
UNIT 6 DICTIONARIES

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6.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- write one or two lines about dictionaries in general;
- classify the dictionaries into different categories;
- identify the specific types of dictionaries for answering queries;
- assess the value of a dictionary before acquiring it,
- locate the examples of different types of dictionaries;
- group them in their appropriate categories; and
- answer questions by referring to various types of dictionaries.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

In this Unit, we intend to:

- define and explain the scope of dictionaries;
- inform you about the alternate names used for dictionaries;
- state the innovative techniques used by combining features of dictionaries with other reference sources;
- introduce you to different types of dictionaries;
- acquaint you with problems of dictionaries;
- enumerate the uses of dictionaries; and
- suggest guidelines to evaluate a dictionary before adding it to your reference collection.

Here, we have elaborately discussed the varieties of dictionaries listed under each type of dictionary. They are not the exhaustive lists of existing dictionaries but are only some important ones which you may normally come across.

The science of compiling a dictionary is called Lexicography. Lexicographers adopt many innovative techniques and compile dictionaries of varied aspects of languages, linguistics and several disciplines. In order to acquaint you with the features of varieties of dictionaries, you have been asked to do some activities at the end of this Unit.



6.2 DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF DICTIONARIES

Dictionary is the most widely known and used reference book. Almost every household possesses a dictionary. All school children are taught to use a dictionary to help them understand the meaning and use of words and pursuing independent studies. It is one of the most common reference books referred to by the people all through their life.

The word 'dictionary' is derived from the medieval Latin word 'dictionarium' - a collection of words. It originates from the term 'diction' meaning 'a mode of expression'. A dictionary generally deals with the collection of general words either of a language or of special terms of a particular subject. It usually defines terms and gives their alternate meaning, usage, etc. Some dictionaries give derivation and history of words too. The words are arranged in some definite order, usually alphabetical. Sometimes the entries are arranged in classified order and are presented in related groups. In a nutshell, a dictionary deals with words, their meaning and uses.

6.2.1 Alternate Names for Dictionaries

There are some reference books, which also deal with words but are known by various other names. They have identical purpose with a slight difference in scope. They are known as:

- a) Glossary b) Lexicon c) Thesaurus d) Vocabulary

a) Glossary

The word 'glossary' originates from the Latin word 'glossarium' meaning 'a collection of words peculiar to a field of knowledge'. Each entry in a glossary is known as a 'gloss' meaning 'a word', 'a comment', 'an explanation' or 'an interpretation'. It is an alphabetical list of terms and explanations often of specialised or technical nature (such as a glossary of computer terms). Sometimes it is linked with a particular text (such as Glossary of Indian terms in an English novel). Glossaries typically appear at the end of book as appendices. The person who compiles glossary is a glossarist. The Central Hindi Directorate has brought out a large number glossaries. Some examples of glossaries are given below

- i) **Technical Glossaries** : *Glossary of Indian Religious Terms and Concepts*/Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya. Columbia: South Asia Pub., 1990.

It seeks to explain the basic significance of various terms and concepts which characterises different religious systems of India.

Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants. New Delhi: CSIR, 1956; a supplement brought out in 1968.

Scientific names of the plants together with their popular synonyms and medicinal value of each plant are described.

A Shakespeare Glossary/C.T. Onions; enlarged and revised by Robert D. Eagleson; Oxford: Harendon Press, 1986:

Contains terms appearing in William Shakespear's works-plays etc. Every definition is accompanied with at least one quotation from the text of a play or poem.

The A. L. A. Glossary of Library and Information Science Terms /edited by H. Young.

Chicago: American Library Association, 1983.

Comprehensive Glossary of Technical Terms / prepared by Central Hindi Directorate. Delhi: Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, 1973-74.

-Science: Vol.1-A toK & Vol.2-LtoZ

-Humanities :Vol.1 -A to K & Vol.2 = L to Z

b) Lexicon

It is derived from a Greek word 'Lexicon', meaning 'dictionary'. Each entry in the Lexicon is known as 'Lexis' meaning 'a word'. Lexicon is a dictionary of words of a language, arranged alphabetically giving meaning in another language. It is chiefly applied to dictionaries of Greek, Syrian, Arabic, Latin and Hebrew languages.



Examples:

English - Chinese Lexicon of Women Law/ ed. by Sharon K Hom and Xin Chunying. Paris : Unesco, 1995.

Elsevier's Russian - English Dictionary/ Paul Marcura. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1990.4v.

It is the most extensive listing of vocabulary till-date in the areas of humanities, social sciences and fine arts.

Greek - English Lexicon/by Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott. Ed.9; revised by Henry Stuart Jones and Roderick Mcenzie. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925 - 40. Issued in 10 pts. between 1925-1940.

In recent years, the scope of a lexicon has been widened. There are two types of lexicon:

- 1) The lexicon of a language or dialect and
- 2) The lexicon of writers or individual works.

The lexicon of a language or dialect is concerned with semantics and etymology. The lexicon of any language forms a complex system. Its words are linked with one another-both, in sound form (i.e., homonyms and paronyms) and meaning (i.e., synonyms and antonyms). These groups of words form thematic groups, for instance, kinship terms, terms for means of transportation, etc. A lexicon of a language also includes words of different origins, borrowed and coined words adapted in the language after coming in contact with other people.

Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English/ed. by M.C. Arthur. London : Longman,1981.

The lexicon of writers or individual works is the subject of stylistics and poetics. It contains not only natural words but also obsolete words. It covers historical words, archaisms and neologisms.

c) Thesaurus

The term 'thesaurus' also has its origin in Greek. It means 'a storehouse' or treasury' or 'a repository'. Peter Mark Roget was the first person to use 'thesaurus' for English dictionary in 1852. The term is now used in two different senses.

Traditionally it was developed to aid literary men in finding the most appropriate alternate word to express an idea. The words in a thesaurus are, therefore, arranged by ideas. All other synonyms of an idea with varying shades and different grammatical form are brought together under one word in the first part. The second part is a list of words arranged alphabetically, but instead of giving meaning, it guides to the appropriate entry number in the first part.

Roget's International Thesaurus. Ed.3. New Delhi : Oxford and IBH, 1978.

Samanantra Kosh / by Arvind Kumar and Kusum Kumar. New Delhi : NBT, 1996. 2v. The first thesaurus in Hindi which contains 1,60,850 expressions arranged under 1100 headings and sub-headings.

The Original Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases, revised and modernised new edition/by Robert A. Dutch. New York: St. Martins, 1965.

Longman Pocket Roget's Thesaurus. Harlow: Longman, 1986.

The Oxford Children's Thesaurus. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1986.

In recent years, the word 'thesaurus' has undergone a change. Now, thesauri are compiled in various subjects which resemble synonym dictionaries. They are compiled (a) to provide subject headings list for indexers and searchers and (b) to provide an effective language interface between people and manual or computer data storage systems. They are useful to the libraries in information retrieval.

Unesco : IBE Education Thesaurus. Ed.5. Paris : Unesco, 1991.

It is a **multilingual** list of terms for indexing and retrieving documents and data in the field of Education.

Spines Thesaurus: A "Controlled and Structured Vocabulary for Information Processing in the Field of Technology for Development, Ed.2. Paris : Unesco, 1988.2v.



d) Vocabulary

The name 'vocabulary' originates from a medieval Latin word 'vocabularium'. It is often used for a stock of words and phrases with brief explanations and meanings restricted to a single work or author. The entries are usually arranged in alphabetical order.

It encompasses:

- i) words of a language, e.g., vocabulary of basic Hindi.
- ii) words available to or used by an individual, e.g., vocabulary of Shakespeare.
- iii) words appropriate to a subject or occupation, e.g., vocabulary of Commerce.
- iv) word list developed for a particular purpose e.g. an international vocabulary of technical theatre terms:
- v) a list or set of code words, gestures, symbols, style or colours.

An International Vocabulary of Technical Theatre Terms in 8 languages. (American, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Swedish). New York : Theatre Arts Books, 1959.

Consolidated Basic Hindi Vocabulary (Classes I to VIII) / Compiled by Uday Shankar and Jai Narain Kaushin. New Delhi : National, 1982.

"Vocabulary, English Somali, Somali-English". Mogadishu : Office of the FAO Representative, 1989. It has been compiled to help foreigners who are interested in acquiring some knowledge of the language.

The second one is based on the research study undertaken by seven scholars. It incorporates basic, comprehensive, Hindi vocabulary for children from classes one to eight. It ascertains the comprehensibility of students of different grades. The number under each grade and against each word indicates the difficulty in understanding the specific word. It is a very useful book for the teachers, authors and all those who address school children.

