

European Master in Lexicography (EMLex)
Specialized module 8: Lexicography and lexicology (A8)
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Terminology

<i>acronym</i>	‘type of word-formation in which new vocables are created by pronouncing the initial letters of phrases as the wordform spelt by the resulting string of letters’
<i>affix</i>	‘elementary grammatical sign which serves to produce a derivative or a wordform’
<i>aphaeresis</i>	‘clipping occurring at the beginning of a linguistic sign’
<i>apocope</i>	‘clipping occurring at the end of a linguistic sign’
<i>back-formation</i>	‘type of word-formation in which new vocables are created by removing actual or supposed affixes’
<i>blend</i>	‘type of word-formation in which two (usually truncated) word stems combine to form a new vocable’
<i>borrowing [= loan word]</i>	‘lexical unit which was transferred from one language into another’
<i>clipping</i>	‘type of word-formation in which the form of a vocable is shortened without change of meaning or word class, leaving a form which is morphologically incomplete or unanalysable’
<i>cognate</i>	‘one of two or more linguistics signs (lexemes or affixes) which are directly descended from a single ancestral sign in the common ancestor of the languages in which the lexemes or affixes are found’
<i>compounding</i>	‘type of word-formation in which new vocables are created by joining two or more lexemes’
<i>conversion</i>	‘type of word-formation in which a vocable pertaining to one word class (part of speech) gives rise to one of identical form in another one’
<i>derivation</i>	‘type of word-formation in which new vocables are created by adding affixes to existing lexemes’
<i>diachrony</i>	‘time dimension in language [in a diachronic approach, we look at how language has changed over some period of time]’

<i>ellipsis</i>	‘type of word-formation in which a compound or phrase is shortened in a way that one element comes to take on the previous meaning of the whole compound or phrase’
<i>etymology</i>	‘(1) relationship of filiation between a lexical unit and the linguistic entity or entities at its origin; (2) branch of linguistics that studies the relationship of filiation between a lexical unit and the linguistic entity or entities at its origin’
<i>etymon</i> (plural: <i>etyma</i>)	‘linguistic sign (lexeme or affix) from which descended a given linguistic sign’
<i>genetic relationship</i>	‘relationship which holds between two or more languages which share a single common ancestor [that is, they all started off at some time in the past as no more than regional varieties of that ancestral language, but each has undergone so many changes not affecting the others that they have diverged into distinct languages]’
<i>idiom</i>	‘complex linguistic sign the meaning of which can be expressed by a set of semantically non-compositional phrases distinguished only by inflection’
<i>inflection</i>	‘variation in form of a lexeme as required by its various grammatical roles in utterances’
<i>inheritance</i>	‘retention in a language (possibly with some alteration in form) of a feature which was present in an ancestor of that language’
<i>inherited lexicon</i>	‘normally transmitted lexical units (from the common ancestor of the language family)’
<i>initialisms</i>	‘type of word-formation in which new vocables are created by pronouncing the initial letters of phrases as a series of letter names’
<i>internal creations</i>	‘new lexical units constructed from existing materials in the same language’
<i>lexeme</i>	‘linguistic sign whose meaning can be expressed by a set of wordforms distinguished only by inflection’
<i>lexical unit</i>	‘either lexeme or idiom’
<i>lexicography</i>	‘professional activity and academic field concerned with dictionaries and other reference works’
<i>lexicology</i>	‘branch of linguistics concerned with the study of the basic units of vocabulary (lexemes), their formation, structure and meaning’

<i>loan word [= borrowing]</i>	‘lexical unit which was transferred from one language into another’
<i>onomatopoeia</i>	‘type of word-formation in which new vocables are created by vocal imitation of the sound associated with their referent’
<i>prefix</i>	‘affix occurring at the beginning of a linguistic sign’
<i>proto-language</i>	‘once spoken ancestral language from which daughter languages descend’
<i>referent</i>	‘actual object in the world, not part of the linguistic sign’
<i>signified</i>	‘ideational component of a linguistic sign, the concept or object that appears in our minds when we hear or read the signifier (e.g. ‘small domesticated feline’)’
<i>signifier</i>	‘phonic component of a linguistic sign, i.e. the sequence of letters (e.g. <cat>) or phonemes (e.g. /kæt/)’
<i>suffix</i>	‘affix occurring at the end of a linguistic sign’
<i>synchrony</i>	‘absence of a time element in linguistic description [in a synchronic approach to describing a language, we focus on that language at one moment in time]’
<i>syncope</i>	‘clipping occurring in the middle of a linguistic sign’
<i>vocable</i>	‘grouping of lexical units determined by a common signifier and a clear semantic link between themselves’
<i>wordform</i>	‘linguistic sign characterized by functional autonomy and internal cohesion’