

Lexicography

It is used in two different senses:

* Practical Lexicography

* Theoretical Lexicography

* **Practical Lexicography** : the art or the craft of writing dictionaries.

* **Theoretical Lexicography**: the theory or scholarly discipline of analyzing & describing dictionaries.

What's Dictionary ?



- 1- It's a list of words with their definitions.
- 2- It's a list of characters with its glyph (symbol).
- 3- A list of words with corresponding words in other language.

Note: sometimes also it provides pronunciation information, word derivations, histories, illustrations, usage guidance & examples in sentences.

- 1- What's Monolingual Dictionary?
- 2- What's Bilingual Dictionary?
- 3- What's Encyclopedic?
- 4- What's Compact Symmetrical?
- 5- What's Asymmetrical Bilingual?



1- What's Monolingual Dictionary?

a dictionary giving equivalent words in only one language.

2- What's Bilingual Dictionary?

a dictionary giving equivalent words in two languages.

3- What's Encyclopedic?

A comprehensive reference work containing articles on a wide range of subjects or on numerous aspects of a particular field.

4- What's Compact Symmetrical?

"Reflection" (or "Mirror")

Structure of Dictionary

1. **Macrostructure:** Overall structural organization of volume.

- front matter, introduction, user guidelines.
- body, entries, definitions & typically organized alphabetically.
- end matter- appendices & additional information as personal names & places.

2.**Microstructure:** Internal structure entry blocks

- headword
- spelling
- pronunciation
- part of speech
- semantic specification(senses & reference)
- cross-references to related items
- collocations
- usage with example
- etymological or historical notes

Nature of Headwords:

- A **headword**, **head word**, or sometimes **catchword** is the word under which a set of related dictionary or encyclopaedia entries appear.
- The headword is used to locate the entry, and dictates its alphabetical position.
- It's orthographic word surrounded by spaces.
- Phonological word- sequence of sounds .
- Lexeme- item of vocabulary.

* What's Lexeme?

- The fundamental unit of the lexicon of a language. *Find, finds, found, and finding* are forms of the English lexeme *find*.
- Headword is typically a citation form of lexeme.

Entry Order

Dictionaries of alphabetic languages list words in alphabetical order. with non- alphabetic languages it may be different. The order in a dictionary with ideographic entries such as Chinese character is often troublesome (Why?) because each character has different readings.

Types of Dictionary

<http://elc.polyu.edu.hk/advdicts/types.htm>