6.2.2 Combination of Dictionary and Other Reference Sources

With a view to capture larger market, publishers have resorted to producing dictionaries which combine in them the features of a) encyclopaedia b) thesaurus c) or even handbooks. This has resulted in following types of publications:

- a) Dictionary-cum-Thesaurus
- b) Encyclopaedic Dictionary
- c) Dictionary-cum-Handbook

a) Dictionary-cum-thesaurus

Collins has merged two essential reference books into one by combining Collins English Dictionary and New Collins Thesaurus:

The Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus in One Volume / ed. by William T. Mcleod. London: Collins, 1986.

b) Encyclopaedic Dictionary

Dictionary makers are engaged in producing dictionaries with many illustrations and special lists, as the users appreciate finding all possible information from one single dictionary. There are some dictionaries having both-lexicographical and encyclopaedic features. They are known as encyclopaedic dictionaries.

Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia with a New Atlas of the World / ed. by William Dwight Whitney, rev. ed. N.Y. Century, 1911. 12 vols.

It defines general, biographical and geographical terms and explains them with illustrations.

The Oxford Reference Dictionary / ed by Joyce M. Hawkins. Delhi :Oxford University Press, 1986.

This new illustrated dictionary is both, an up-to-date, authoritative dictionary and a concise encyclopaedia.

We have some subject encyclopaedic dictionaries too.

Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Mathematics/ ed. by Kiyosi Ito. 2nd ed. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1986.

It is prepared by the Mathematical Society of Japan. The first edition was published in 1976. The second edition has been revised to bring it up-to-date and expanded to include more subjects in applied mathematics. The encyclopaedic feature of the dictionary has been further strengthened by adding many special lists, definitions, biographical and geographical names, inventions, major languages, weights and measures, chemical elements and compounds and illustrations.

It is rather difficult to draw a dividing line between dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Some classical dictionaries are in reality encyclopaedias whereas some concise encyclopaedias are nothing more than dictionaries: In short, the basic difference between the two is that a dictionary deals with the words whereas an encyclopaedia provides information on topics and subjects.

c) Dictionary and andbook

Dictionary and Handbook of Nuclear Medicine and Clinical Imaging / by Mario Polturalde: Boca Raton, Fla.: CRC Pr., 1990.

The first part is a dictionary of brief definitions. Accompanying handbook consists of tables on subjects, viz. properties of elements and radio isotope, radioactive *decay*, etc.

Self Check Exercise

- Note:** i) Write your answers in the space given below.
ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

1) Fill in the blanks:

-is the valuable source of synonyms and antonyms arranged in aorder.
-explain and defines words and phrases belonging to a single work of author.
- Glossary explains the technical terms of a particular.....or
- Encyclopaedic dictionary has both andfeatures combined in one.

2) Why are subject thesauri compiled in recent years? Give two reasons.

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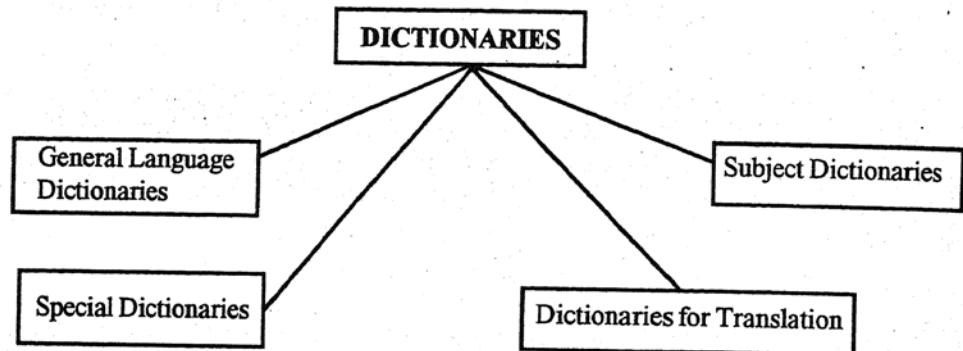
3) Differentiate between lexicology and lexicography. Give two main differences.

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6.3 DIFFERENT TYPES OF DICTIONARIES

Though dictionaries are defined as reference books consisting of words and phrases, they cover almost every field of interest. We have a wide range and variety of dictionaries. They are divided into different categories according to their nature and scope of contents. Usually, librarians categorise them into the following four groups as it facilitates them in the organisation of the reference collection.



Now, we will discuss each of the above four types of dictionary in detail. They are subdivided into several kinds and illustrated with suitable examples.

6.3.1 General Language Dictionaries

They are called general dictionaries as they deal with the common words of a language. They are most popular and readily used dictionaries. These may be classified into three groups according to the purpose, size, volume and user's age.

- a) According to purpose
 - i) Prescriptive
 - ii) Descriptive
- b) According to size
 - i) Unabridged
 - ii) Semi-abridged or Desk
 - iii) Abridged or Pocket
- c) According to user's age
 - i) Children
 - ii) Junior
 - iii) Adult

a) Prescriptive and Descriptive Dictionaries

Dictionaries are compiled for two basic purposes

- i) to set authoritative standards for spelling, pronunciation, meaning and usage, or
- ii) to record the words of a language with all their spellings, pronunciations, meanings and uses.

The dictionaries compiled with the first purpose are known as 'prescriptive'. They contain only the standard and approved words worthy of use. They omit slang, coined or borrowed expressions. Dr. Samuel Johnson's '*Dictionary of the English Language*' is a very apt ex-ample of a prescriptive dictionary.

The descriptive dictionaries are compiled with the second purpose. They include all the acceptable words used at the time of compilation. The words are collected and recorded from contemporary sources of the literature – popular, literary and technical journals, magazines and newspapers. '*Oxford English Dictionary*' and '*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*' fall in the group of descriptive dictionaries.

The following are some of the examples of dictionaries according to different sizes, volumes and user's age;

- i) *Oxford Family of English Dictionaries*. Oxford : Clarendon Press.



- ii) *Webster Family of American Dictionaries*. Springfield, Massachusetts : G.C. Merriam.

| Category | Members of the Oxford Family | Members of the Webster Family |
|--|--|---|
| Unabridged multivolume dictionary for adults | Oxford English Dictionary. Ed.2/ ed. by John Simpson and Edmond Weiner. 1989. 20 vol. Also available compact edition. 2 vols. | Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language. 1981 (48 pages of Addenda of new words). |
| Semi - abridged or desk dictionaries | New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary / ed. by Brown Lesley. 1993. 2 vols. Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English. / ed. by R.E. Allen. Ed.8. 1990. | Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary. [1983] |
| Abridged or Pocket dictionaries for Juniors | Pocket Oxford Dictionary of Current English / ed. by Della Thompson. Ed.8. 1992. Oxford Mini Dictionary / ed. by J.M. Hawkins. Ed.3. 1995. | Webster's Vest Pocket Dictionary. 1981. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary. Ed.8.1983 Webster's Intermediate Dictionary. 1977. |
| School dictionaries for Children | Oxford Illustrated Junior Dictionary / ed. by R. Sansome and Reid. 1991. | Webster's New Secondary School Dictionary. 1961. Webster's School Dictionary. 1980. Webster's Elementary Dictionary. 1971. |

Cassell's New Latin-English, English-Latin Dictionary /by D.P. Simpson. London : Cassell, 1959.

Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Persian, Arabic and English / by Francis Johnson. New Delhi: Commonwealth Pub., 1990. 3 vols.

An Indian reprint of 1852 edition. Arabic and Persian words are listed in one sequence followed by English equivalent or explanation.

Russian - English Dictionary / ed. by Al Smirnitsky. Moscow : Russky Yazyk Pub., 1987.

Allied Chambers Transliterated Hindi, Hindi-English Dictionary / compiled by H.W. Wagenaar /ed. by S.S. Parikh,. New Delhi: Allied Chambers, 1993.

Modern Hindi-English-Hindi Dictionary / by C.B. Misra. Bangalore: Alok Bharti, 1991.

Efforts are being made to make the dictionaries simple, informative and easy to use. One such general dictionary has been published by Collins.

Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary / compiled by English Department of University of Birmingham. London : Collins, 1986.

It is specially developed and compiled with advanced computer technology for learners and teacher of English. The kind, quality and presentation of information are considerably different from the other general dictionaries. Along with the main text, there is an extra column of notes about the structure and meanings. To save space, these notes are abbreviated and the key to abbreviations is given for reference. The main entries are self-sufficient and it is not necessary to consult the extra column of notes for everyday purposes. It is designed for a wide range of users.



The examples of Hindi dictionaries of various sizes, volumes and user's age are as under:

Unabridged
Multi-volume
Hindi dictionary
for adults

Hindi Shabda Sagar / ed. by Shyamsunder and others.
Varanasi : Nagari Pracharni Sabha, 1965-75. 11 vols.

