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ОСВІТА, НАУКА ТА ВИРОБНИЦТВО: РОЗВИТОК І ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

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THE EVOLUTION OF ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

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Dictionary is one of the main resources of information. "We rely on dictionaries to provide us with definitions of words, and to tell us how to spell them. They are used at home and at school, cited in law courts, sermons and parliament, and referred to by crossword addicts and scrabble players alike" [1, p. 1].

The term "dictionary" is usually applied to a book containing words of a language with their meaning in a stated order, mostly alphabetical. But this cannot be accepted as the complete definition of the dictionary. English scholar Sidney L. Landau says: "Many dictionaries also provide pronunciation information; grammatical information; word derivations, histories or etymologies; illustrations; usage guidance; examples in phrases or sentences" [2, p. 6]. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a dictionary as "a book dealing with the individual words of a language (or certain specified class of them) so as to set forth their orthography, pronunciation, signification and use, their synonyms, derivation and history, or at least some of these facts, for convenience of reference the words are arranged in some stated order, now in most languages, alphabetical, and in larger dictionaries the information given is illustrated by quotations from literature" [3].

Dictionaries can be classified into different types on the basis of several criteria, varying from the nature of the lexical entry to the prospective user of the dictionary. There are many different types of English dictionaries. They may all be roughly divided into two groups – encyclopedic and linguistic. The two groups of reference books differ essentially in the choice of items included and in the sort of information given about them. Linguistic dictionaries are "word-books"; their subject matter is lexical units and their linguistic properties such as pronunciation, meaning, peculiarities of use, etc. The encyclopedic dictionaries are "thing-books", that give information about the extra-linguistic world; they deal with concepts (objects and phenomena), their relations to other objects and phenomena, etc. Linguistic dictionaries are divided into general and specialized ones. General dictionaries include explanatory and translating dictionaries. Explanatory, or as it is often called monolingual dictionary deals with spelling, transcription, grammatical forms, meanings, examples, phraseology.

The very first dictionaries in the history of the English language were bilingual. Their development started with the Old and Middle English interlinear glosses in Latin and French texts, then proceeded "through the bilingual vocabularies produced by schoolmasters and designed for those studying foreign languages, specifically Latin, French, Italian, and Spanish" [4, p. 157]. They primary appeared in the Renaissance period. During this period, a number of bilingual dictionaries were published. There was a great necessity of creating dictionaries which concentrated on the two particular languages. English-French works were the most common, yet lexicographers also compiled English-Latin, English-Italian, English-Spanish, and English-Welsh dictionaries.

The arrival of monolingual English dictionaries was meant to fill a practical need. The most important reason for the development of English lexicography was that loan words from classical and modern languages needed to be explained. Robert Cawdrey's "Table Alphabeticall", first printed in 1604, is generally regarded to be the first fully developed representative of monolingual dictionaries in English. Other lexicographic works which explained "hard words" include Bullokar's "An English Expositor; teaching the Interpretation of the hardest Words used in our Language" (1616), Cockeram's "The English Dictionarie;

Or, An Interpreter of hard English words" (1623), Thomas Blount's "Glossographia" (1656), Edward Phillips's "The New World of English Words" (1658), Elisha Coles' "An English Dictionary" (1676) and others. Besides the practical purpose of using the reference books with hard and vernacular words, there were other reasons why monolingual English dictionaries were needed. English was gradually being adopted by both the literary and academic groups and some rules were being sought. Speakers wanted to know, for example, the meaning of the words encountered in the literature of that time. Inkhorn terms also identified the user as educated [5, p. 76].

Lexicographers early in the eighteenth century began to shift their stress. Whereas previous dictionaries recorded mostly difficult terms, now there was an interest in dealing with the increasing common vocabulary and philological matters. The dictionary titles during this period reflect this trend with words such as "general," "universal," "compendious," and "complete." The representatives of that period of evolution of English dictionaries were Stephen Skinner's "Etymologicon Linguae Anglicanae" (1671), anonymous "Gazophylacium Anglicanum" (1689), John Kersey's "A New English Dictionary" (1702), Nathan Bailey's "An Universal Etymological English Dictionary" (1721), Samuel Johnson's "A New Universal English Dictionary" (1755).

We cannot forget about the 19-20th centuries dictionaries. Because of raising the whole and absolute development of the world, there were other priorities for educated people: they were interested in pronunciation and spelling dictionaries, such as Joseph Worcester's "Comprehensive Pronouncing and Explanatory Dictionary of the English Language" (1830) and the like. Since 1800, the dictionary tradition, "which had reached an earlier acme in Dr. Samuel Johnson's work, has progressed far beyond what was possible for that good man. Today English speakers have available an impressive array of dictionaries to suit a variety of needs" [4, p. 189]. The most famous and influential dictionaries of the English language are Samuel Johnson's "A New Universal English Dictionary" (1755), Noah Webster's "An American Dictionary of the English Language" (1828), and Oxford English Dictionary (1928). Johnson's syntheses and innovations in lexicography are many. "His was the first dictionary for the general reader rather than the specialist" [5, p. 106]. Webster was, in many ways, an American version of Samuel Johnson. "In his eyes, his job was threefold: to create a dictionary that (a) was an arbiter of language use; (b) ostensibly described but at the same time, of course, prescribed; and (c) framed itself with a preface keyed to organic metaphors of language and language change" [5, p. 130]. In the words of the modern historian and critic of the OED Hans Aarsleff, the dictionary of a language, in this case the OED, became "an historical monument, the history of a nation contemplated from one point of view" [5, p. 120].

The evolution of English dictionaries was influenced by different linguistic, social and political processes. Dominating the history of dictionary-making in the Present-Day English period has been the publication of the Oxford English Dictionary.

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