

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARIES IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

**Dushatova Shohsanam Baxtiyor qizi**

*Fergana State University, teacher, sh.dushatova@pf.fdu.uz*

**Abdulkhodieva Khayitkhon Abdurazzoq qizi**

*Fergana State University, 3rd year student*

**Annotation:** *Dictionaries have traditionally been a tool widely used by foreign and second language learners. Although some teachers reject the use of dictionaries in the classroom, recent research has shown that dictionaries play an important role in language learning and teaching. The study seeks to investigate whether monolingual dictionaries can promote and support student acquisition, as opposed to bilingual dictionaries. Although students often prefer bilingual dictionaries, the task of teachers here is to encourage students to consult monolingual dictionaries during the lesson, since they often encounter the foreign language.*

**Key words and phrases:** *dictionary, language, monolingual, bilingual, foreign language learners, language acquisition.*

### INTRODUCTION

A dictionary is a systematic collection of socialized language forms, compiled from the speech habits of a particular speech community, and interpreted in such a way that a competent reader understands the meaning of each individual form and is informed about the relevant facts list the function of this form in society.

Some studies show that students who used a dictionary scored higher than students who did not use a dictionary, even though these candidates spent twice as much time reading the passage as students who did not use a dictionary. Students who are unable to perform guessing strategies can refer to dictionaries to help them learn vocabulary. Then the use of dictionaries will be useful for learners. According to Al-Sayed and Siddiek there are three types of dictionaries: monolingual, bilingual and bilingualized dictionaries [1, 1750]. The Collins Co-build English Dictionary and the Oxford English Dictionary for Learners, which include word introductions, definitions and examples, are prime examples of monolingual dictionaries.

### METHODS AND MATERIALS

Monolingual or bilingual? Of course, the answer depends on which dictionary is monolingual and which is bilingual. For this answer, we're talking about both types of full-length dictionaries, and I'm assuming that a

monolingual dictionary is written for learners, such as Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary.

The main advantage of monolingual dictionaries is that they provide more complete information about the target language. This information may include additional meanings of the target word, more examples of how the word is used in context, and useful information about the grammatical behavior of the word included in those examples.

For example, in the monolingual notation of the adjective *critical*, we can see below that there are five different meanings of *critical*, and here are a few sentences that show how *critical* is used to include each of these meanings. There are example sentences of equal length. In these example sentences, the *critical* word idioms and conjunctions are highlighted in bold and their meanings are given in brackets. In addition, the comparative ("more *critical*") and superlative ("most *critical*") forms of this adjective are indicated at the beginning of each meaning. However, it should be noted that this material is not suitable for a beginner or intermediate English learner. Finally, there is an opinion among English language teachers that the process of using a monolingual dictionary helps the student's second language acquisition process.

Bilingual dictionaries or translations should be used early in language learning because monolingual dictionaries do not have enough words for effective review and can be confusing. However, a certain limit (determined by the reader's convenience) should be transferred to monolingual dictionaries. Many people find it important to know how to explain the definitions of words in their chosen language in order to get their point across and get the right word from a native speaker.

Nation found that English language learners use monolingual dictionaries to explain definitions, examples, and word forms. According to Baxter, the benefits of MDs are that they develop students' ability to understand definition in context [2, 230]. However, BD suppresses this ability because students understand that meaning can be expressed in a single word. Another factor to consider is that the best monolingual dictionaries provide extensive lexical information (ie, listing nouns, collocations, idioms, examples, derivatives). In this regard, students gain knowledge and they can unconsciously acquire the language effectively. However, there are many problems with foreign students. First, readers need to know how to search for the correct entry to use this wealth of information, since the introduction is written in a second language. In this case, the MD tries to completely remove the students from their first language. Therefore,

students with a low level of knowledge have a negative attitude toward MD because they have difficulty understanding definitions, symbols, and morphological information in a foreign language. Wingate also criticizes MDs because if MDs are used for production purposes, they will not be useful to students because students will not find what they are looking for [12].