Brihat Hindi Kosh / ed. By Kalika Prasad and others. Varanasi: Gyanmandal, 1992.

Unabridged

Bhargava Adarsh Hindi Shabda Kosh / ed. by Ramchandra Pathak. Ed.16. Bhargava Books, 1984.

Self Check Exercise

4) Explain the basic distinction between prescriptive and descriptive dictionaries.

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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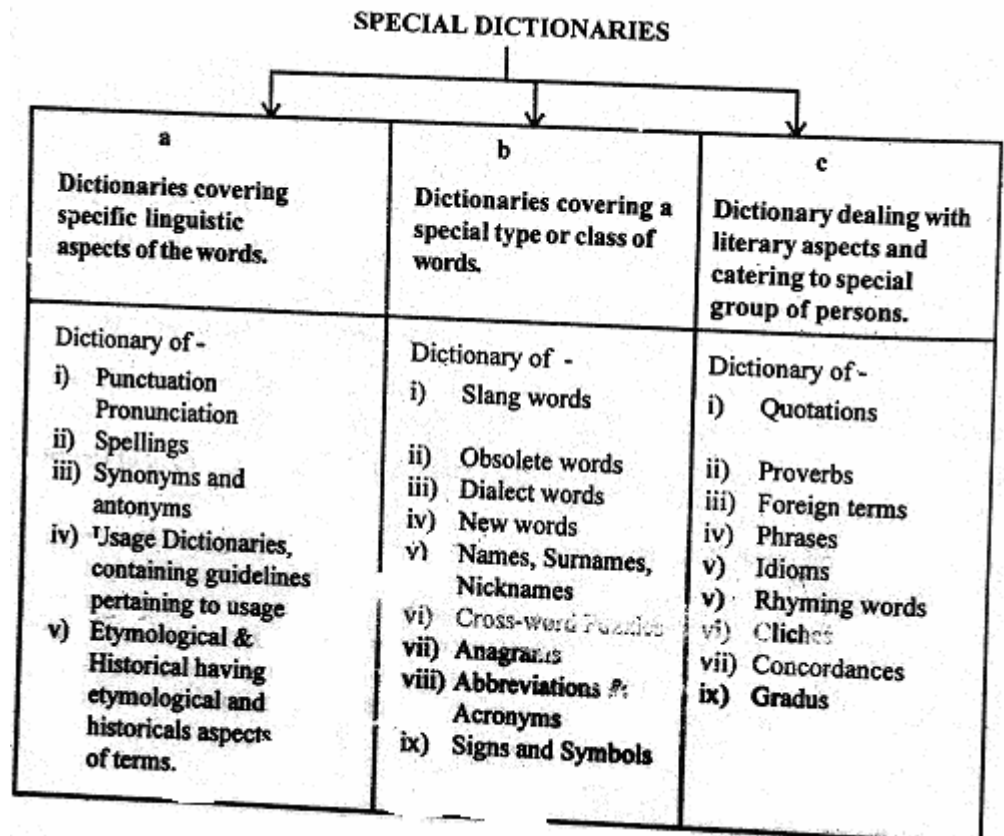
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6.3.2 Special Dictionaries

The dictionaries, which are compiled for a special purpose or aspects of a language, are called special dictionaries. Most of these aspects of words, which are separately dealt with in special dictionaries; are also covered in general dictionaries. Hence, they are sometimes known as supplementary wordbooks. They deal with the special aspects of the words much more comprehensively than the general dictionaries. There are numerous forms and varieties of specialised dictionaries. Here, they are divided into three groups according to their content and scope.





A) Dictionaries covering specific linguistic aspects of the words

i) Dictionary of Punctuation

Punctuation is one of the important aspects of written language which aids in understanding and correct reading of passages. It is a set of conventional signs, spaces and various typo-graphical devices used in written and printed texts. It makes the meaning of the passage clear by separating the sentences and words into meaningful units. The dictionaries of punctuation help us to make correct use of punctuation marks.

Punctuate It Right / by Harry Show. New York : Earned & Nobel, 1963.

You Have A Point There : A Guide to Punctuation and Its Allies / by Eric Partridge. London : Hamish Hamilton, 1953.

ii) Dictionary of Pronunciation

Pronouncing dictionaries deal exclusively with the pronunciation of words. They aid us in understanding the correct pronunciations of words, proper names of persons and places.

English Pronouncing Dictionary / by Daniel Jones /ed. by Peter Roach and James Hartman. London : Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1996.

Daniel Jones uses the international phonetic transcription to denote correct pronunciation. He gives a glossary of phonetic terms.

How to Pronounce It / by Alan Strode & Campbell Ross. London Hamish Hamilton, 1970. After giving the correct pronunciation, it gives wrong ones to explain the difference.

iii) Dictionary of Spellings

They do not-define words. They include selected words giving priority to those which are difficult to spell. They cover words which are not spelt according to their pronunciation.

Cassell's Spelling Dictionary / comp. by Mary Waddington. 1969.

Entries are arranged in alphabetical order. The derivatives of the word are listed under it. It is a very useful aid to the typists who can locate spellings of all the derivatives of a particular word at one place.

Dictionary of Spelling : British and American / by Michael West. Longmans, 1964.

As the title suggests, it lists the American variations of British spellings in alphabetical order. *Awful Spellers Dictionary* / ed. by Oliver Stoner Wolfe, 1964.

It covers a small number of words which are often misspelt. He arranges the entries of wrong spellings in alphabetical order and gives correct spellings against them. The index at the end lists the correct spellings in alphabetical sequence.

iv) Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms

Thesaurus, discussed alongwith the alternate names used for the dictionaries in 6.2.1, is one of the well-known sources for synonyms. General dictionaries usually give synonyms and antonyms. There are numerous dictionaries devoted entirely to these two 'nyms'. These dictionaries are very useful to authors and enthusiasts of crossword puzzles. However, they should be used with caution and checked with the other dictionaries for the difference in shades of meanings.

Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms: A Dictionary of Discriminated Synonyms with Antonyms and Analogous and Contrasted Words / ed. by G & C Merriam Co., 1980.

Though the main title includes only synonyms, it covers antonyms too. The main entry of a word gives its meaning, use and synonyms. It carefully distinguishes between different shades of meaning of each synonym. It gives quotations illustrating the distinctions. At the end of each entry, it gives antonyms together with analogous and contrastive words by prefixing them with asterisks.

Hindi Paryayavachi Kosh / comp. by Bhola Nath Tiwari. Delhi : Prabhat Pmkashan, 1990.



Bahudeshiya Brihat Paryayavachi Kash / ed. by Bitola Nath Tiwari. Delhi: KitabVlahal, 1990.

v) Usage Dictionaries

Some of the comprehensive dictionaries define varying usage of words by giving illustrations in the form of sentences or quotations. Usage dictionaries deal extensively with grammar, syntax, style, idiom, and usage of right words. But they do not give reasons for these usages. They also discuss the common errors of usage in present day speech and writing.

A Dictionary of Modern English Usage / by H.W. Fowler. Ed. 3 / ed. by Robert William Birchfield. Oxford: Clarendon Pr., 1996.

Hindi Shabdavali our Proyog / comp. by Sita Ram Shastri. Agra: Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, 1979. 2 Pts.

It is a programmed dictionary prepared for non-Hindi speaking learners.

vi) Etymological and Historical Dictionaries

Etymology means the science of the origin and history of words. Etymological dictionaries give the history of words, their origin and derivation in the development of a language. It gives the change in the meaning and usage, the adaptation of borrowed and coined words to express certain aspects, reflect the history of language and the civilization and culture of its people.

The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology / ed. by Robert K Barnhart. N.Y.: H.W. Wilson, 1988.

It traces the origin of the basic vocabulary of modern English; contains over 30,000 entries together with glossaries of language names and linguistic terms as also of literary works listed in etymologies.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology / ed. by T.F. Hood. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986.

It provides clear and succinct accounts of the origin, history and development in meaning of some basic words and a wide selection of derivations.

Origins : *A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English* / by Eric Partridge. Ed. 4. London Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1966.

b) Dictionaries Covering a Special Type or Class of Words

The second group of special purpose dictionaries covers specific class of words. These words may or may not be included in the general dictionaries. They are of various types. We have given below a few important types with examples.

i) Dictionary of Slang Words

Words that are commonly used in every day conversation with friends or colleagues but are not suitable for formal communication or good writing are called slang words.

