) See 2.1.3, 2.2.4.

proportional analogy see **analogy**

reanalysis An analysis of the meaning or composition of a word or other linguistic unit which runs counter to its actual historical development. Reanalysis is often followed by new analogical formations, and can be identified most easily through these: e.g. Middle English *handiwork* < Old English *handgeweorc* < *hand* + *geweorc* was reanalysed as showing *hand*, *-y*, and *work*, hence giving rise (by **analogy**) to *handy* 'done by hand'. See 1.3.2, 4.1.1, 4.4.5, 7.4.3.

reflex The linear historical development of an earlier form, e.g. modern English *sad* is the reflex of Old English *sæd*. See 1.2.2.

register A set of distinctive linguistic usages employed by a particular social group, the members of a particular trade or profession, etc., or within a particular field of study etc.

regular (Of a sound change) occurring systematically in all or nearly all words which show the qualifying environment. See 7.1, 7.6.

root A basic, **unanalysable** form from which other word forms have been derived. In proto-Indo-European, roots typically have the structure CVC, and words derived from them typically show a variety of different root extensions and derivative suffixes. See 1.2.4, 4.4.1, 8.7.3.

semantic field A set of related meanings in a particular subject field, area of human experience, etc. See 8.5.1.

semantic loan An instance of extension of the meaning of a word as a result of association with the meaning of a partly synonymous word in another language. See 5.1.3.

specialization (as a type of meaning change) = **narrowing**

spelling pronunciation A pronunciation which arises from the written form of a word, rather than by regular historical phonetic development. See 7.4.7.

sporadic (Of a sound change) not occurring with regularity or in a pattern typical of lexical diffusion; affecting particular words individually or sporadically at widely separated times. See 7.3.

stem The form in a **paradigm** to which **affixes** are added.

stylistic level A set of distinctive linguistic usages employed in a particular social situation, e.g. formal language, informal language, slang, literary language, etc.

suffix see **affixation**

synonym A word which shares a meaning with another word, i.e. the two words show **synonymy**. See 4.2.

synonymy The situation where two words share a meaning. See 4.2.

token Each of the units in a sample of data. Opposed to **type**, each of the distinct varieties of unit in a sample of data. In *the cat sat on the mat* there are six tokens, but only five types (because *the* occurs twice).

transfer Process by which words enter a language during a process of language shift, when a group of speakers are abandoning one language for another. See 6.3. Compare **borrowing**.

transparent (Of the meaning relation between the component parts of a word) readily understood; (of a complex word) showing a clear form and meaning relationship between its component parts. See 1.3.2, 2.3. Contrasted with **opaque**. Compare **analysable**.

unanalysable That is not **analysable**.

unique morph = **cranberry morph**

word (As used in this book) normally = **lexeme**; see 2.1.4, and also 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3.

Suggestions for further reading

This book has largely looked at etymological research in the context of those areas of the much broader field of historical linguistics which bear most directly on etymology. The best approach to further reading is hence to pursue the references given to fuller discussions of each topic, although the reader who is specifically interested in etymology will often need to ask questions for herself about what the impact of particular issues is on etymological research, since this is seldom a major focus in the general historical linguistic literature.

Some useful introductory accounts of issues in historical linguistics are listed in the introduction. Solid introductions to many topics can also be found in the fourteen volumes of Brown (2006). At a slightly more advanced level, some very illuminating discussion of many of the topics featured in this book can be found in Anttila (1989), Hock (1991), McMahon (1994), Lass (1997), or the essays in Joseph and Janda (2003).

On issues to do with morphology and word formation, Bauer (2003) is extremely informative. With a focus on English, Bauer (1983), Adams (2001), Plag (2003), and Booij (2007) are all valuable, especially for the contrasting perspectives that they bring to bear on some topics. Marchand (1969) remains an invaluable treasure trove of examples of English word formation, with many very insightful analyses.

There are few studies dedicated to issues to do with lexical borrowing which are not tied to consideration of a particular language or language group, although Thomason (2001) is a very useful general introduction to the wider field of contact linguistics. The somewhat dated surveys in Serjeantson (1961) and Sheard (1954) give useful overviews of the history of borrowing in English, but should be supplemented by the various volumes of the *Cambridge History of the English Language* (Hogg 1992a, Blake 1992, Lass 1999b, Romaine 1998), and by more specialist discussions referenced in chapters 5 and 6. (For very valuable theoretical perspectives, albeit focusing on a relatively narrow set of data, see Dance 2003).

On issues of change in word form see the general books on issues in historical linguistics listed above. Hoenigswald (1960), Anttila (1989), and