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Obviously, if you're thinking of a word, phrase or idiom in your language and want to know how to say or write it in English, a bilingual dictionary, regardless of your language you use Degree. If you are reading or listening to English and want to know the meaning of a particular word, phrase or idiom you see or hear, use a bilingual dictionary or a monolingual dictionary should be used. It's common for language teachers to recommend that you start using a monolingual dictionary as early as possible, which is usually when you're an intermediate English learner. There are a lot of merits of using a monolingual dictionary. One common belief is that you stop translating so much and start thinking more in English. But this is more theory than fact and may or may not be true in your case. Using a monolingual dictionary will definitely be more difficult for you, because the cognitive load will be greater (ie, your working memory will be used more). You will need to read the definitions in your foreign language and use the context (by reading the given sentences) to determine which definition you are looking for. Yes, it requires more mental energy than looking at a translation into your own language.

Monolingual dictionaries also tend to provide a lot of useful information - they include definitions, example sentences, pronunciation guides, parts of speech, derived words, collocations, idioms and proverbs, synonyms and there are antonyms and even historical notes. Monolingual dictionaries are useful tools beyond precise definitions.

A monolingual dictionary is not considered better or worse than a bilingual dictionary. However, not all dictionaries are equally good. Some are better than others. For example, Google Translate is far from perfect. This is great if you want to hear how a word is pronounced or get a rough idea of its meaning. But it's not ideal for individual words or phrases. See the simple translation of "funny" in Japanese. I think okashi translates more into English as "strange". The meaning of "interesting" is less commonly used, but okashi is listed first by Google. When using Google Translate, you should make sure that you consider all the options. If you're learning English as a second language, you're in luck. Why? Since English is such a widely used language and many people want to learn it, there is a huge market for

materials. Not if you're learning a less common language. This means that there are wider vocabularies available to you. If you want to use a monolingual dictionary, you can use English learners' dictionaries. A learner's dictionary is a monolingual dictionary with simple definitions that are easy for non-native speakers to understand. A free online learners' dictionary from Merriam Webster is available at [Learnersdictionary.com](http://Learnersdictionary.com).

Monolingual English dictionaries began as "hard word" lists, lists of words that explained Greek and Latin vocabulary that were bad English in plain English. Nevertheless, general words were gradually introduced and the aim was to provide comprehensive coverage of the English language. Early examples of these efforts were Dr. Johnson's (1747) Dictionary and Webster's (1851) Dictionary of American English. Gradually, the lexicographic tradition emerged from the variety of monolingual dictionaries of native speakers, so it is a type of general-purpose dictionary that most native speakers acquire and understand as a dictionary. vocabulary in all its forms will be the focus of this study. This type of dictionary is listed alphabetically and contains a large portion of the English vocabulary. At the top of this category is the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), compiled over fifty years (1880-1930) and containing 20 volumes that trace the history and development of English words. Other types of monolingual local dictionaries have also developed and can be grouped into four types according to Jackson [6, 160]. First, there are huge library dictionaries, such as Webster's Third International Dictionary, which contains over 400,000 English words. Second, there are desk dictionaries such as the Collins English Dictionary (about 1,650 pages, 170,000 words) and the Longman Dictionary of the English Language and Chambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary. Third, there are "short" dictionaries (1,300 pages of about 162,000 words), such as the Oxford Concise Dictionary of Current English, the New Collins Concise English Dictionary, and the Longman Concise Dictionary. Finally, there are the "pocket" or "compact" dictionaries (around 900 pages with 70,000 words) such as the Oxford Pocket English Dictionary and the Collins Pocket English Dictionary.

### CONCLUSION

In addition to the general references above, more specialized dictionaries on particular aspects of the English language have been compiled to meet the needs of native speakers. These areas include dialects, slang, and historical, literary, technical, etc. varieties of English. Prominent examples of specialist dictionaries cited by Jackson (ibid.) include Cassel's Spelling Dictionary. Since most orthographic problems are at the morpheme boundary between roots and affixes, it lists the root words

alphabetically and the inflectional and derivational forms under each root. There's also Daniel John's popular Everyman's English Pronunciation Dictionary, which contains nearly 60,000 words with International Phonetic Alphabet (IP A) pronunciation. The researcher can think of recent examples such as Cowie's Cambridge Phrasebook, a comprehensive description of all types of English idioms, highlighting a field that has become increasingly important over the past two decades.

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