The previous trend of omitting slang words in a dictionary is fast changing. This change is accepted even by the editors of "Supplement of the Oxford English Dictionary". But, we have some specific dictionaries which record only slang words, their definitions, quotations and detailed information regarding their origin. They also cover slang words used by special people in different regions and vocations.

A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English Colloquialisms and Catch Phrases, Solecisms and Catechisms, Nicknames, Vulgarisms and Such Americanisms as have Naturalised / by Eric Partridge and Paul Beale. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984.

Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang / ed. by John Simpson and John Ayto. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

New Dictionary of American Slang/ al. by Robert L. Chapman. Nevv York ; Harper & Row, 1986.

ii) Dictionary of Obsolete Words

There are words, which were in use earlier but have disappeared from the current use of language. These words are known as obsolete and so, are omitted from the modern English dictionaries. Dictionaries recording such obsolete words are termed dictionaries of obsolete words.



They are useful for the students and teachers of English literature to understand the literature and language of particular periods.

Dictionary of Early English / by Shipley. New York : Philosophical Library, 1955.

Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words, Obsolete Phrases, Proverbs and Ancient Customs from the 14th Century. 13 ed. London : Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1989. 2 vols.

Adikaleen Hindi Shabd-kosh / comp. by Bholanath Tiwari and Risal Singh. Delhi: Prabhat Prakashan, 1968.

iii) Dialect Dictionaries

A dialect is the variety of a language spoken by people in different areas with variations in pronunciation, vocabulary and phrases. Such dictionaries dealing with the dialect words are known as dialect dictionaries.

English Dialect Dictionary : Being the Complete Vocabulary of All Dialect Words still in Use/ is known to have been in use during the last 200 years. / ed. by J. Wright. 6 vols. London : Oxford Univ. Press, 1981 (Reprint).

It gives pronunciation, etymology and exact geographical areas where it is used. It includes American and Colonial words used in Great Britain. It contains illustrative quotations too.

American Dialect Dictionary / by Harold Wentworth. New York : Crowell, 1944.

It deals mainly with a dialect in the form of localisms and regionalisms. It gives more than 60,000 quotations showing their usage.

iv) Dictionary of New Words

Dictionaries are revised from time to time to make them up-to-date. Many new words are coined or borrowed from other languages and added to a language. Some dictionaries cover such new words, which are not included in the old dictionaries. " *Barnhart Dictionary Companion* is a quarterly publication begun in 1982 to record new words and their meaning still to be included in a dictionary. *Webster 's Third new International Dictionary* brings out supplement from time to time recording new words. *12000 Words: a supplement to WTND* was published in 1986."

Dictionary of New Words / by Berg. London: Allen & Unwin, 1953.

v) Dictionary of Names, Surnames and Nicknames

Dictionaries covering either the personal names, nicknames or surnames are called dictionaries of names. Nickname is an altered name or a shortened name instead of the real name.

The Penguin Book of Hindu Names/by Maneka Gandhi. New Delhi: Viking, 1992.

In addition to explaining the meaning, the book also gives a list of sources from where the word has originated.

Complete Book of Muslim and Pars/ Names/by Maneka Gandhi & Ozair Hussain. N.Delhi: Indus Pub., 1994.

Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names /comp. by E.G. Withycombe. Edl. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1950.

It is useful for selecting a name for a new born baby. It attempts to cover all the names in use since 14th century.

The Oxford Mini Dictionary of First Names/ ed. by Hanks and Hodges. Oxford: University Press, 1986.

It is a guide to the meaning and origin of nearly two thousand names in common use in the English speaking world.

Dictionary of British Surnames/by Percy Hide Reaney. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1958.

It omits the surnames which are also place names and takes into consideration only the surnames of English men.



American Nicknames, Their Origin and Significance/by George Earlie Shankle. Ed.2. New York :Wilson, 1955.

It lists nicknames of the Americans. It also mentions the origin and significance of nicknames.

vii) Dictionary of Crossword Puzzles

These dictionaries are very useful for crossword enthusiasts in solving the crossword puzzles. The words are arranged according to the number of letters they contain with a brief definition.

Gem Dictionary for Crossword Puzzles. London : Collins

Longman Crossword Solver's Dictionary /by Anne R. Poradford. Harlow : Longman, 1986. *Webster 's Official Crossword Puzzle Dictionary*/ed. by Merriam Webster, 1981.

viii) Dictionary of Anagrams

Anagram is the Word made by changing the order of the letter in the given word, e.g., male-lame.

Longman Anagram Dictionary / by R.J. Edwards. Harlow : Longman, 1985.

It lists over 2,00,000 anagrams and phrases listed by length in alphabetical order. It is a comprehensive, computer compiled anagram dictionary ideal for solving crosswords, word puzzles, scrabble, etc. It is an ideal companion to "*Longman Crossword Key*" and "*The Longman Crossword Solver 's Dictionary*"

ix) Dictionary of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviations are the shortened form of long words, viz., e.g., = for example., acronyms are the words formed from the initial letters of names., e.g., WHO for World Health Organisation. Most of the unabridged dictionaries, encyclopaedias, almanacs, yearbooks, handbooks, etc. include abbreviations and acronyms. But a special dictionary covering only abbreviations and acronyms is very helpful as a reference tool.

Acronyms, Initialism and Abbreviations Dictionary. Ed. 18 / ed. by Janitufer Mossman. Detroit Gale Research, 1993.3v.

- v.1 Acronyms, initialism, and abbreviations dictionary
- v.2 New acronyms, initialisni and abbreviations. Inter-edition supplement
- v.3 Reverse acronyms, initialism and abbreviation dictionary

It is a basic guide to abbreviations. It is quite often revised to keep it up-to-date. Entries are arranged alphabetically. Apart from abbreviations and acronyms, it covers anonymous, i.e., nameless or pseudonyms, i.e., different names used instead of the real names especially by authors, contractions, initials and nicknames, signs and symbols, short forms, etc.

x) Dictionary of Signs and Symbols

This special dictionary does not deal with words but still it is a part of language dictionary as the signs have meanings.

The Book of Signs/by Rudolph Koch. New edition. Constacle, 1995

It contains not only signs/but also symbols used from the earliest to middle ages by primitive people and early Christians.

C) Dictionaries Dealing with Literary Aspects and Catering; to Special Group of Persons

The third group of special purpose dictionaries cater for the special type of persons, i.e. poets and writers. They deal with the literary aspects rather than language. Some of the important dictionaries under the group are

- i) Quotations
- ii) Proverbs
- iii) Foreign Terms
- iv) Phrases
- v) Idioms, Euphemism
- vi) Rhyming Words



- vii) Cliches
- viii) Concordances
- ix) Gradus

i) Dictionary of Quotations

"Quotation is a pithy one or two sentence, made as a remark by an eminent person in course of a lecture, speech or in a book of fiction or non-fiction. It describes a situation or characteristic of a person by type in a few words which, later on is used by others to describe similar situation or person. It is not uncommon for library user to come to the library seeking exact words or context or person with whom a particular quotation is associated."

The dictionary of quotations is a very useful aid of reference collection. It is referred to identify and verify a particular quotation. It records quotations belonging to a particular subject, by a given author or for a special occasion.

Concise Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. New ed. Oxford University Press, 1982.

Macmillan Dictionary of Political Quotations /comp. by Lewis D. Eigen and Jonathan P. Siegel. New York: Macmillan. 1993.

It is arranged alphabetically by topics, e.g. Bureaucracy, Democracy, etc.

The New Quotable Women/comp. by Elaine Partnow. New York: Facts on File, 1992.

This is a compilation of quotations from eminent women of the world, arranged chronologically and under period by women. It consists of about 1500 quotations collected from utterances of 2500 women throughout the history. The text is supported by indexes - women name index, quotations arranged by subject index, etc.

Oxford Dictionary of Quotations / ed. by A.J. Augarde. London: Oxford University Pr., 1991.

Bartlett, John: *Familiar Quotations: A Collection of Passages, Phrases and Proverbs* /revised by Emily Morison Beck. Ed. 15. Boston: Little Brown, 1980.

Bloomsbury Dictionary of Quotations. London : Bloomsbury, 1986.

It contains wide-ranging, informative and interesting quotations. It is a very handy, useful and accurate reference book. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author. It provides an extensive index based on key words listed in alphabetic order.

ii) Dictionary of Proverbs

Dictionaries of proverbs list proverbs in alphabetical order under the first significant key word with cross references to other important words.

Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs/comp. by John Simpson and Jennifer Speak. Ed.2. London : O.U.P., 1993.

German- Hindi Kahavat Kosh/comp. by Gulab Bhati. Jodhpur : German Vidyapeeth Pub., 1991:

A World Treasury of Proverbs from Twenty Five Languages. New York : Random, 1946.

The Prentice-Hall Encyclopaedia of World Proverbs : A Treasury of Wit and Wisdom through the Ages. Englewood cliff, N.J.,: Prentice-Hall, 1986.

It is a collection assembled from all over the world numbering about 18,500 given in English with language of origin indicated.

iii) Dictionary of Foreign Terms

This dictionary covers, foreign words and phrases regularly used in English language. It is a very useful source of reference.

A Dictionary of Foreign Words and Phrases in Current English/by Alan Joseph Bliss. New York : Dutton, 1966.

It gives a brief definition of each foreign word and phrase with the country of its origin.



iv) Dictionary of Phrases

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrases and Fables/by E.C. Brewer. Ed. 14/ed. by Ivon H. Evans. N.Y.: Harper and Row, 1989.

v) Dictionary of Idioms

They are very useful for the writers to check the meaning and usage of idioms. Each idiom is defined and used in a sentence.

A Book of English Idioms/by V.H. Collins. Longman, 1956.

A Second Book of English Idioms. Longman, 1956.

A Third Book of English Idioms. Longman, 1960.

They record idioms and idiomatic phrases in alphabetical order under the first key word.

The Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English/by A.P. Cowie and R. Mackin. London: Oxford University Press. 1975-83.

Vol. 1: Verbs with Prepositions and Articles, 1975. Vol.2: Phrase, Clause and Sentence Idioms, 1983.

It is a very useful reference book for advanced students and teachers. It is comprehensive and gives detailed information on possible sentence patterns with illustrative quotations from a wide range of 20th century writing.

vi) Dictionary of Rhyming Words

These dictionaries are very useful to verse writers. They differ from the general dictionaries in the nature of arrangement. In this dictionary, all the rhyming words are grouped together.

The Poets Manual and Rhyming Dictionary/by Frances Stillman. New York Crowell, 1965.

The Complete Rhyming Dictionary and Poet's Craft/ed. by Clement Wood; rev. by Ronald J. Bogus. N.Y. : Doubleday, 1990.

vii) Dictionary of Cliches

Cliches are expressions or ideas which have become outdated due to their frequent use. They are the idiomatic phrases mostly found in writing rather than speech.

A Dictionary of Cliches with An Introductory Essay/by Eric Partridge. 5th ed. London : Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.

It lists, defines and dates cliches which have been stereotyped by their repeated use. In the preface, Partridge defines Cliche as "an outworn commonplace, a phrase or short sentence that has become hackneyed that careful speakers and scrupulous writers shrink from it because they feel that its use is an insult to the intelligence of their audience or public."

viii) Concordance

A concordance is an alphabetical index of important words used in a particular work. Usually, it is followed by citation of the passages concerned.

A Concordance of the Quraan/by Hanna E. Kassis. London: Univ. of California Pr., 1983. Words are listed under roots from which they originate.

Critical Word Index to Bhagavadgita/by Prahlad C. Divanji. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1993.

A 1946 edition reprint, the index is divided into three parts - index of primary word unit; secondary and other units; common index of all the words in the two parts.

ix) Gradus

The word 'grades' is used for a dictionary which aids in writing of poetry.



Self Check Exercise

- 5) Enumerate criteria that differentiate special dictionary from a general dictionary.

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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6.3.3 Dictionaries Useful for Translations

"Dictionaries giving meaning of words from one language into another language/languages are known as bilingual or multilingual dictionaries. We are all familiar with English-Hindi, English - Tamil or English-Urdu dictionaries. They are used as an aid in learning a foreign language. They are also used in translating text of foreign language book, etc. in local language and vice-versa.

When a dictionary is compiled to give meaning of a word of one language into more than one languages, such a dictionary, as is evident, is known as multilingual. In bilingual dictionaries, word of one language is explained in the other language; some times such explanation may exceed even a sentence. Multilingual dictionaries restrict themselves to only providing with equivalent term in other languages. Such dictionaries also are made use of to provide descriptors for subject headings. They are also considered part of comparative linguistics." Thus multilingual dictionaries may be grouped as:

- a) Bilingual dictionaries, giving meaning in one or two other languages.
- b) Multilingual dictionaries giving equivalent words in three or more languages.

a) Bilingual Dictionaries

Mostly compiled as an aid to learning a foreign language, they are available in various sizes ranging from pocket size to multi-volume sets. British publishing firms Collins, Cambridge University Press, Cassell and Oxford University Press have provided a large number of bilingual dictionaries. Harrap of US are also a leading publisher of bilingual dictionaries from English to other European languages.

A typical English language bilingual dictionary offers a foreign word and its equivalent word in English in the first part. The process is reversed in the second part by giving the English word first followed by the equivalent foreign word. They are available in various sizes and volumes. They are well-illustrated by the members of the Harrap's family of French and English Dictionaries published simultaneously by Harrap at London and Scribner at New York.

Harrap's a New Standard French and English Dictionary/edited by J.E. Mansion; completely revised and enlarged edition by R.P.L. Ledesert and Margaret Ledesert. London: Harrap; New York : Scribner, 1972-1980.

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|-----------|
| Part 1 | French into English | Two Vols. |
| Part 2 | English into French | Two Vols. |

Harrap's *Modern College French and English Dictionary*/by LE. Mansion; completely revised and enlarged edition in one volume by M.Ferlin and P.Forbes and edited by D.M. Ledesert and R.P.L. Ledesert. New York: Scribner's, 1972.

Harrap's Concise Student French and English Dictionary/by J.E. Mansion. New ed./by P.H. Collin and others, 1978.



Harrap's Pocket Student French and English Dictionary. New York : Scribner, 1957.

The Cassell's series of bilingual dictionaries is very famous. Cassell's series is available in various European languages such as French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin etc. They are published by Macmillan in America and under the Cassell imprint in England. The American edition of "*Cassell's New Latin Dictionary: Latin-English/English-Latin*" has been published by Funk and Wagnalls in 1960. Cassell is famous for publishing standard bilingual desk dictionaries. Most of them have been revised many times.

Oxford University Press and Collins are also well-known for their bilingual dictionaries in important European languages in two sizes – unabridged and concise or pocket.

Oxford Bilingual Dictionaries

The Oxford Harrap Standard German-English-German Dictionary, 5vols.

and

The Pocket Oxford German Dictionary

Oxford has brought out unabridged and concise dictionaries of European languages – French, Italian, Russian, Greek, Turkish, Arabic and Chinese.

Collins Bilingual Dictionaries

Collins Klett German-English/English-German Dictionary, 2vols.

and

Collins Pocket German Dictionary

Collins has published unabridged and concise editions of French, Italian and Spanish in one volume.

Sometimes, it is easy to convey information by pictures than description and explanations. The Oxford-Duden pictorial bilingual dictionaries have identified about 28,000 objects. They contain illustrations and their names in both the languages. It extensively covers vocabulary of science and technology, industry and commerce, engineering and medicine, arts and architecture, leisure and objects of daily use. They are very handy for students, tourists, translators and business people. They are available in:

French and English,

German and English,

Spanish and English,

Dutch and English,

English and Japanese

Now, let us have some examples of bilingual dictionaries of Sanskrit and Hindi. Sir Monier Monier-Williams' name is familiar to all the scholars. He has compiled English-Sanskrit and Sanskrit-English dictionaries way back in 1851.

A Dictionary of English and Sanskrit/by Sir Monier Monier-Williams. Lucknow : Akhil Bharatiya Sanskrit Parishad, 1956.

The first edition was published in 1851. It was reprinted lithographically in India from the sheets of the first edition.

A Sanskrit-English Dictionary : Etymologically and Philologically, Arranged with Special Reference to Cognate Indo-European Languages/by Sir Monier Monier Williams. New edition greatly improved and enlarged in collaboration with Prof. E. Lehmann, Prof. C. Cappeller and others. Oxford : Clarendon Press. 1999.

It was reprinted in Delhi by Motilal Banarasidass in 1963.

Apte, Vaman Shivram. *The Student's English - Sanskrit Dictionary*. 3rd ed. New Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1920. Reprinted 1987.

Apte Vaman Shivram, *The Student's Sanskrit English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1970. Reprinted 1993. (1st ed. 1890)

The examples of Hindi bilingual dictionaries are as under:

Brihat English-Hindi Dictionary/by Hardeo Bahri. 2vols. 3rd ed. Varanasi: Gyanmandal, 1969.

An English-Hindi Dictionary/by Father Kamil Bulke. 3rd ed. New Delhi: S. Chand, 1981.



Practical Hindi-English Dictionary/by Mahendra Chaturvedi and Bholanath Tiwari. Delhi : National, 1970.

Sankshipta Hindi-English Dictionary/by Mahendra Chaturvedi and Bholanath Tiwari. Delhi : National, 1972.

India being a multi-lingual country, there are numerous bilingual and trilingual dictionaries offering Hindi or English as first language and their equivalents in any other Indian language and vice versa. These dictionaries are very useful to language learners and translators.

The Central Hindi Directorate, Department of Culture, Government. of India has published more than twenty bilingual dictionaries, about half of them are Hindi-based and the other half are regional languages based.

The Directorate has also brought out Hindi based foreign and Indian language dictionaries and Indian and foreign language-based Hindi dictionaries.

Hindi - Chini Kosh, 1988

Hindi - Fransisi Kosh, 1988 German - Hindi Kash. 2 pts. 1990

Hindi - English Dictionary of Common Words, 1983

In addition there are tri-lingual dictionaries brought out by The Central Hindi Directorate.

Hindi - Gujarati - English, 1984

Gujarati - Hindi - English, 1988

Hindi -Marathi - English, 1988

Marathi - Hindi - English, 1986

The following are some more examples of bilingual dictionaries.

An English - Hindi dictionary/by ICamil Bulke. Ed. 3. New Delhi : S. Chant!, 1981.

Oxford Hindi - English dictionary /by IL S. McGregor. London: Oxford university.Pr., 1993.

B) Multilingual Dictionaries

The second type useful for translation are known as multilingual or polyglot dictionaries. They give equivalent words in three or more languages. The arrangement of entries in the polyglot dictionaries have not been standardised.

They are arranged alphabetically by the main language with the equivalent words in the other language covered in a tabular form. Separate alphabetical indexes for each language represented are given as appendices at the end.

Twenty-one Language Dictionary/by H.L. Ouseg - Owen, 1962.

It is a multilingual dictionary of a small number of common words and expressions covering 21 languages. It is arranged alphabetically by the English words and has equivalent words of 20 languages. It has twenty appendices-one for each foreign language. Each appendix has alphabetically arranged list of words with their appropriate English equivalent

Bhartiya Vyavahar Kosh /ed. by Vishwanath Dinkar Naravane. Bombay : Tribeni Sangam, 1961.

Naravane's multilingual dictionary of simple and common words of day-to-day use covers fifteen Indian languages and English. Words of the other languages are transliterated in Nagari script, except English.

As explained above, multilingual dictionaries restrict themselves in providing equivalent term in other than base language. They have become common only after the advent of computers. Elsevier of Amsterdam have published quite a few multilingual dictionaries. These are found in subject dictionaries. Such dictionaries restrict themselves generally to one subject and are very common science and technology.



Yugarasmi's Illustrated English, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Arabic Dictionary. Trivendrum: Yugarasmi Pub. Co., 1988.

Self Check Exercise

6) List five special features of bi-lingual and multi lingual dictionaries.

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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6.3.4 Subject Dictionaries

Dictionaries dealing with the terms of a particular subject are known as subject dictionaries. The rapid development in all the fields of knowledge, has necessitated in the compilation of subject dictionaries devoted to the specific subject fields, occupations and professions. This is especially true for the fast advancing subjects of science and technology. General dictionaries cover most of the terms of the subjects in humanities. As specialisation increases, so do the scientific dictionaries. They differ from general language dictionaries in two ways:

- 1) They include specialised technical terms of a particular discipline not usually found in general dictionaries. These technical terms are coined, borrowed, adopted, adapted and invented by specialists and experts in the fields.
- 2) They give detailed descriptions of words. They not only define the terms but explain and comment on them.

Some subject dictionaries are meant for general public whereas most of them are published for subject specialists and students. They are found in various forms according to the size, volume and language. They can be

- i) Unabridged or abridged
- ii) Unilingual
- iii) Bilingual and multilingual

i) Unabridged or abridged

Some unilingual dictionaries are unabridged although examples of abridged dictionaries are also available.

The McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Modern Economics: A Handbook of Terms and Organisations/ by Greenwald. 4th ed. New York : McGraw-Hill, 1983.

The Concise McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Modern Economics/ed. by Douglas Greenwald. New York McGraw-Hill, 1984.

ii) Unilingual

The American Dictionary of Economics /ed. by Douglas A L Auld and others. N.Y.: Facts on File, 1983.

Revised edition of the *Penguin Dictionary of Economics/by* Bannock etc.

Pustakalaya Vigyan Paribhasa Kosh. New Delhi : Central Hindi Directorate, 1988.

Dictionary of Information Science and Technology/comp. by Walters. London : Academic Press, 1992.

Brihat Paribas Shabd Sangraha: Vigyan Khand. New Delhi : Central Hindi Directorate, 1990. 2 vols.

A Dictionary of the Social Sciinces /ed by Julins Gould and William L. Kolb. N.Y.: Free Press, 1964.

Harrod's Libraries Glossary and Reference Book/ compiled by Ray Prytherch. 6th ed. Hauts, England : Gower Publishing, 1987.

Dictionary of Library and Information Science : English-Hindi, Hindi-English / compiled by Pandey S.K. Sharma and O.P. Gupta. New Delhi : Ess Ess Publications, 1986.

IGNOU : *Glossary of Terms in Library and Information Science (English-Hindi)*. New Delhi : IGNOU, 1999.

iii) Bilingual and Multilingual

German - English Technical and Engineering Dictionary/by L. De Vries and T.M. Herrmann. 2nd ed. New York : Mc Graw-Hill, 1968.

English-German and Technical and Engineering Dictionary/by L.De. Vries and T.M. Herrmann. 2nd ed. New York : McGraw Hill, 1968.

Elsevier 's Dictionary of Television, Radar and Antennas in Six Languages/by W.E. Clason. Amsterdam : Elsevier, 1955:

Subject dictionaries are not confined to major disciplines or subjects. Numerous dictionaries are compiled solely to deal *with the vocabulary of specialised topics*.

Dictionary of Clocks and Watches / by E.Bruton Arco, 1962.

Tobacco Dictionary /by R.Jahn. New York : Philosophical Library, 1954.

The Diamond Dictionary/by. L.L. Copeland. Los Angles : Geological Institute of America, 1960.

There are some renowned publishers who have published dictionaries on various subjects. They contain explanation and accurate definitions of technical teams. They include brief biographies of eminent subject specialists, names and addresses of agencies and institutions be-longing to the particular subject field. They are encyclopaedic in nature as they give illustrations and descriptive information. As the new technical terms are either coined or borrowed and added frequently to the subject fields, subject dictionaries become out-of-date very fast. To keep the pace with such additions, they have to be regularly revised and new editions are published often. In fact, before referring to a subject dictionary, specialists will first glance through the year of publication.

Some of the leading publishers like McGraw Hill, Elsevier, Penguin, etc. have published popular series of subject dictionaries in various disciplines. They are the most well known sources of reference in the academic and special libraries.

Unlike the European languages, the tradition of subject dictionaries in our country is still very weak. Barring Government. sponsored agencies such as The Bureau for Promotion of Urdu or the Central Hindi Directorate, private-level publishing of subject dictionaries is yet to pick up.

Self Check Exercises

7) Answer the following four questions.

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

a) Subject dictionaries complement general dictionaries in two ways. What are they?

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b) Write in 30 words why relatively fewer dictionaries are published in Humanities and Social Sciences than in Sciences.

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c) Why subject dictionaries are frequently revised? Write in five lines.

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d) What kinds of aspects are recorded in subject dictionaries.

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6.4 USES OF DICTIONARIES

In section 6.3, we have discussed various kinds of dictionaries. We also tried to state their uses while discussing them. The uses of a dictionary depend to a large extent on the type of dictionary. Usually, dictionaries are used to verify pronunciation, spellings, meanings or usages of words. Bid, these are common uses. Dictionaries can be referred for varied purposes. In this section, we will pinpoint uses of each type of dictionary.

a) General Language Dictionaries

General language dictionaries are usually used for four broad purposes such as,

- i) a quick reference tool
- ii) a language standardiser
- iii) a language recorder and
- iv) a vocabulary builder

i) Dictionary as quick reference tool

They act as quick reference tools as they are often consulted to verify spelling, syllabication, hyphenation, pronunciation and meaning of a word. They give further information about the origin, part of speech and usage of a word. In addition to this, they may also include abbreviations and acronyms, tables of weights, measures, currencies of various countries etc. Some dictionary record specialised information by giving homonyms, synonyms, antonyms. Many unabridged dictionaries cover geographical and biographical information regarding the places and persons.



ii) Dictionary as a language standardiser

In eighteenth century, it was common to compile prescriptive dictionaries to standardise the spelling, pronunciation, meaning and usage of words. Standardisation has been accepted as one of the objectives of lexicography even in the twentieth century. But the difference lies in the methods of compilation. In the eighteenth century, standardisation was based on the opinions and judgements of the compilers alone whereas now, it is achieved by gathering the evidence from carefully scrutinised inventory of words from the recorded sources of the language and the usage of the speakers. This helps in elimination of variation in spellings and usage of the words.

iii) Dictionary as a language recorder

General unabridged dictionaries such as Oxford English Dictionary act as a language recorder. It traces the developmental trends of the language by recording etymological details of the words, their history, origin and derivation. Thereby, it provides historical records of the changes undergone in the meanings and usages of the words from time to time. It is compiled from the descriptive point of view.

iv) Dictionary builds vocabulary

The systematic and regular use of dictionary clears doubts regarding the spelling, meaning and usage of words. It enriches the word power by helping in building proper vocabulary and ensuring accurate use of words in context.

b) Special Dictionaries

Special dictionaries are grouped into four major groups. They are dictionaries dealing with:

- i) Linguistic aspects of words
 - ii) Special class of words
 - iii) Literary aspects of words
 - iv) Words meant for specific type of persons
- i) Special dictionaries dealing with the special aspects of the language help to check pronunciation, spellings, meaning, usage and etymology of words. They are useful in finding antonyms, synonyms and homonyms.
 - ii) Special dictionaries covering a special class of words are helpful in locating full forms of abbreviations and acronyms and meanings of signs and symbols. They cover slang, obsolete and dialect words which are usually not included in the general dictionaries. They specially deal with new, coined, or borrowed words, difficult, curious and troublesome words. They also cover names, nicknames and surnames of people and place name of particular countries.
 - iii) Special dictionaries dealing with the literary aspects of the language aid in finding suitable proverbs, quotations, idioms, phrases, foreign terms etc. They also cover words used by particular author or in a particular work.
 - iv) Some dictionaries are compiled with specialised approach to include words meant for specific type of persons. For instance, rhyming dictionaries and gradus are meant for poets. Dictionaries of folktales and nursery rhymes are meant for small children and parents and teachers teaching in nursery and primary schools.

Dictionaries of crossword puzzles and anagrams are useful aids for enthusiasts of crossword puzzles.

c) Bilingual and Multilingual Dictionaries

There are bilingual and multilingual dictionaries, a good number of translating dictionaries pertaining to various foreign languages as well as specific subjects. They normally provide exact equivalents of the words in a foreign language and are very useful in translating works of a specific subject from one language to the other. Travellers also use dictionaries of such nature. In India various languages are spoken and written. Such dictionaries are useful for translating novels, poems or works from one language to other/another language/s. Some com-



prehensive unabridged bilingual dictionaries are useful aides to the librarians, students, research scholars and the translators. They are also useful in learning a foreign language.

d) Subject Dictionaries

They include words, phrases, expressions, and technical terms of a particular subject: Some of these are technical and so they do not find place in general language dictionaries. They are used by the subject specialists and students. The interlingual subject dictionaries are good sources of information for the translators and subject experts.

6.4.1 Dictionaries : Some Problems

According to one estimate "every minute of every day including Sunday, six people buy an Oxford dictionary". This only shows the usefulness of dictionary as a reference source. Yet to get full amount of help from a dictionary one must try to acquaint oneself with the peculiarities of different dictionaries.

Spelling: One major difficulty in the way of use of a dictionary is looking up words with incorrect spelling. Slight variations in remembered and actual spelling will result into disappointment.

Meaning: A word may carry more than one meaning, some archaic, others common. There are dictionaries which place common meaning first, whereas some dictionaries arrange various meanings in chronological order.

A word may have two opposite meaning (chiffed: pleased, displeased) and a small dictionary may restrict itself to only one meaning.

Where a word has both a popular meaning and, as a term, technical meaning, care should be taken in looking in the context of use before opening a dictionary.

New Words: Languages like human society are undergoing continuous change. New words are coined each day. No standard dictionary can keep pace with such fast movement. English language is better served on this count with *Barnhart Dictionary Companion*, a quarterly publication updating general dictionaries.

Usage : Words undergo change in meaning. Usage is one of the most delicate characteristics of language. Cultural groups, geographical areas, closed societies (of anti social elements) class of people, all affect the meaning of a word. Hence to study the context of use and looking up a proper dictionary of slang, euphemism, colloquial use - will alone solve problem.

Innovative compilations have been attempted to meet unconventional approach of dictionary users: *Ologies and isms*, (Detroit, Gale, 1986) is a dictionary of 15000 words that end in ology, ism, ics, graphy, metry, archy, cider philia, phobia, mancy, et al. It helps users who have an idea theory and want to look up its meaning. *Benrtein's Reverse Dictionary or Roget's Thesaurus* type compilations are also helpful in such situations.

Self Check Exercise

8) Match the following

Group A lists four major types of dictionaries discussed in this unit. Group B consists of eight statements, two each denoting the uses of the dictionaries. Against each type of dictionary in group A – two boxes are provided. Fill in the Roman numbers for Group B to match with the type of dictionary.

Group A

a) General dictionary

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b) Special dictionary

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c) Bi/Multi-lingual dictionary

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d) Subject dictionary

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Group B

- i) help in solving crossword puzzles
- ii) useful for the translators
- iii) assist in enriching word power
- iv) beneficial to the students of management
- v) recorder and standardiser of a language
- vi) helpful aid to the scientists
- vii) useful to learn a foreign language
- viii) useful aid to poets

6.5 EVALUATION OF DICTIONARIES

We have acquainted you with different types of dictionaries and their various uses in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 of this Unit. In this section, we will touch upon some evaluation criteria which are useful for you in assessing the value of any dictionary you intend to acquire either for your personal use or for the reference collection of a library.

The advancement in lexicography as science in the last few decades has resulted in the publication of a number of new dictionaries. At the same time, the old ones, have often been revised, updated and brought out as new editions with more accurate information and in a new format. It is not possible for the librarian to purchase all the available dictionaries. At the same one cannot expect any dictionary to be perfect. Dr. Johnson rightly observed while comparing dictionaries with watches that "the worst is better than none and the best cannot be accurate and self-sufficient. Language undergoes change continuously as new words are added and old ones become obsolete. Thus, the librarian has to examine the dictionary carefully before addition to the collections. He has to assess the value both in terms of money and contents. The criteria for evaluating the dictionaries are

- i) Authority
- ii) Scope or purpose
- iii) Word arrangement and word treatment
- iv) Format
- v) Special features

i) Authority

The authority of a dictionary can be determined by the reputation of its compiler(s)/editor(s), associates and publishers. Usually, a linguist et a philologist helped by experts in pronunciations, spellings, etymology and various subject fields together produce a dictionary. The authoritativeness of these compilers and the experts can be evaluated on the basis of their qualifications and scholarly contributions in their fields.

The publishing history of particular dictionary also plays an important role in assessing the value of the dictionary. As language undergoes continuous change by adding newly coined and borrowed words and deleting obsolete words, it is essential to revise dictionaries periodically. Hence, a publication which has been revised and updated regularly within a few decades can be considered reliable and dependable.

Again, there are some publishers well-known in the field of lexicography since last two to three centuries. G. & C. Merriam, Funk and Wagnall and McGraw-Hill in United States and Oxford University Press, Longman and Cassell, Cambridge in Britain are some of the notable publishers who specialise in the field of publishing dictionaries. They have published various types of dictionaries and kept them up to date by bringing new editions at regular intervals. Elsevier and Penguin have also published various subject dictionaries and earned good name in last few decades.



ii) Scope and Purpose

The scope of the dictionary can be evaluated by examining the basis for word selection adopted by the compiler and the size of the vocabulary. The scope and purpose of a particular dictionary can be assessed by going through its preface and introduction. The category in which it falls and the type of readers for whom it is compiled help us to determine the purpose of the dictionary.

iii) Word arrangement and word treatment

In most of the dictionaries, entries are arranged in alphabetical order. The arrangement of the vocabulary is either letter-by-letter or word-by-word. Usually, the dictionary users are aware of its arrangement and can consult it easily. However, the well-designed dictionary with proper guidance regarding its use makes it easier for the users to refer it. The keys to the abbreviations used and the method of indicating pronunciations should be self-explanatory. There should be consistency in arrangement, form and order of the entries.

Normally, all the dictionaries record spelling, pronunciation, syllabication, parts of speech, etymology, definition, usage, synonyms, antonyms, etc:

Pronunciations are commonly indicated with the help of diacritical marks. The variation in pronunciations at different places should be made clear. The pronunciation represented by a particular phonetic symbol should indicate the same sound.

Variations in spellings in the language used by people in different countries should be indicated clearly in the dictionary.

Etymology and history of words recorded with dates enable the user to mark the changes in meanings and usage of a word over a period of time.

Parts of speech indicated by using the abbreviations should be self-explanatory. A key to the abbreviations used should be given either in the beginning or at the end for the user's reference.

Dictionaries are mostly referred for the meanings of the words, so the definitions should be accurate, clear and precise.

iv) Format

The physical format of the dictionary should be compatible with efficient use. Size, binding, paper, print and appearance should be examined carefully while evaluating a particular dictionary.

Size

The size of a dictionary depends upon the coverage and the number of entries. A single compact volume is preferable to multi volume set. A tall, thin volume is handy to use rather than a short, fat book.

Binding

As dictionaries are used often by many users, it is advisable both for the librarians and the individuals to purchase hardcover editions.

Paper

Opaque and thin paper should be used for dictionaries. The thickness of the paper adds to the weight and physical bulk of the dictionary.

Print

One should consider relevant technical and mechanical points while evaluating print of a dictionary such as the print-size, use of bold face type, spacing between words, clarity in print, adequate margins on both sides, enough space at the columns if the page is divided, thumb indexes for each alphabet; guide keys, plenty of this devices and tables, natural illustrations in proportionate size and so on.

Appearance

While considering the above criteria for the functional appeal and efficient use, the over-all



appearance of the dictionary should be pleasing and appealing.

v) **Special features**

Some general and subject dictionaries include some encyclopaedic features in dictionary. They add to the value of a dictionary as it becomes a convenient ready reference tool.

- Geographical and historical details of different places including size, population and other census figures.
- Biographical sketches of some notable persons in different fields.
- Names of famous social, political, economic, religious, educational organisations, institutions and associations.
- Maps, sketches or illustrations of words which are difficult to explain.
- Coloured pictures of flowers, fruits, vegetables, insects, birds, animals, automobiles etc. with natural colours and proportionate sizes.
- Tables of weights and measures.

Apart from the above special features, dictionaries also have abbreviations and acronyms, signs and symbols, comparative tables of pronunciations, foreign terms, word and phrases used in various subjects, rhyming words, idioms and their usage etc. In short, unabridged dictionaries can provide all types of information needed for ready reference.

Librarians should judge the value of a dictionary for the reference section by examining it carefully with the help of the check points discussed above.

Self Check Exercise

9) Fill in the blanks in the following statements.

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

- i) The reputation of the lexicographers can be judged from theirand
- ii) Word arrangement in the dictionaries is alphabetical, either.....or
- iii) The dictionary which has been often.....and.....is made available in new editions periodically is considered authoritative.
- iv) The thick papers used in printing a dictionary makes it.....and.....
- v) The scope and purpose of the dictionary can be, assessed from its.....and.....
- vi) A tall, thin, single volume of a dictionary is preferred to a.....set.

6.6 SUMMARY

In this Unit, we have tried to emphasise the importance of dictionary as one of the most useful reference tools. We have introduced you to the basic characteristics of dictionaries known by alternate names such as Glossary, Lexicon, Thesaurus, Vocabulary and Wordbook. The compilation of two reference sources in one, by combining features of either thesaurus or encyclopaedia with those of dictionaries is also discussed. Later, we have acquainted you with four major types of dictionary and their uses. Various examples of general, special, translating and subject dictionaries are identified to give you a clear picture of the vast variety of dictionaries. Lastly, we have outlined some basic check points to evaluate the value of dictionaries. You should now attempt the activities given at the end of this Unit and search for some more examples of dictionaries and locate answers for the questions from various types of dictionary. This will equip you to answer any queries from the readers without difficulty.



6.7 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

- 1)
 - Thesaurus is the valuable source of synonyms and antonyms arranged in a Classified order.
 - Vocabulary explains and defines words and phrases belonging to a single work of author.
 - Glossary explains the technical terms of a particular dialect or subject.
 - Encyclopaedic dictionary has both Encyclopaedic and Lexicographical features combined in one.
- 2) In recent years, subject thesauri are compiled to provide
 - Subject headings lists for indexers and searchers;
 - An effective language interface between people and manual or computer data storage systems.
- 3) Lexicology is the study of the origin and meaning of words; Lexicography is the science of making dictionary.
Lexicology is a theoretical science and lexicography is an applied science of linguistics.
- 4) Prescriptive and descriptive dictionaries are compiled for different purposes.

| Prescriptive Dictionaries | Descriptive Dictionaries |
|--|--|
| <p>They are compiled to set authoritative standards for spellings, pronunciations meanings and usage. Hence, they include only standard and approved words of a language.</p> | <p>They are compiled to record the words of a language with all their acceptable spellings, pronunciations, meanings and uses at the time of compilation.</p> |

- 5) General dictionary includes most of the words covered by different varieties of the special dictionaries but the special dictionary deals comprehensively with words of one specific linguistic or literary aspect of a language.
- 6)
 - i) Dictionaries for Translation are either bilingual or multilingual.
 - ii) They record a limited vocabulary.
 - iii) They give equivalent words but do not define them.
 - iv) They include pronunciation, stress, parts of speech and genders.
 - v) They do not cover historical and etymological details.
- 7)
 - a)
 - i) Subject dictionaries include highly technical terms of a specific subject which are not usually recorded in general dictionaries.
 - ii) Subject dictionaries not only give meanings but give accurate description, definition and illustrations to explain the terms.
 - b) As most of the unabridged, comprehensive general dictionaries include the terms of subject in social sciences and humanities, we have relatively more dictionaries in science and technology subjects than in humanities and social sciences.
 - c) The new technical terms are coined, borrowed and regularly added due to fast advancements in all disciplines of knowledge. Hence, they get out-of-date and are to be revised frequently.



d) Subject dictionaries usually record the following information:

- i) Authentic definition of each terms.
- ii) Accurate description and explanation.
- iii) Illustrations to explain the terms.
- iv) Biographies of eminent subject specialists.
- v) Name and addresses of agencies and institutions.

| 8) | Group A | Statement number from Group B to be filled in the Boxes. | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|------|
| | a) General dictionaries | iii | v |
| | b) Special dictionaries | i | viii |
| | c) Dictionaries of Translation | ii | vii |
| | d) Subject dictionaries | iv | vi |

- 9) i) *Qualifications and Scholarly Contributions*
 ii) *Word-by-word or Letter-by-letter*
 iii) *revised, and, updated*
 iv) *heavy and bulky*
 v) *preface and introduction*
 vi) *short, fat, multi-volume set.*

6.8 KEY WORDS

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Acronyms | : | Word formed from the initial letters of a group of words, e.g., IGNOU. |
| Anagram | : | Words or phrase made by rearranging the letter of another word or phrase, e.g., cart-house is an anagram of orchestra. |
| Antonyms | : | Word that is opposite in meaning to another. |
| Archaisms | : | Archaic word or expression Archaic-primitive; especially of words, etc. a language, no longer in current use. |
| Cliche | : | Phrase or idea which is used so often that it has become stale or meaningless. |
| Inflections | : | 1. Suffix used to inflex a word (e.g. -ed, -ing). 2. The way that you speak, for example when you emphasise particular words. |
| Morpheme | : | Smallest meaningful unit into which a word can be divided. e.g., un-like-ly contains three. |
| Neologisms | : | A neologism is a new word or expression in a language or a familiar word or expression that is now being used with a new meaning; a formal word. |
| Polyglot | : | A multilingual, knowing, using or writing in many languages. |
| Scrabble | : | Game in which words are built up on a board marked with squares, using letters printed on blocks of wood, etc. |
| Synonyms | : | Word or phrase with the same meaning as another in the same language, though perhaps with a different style, grammar or technical use. |



6.9 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Cheney, Grances Neel. (1980). *Fundamental Reference Sources*. 2nd ed. Chicago: American Library Association.

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Katz, Willam A. (1992). *Introduction to Reference Work, Vol. 1*. Basic Information Sources. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Krishna Kumar. (1996). *Reference Service*. 5th ed. New Delhi :Vikas.

Sheehy, Eugene P. (1986). *Guide to Reference Books*. 10th ed. Chicago: American Library Association .

Whittaker, Kenneth. (1966). *Dictionaries*. London: Clive Bingley.

Activities

- 1) Collect two examples for each of the following. Do not repeat the same examples given in the unit.
 - a) Glossary
 - b) Lexicon
 - c) Thesaurus
 - d) Vocabulary
 - e) Encyclopaedic dictionaries
- 2) Try to locate some examples of special dictionaries which have not been given in the text.

In order to collect the examples for the above two activities, you can either visit big university or special libraries or search them from Guides to Reference Sources and Publishers' catalogues.