Contents

List of figures and tables x
Acknowledgements xii
Preface to the first edition xiii
Preface to the second edition xvi

PART I
Foundations 1

1 What's in a word 3

1.0 Introduction: A form of words 3
1.1 Some definitions 4
1.2 Lexemes and words 7
1.3 Grammatical and lexical words 8
1.4 Morphemes and morphology 9
1.5 Word formation 10
1.6 Multiple meanings 12
1.7 In a word: A summary 13
1.8 Referential meaning 15
1.9 Componential analysis 17
1.10 Structural semantics: Words and other words 19
1.11 Basic English: A review 23
1.11.1 Styles and associations 28
1.12 Conclusion 29

2 The notion of core vocabulary 34

2.0 Core vocabularies: Some initial questions 34
2.1 Some tests for core vocabulary 36

2.1.1	*Syntactic substitution*	36
2.1.2	*Antonymy*	38
2.1.3	*Collocability*	38
2.1.4	*Extension*	39
2.1.5	*Superordinateness*	40
2.1.6	*Culture-free*	41
2.1.7	*Summary*	42
2.1.8	*Associationism*	42
2.1.9	*Neutral field of discourse*	43
2.1.10	*Neutral tenor of discourse*	43
2.2	*Applications and further research*	44
2.3	*Conclusion*	46
3	**Words and patterns**	50
3.0	*Introduction: Ways with words*	50
3.1	*Collocation: Lexis as a level*	51
3.2	*Sets and fields*	53
3.3	*Patterns, ranges and restrictions*	56
3.4	*Collocation and style*	57
3.5	*Collocation and grammar*	58
3.6	*Semantic prosodies: Lexis into grammar into meaning*	62
3.7	*Idioms galore: Fixed expressions and language structure*	65
3.8	*Fixing fixed expressions*	68
3.9	*Lexical patterns: A summary*	70
3.10	*Lexis and the language learner: What is lexical error?*	72
3.11	*Conclusion*	76
4	**Lexis and discourse**	79
4.0	*Introduction*	79
4.1	*Lexical cohesion*	80
4.2	*Lexical signalling*	83
4.3	*Evaluation and discourse*	85
4.4	*Anaphoric nouns*	88
4.5	*Densities and viewpoints: Spoken and written continua*	91

4.6 Lexical patterning in spoken discourse 94
4.7 Corpus-based spoken language analysis 98
4.8 Lexis, coherence and writing development 103
4.9 Lexis and genre 107
4.10 Lexicalization, discourse and ideology 108
4.11 Conclusion 114

PART II
Reviews 117

5 Lexis and literary stylistics 119

5.0 Introduction 119
5.1 Sets, patterns and meaning 120
5.2 Lexis and register-mixing 122
5.3 Interpreting lexis in poetry 124
5.4 Measuring lexical associations in literary texts 127
5.5 Using informants 128
5.5.1 Who is the reader? 129
5.5.2 Competence: linguistic and literary 130
5.5.3 Analysis 131
5.6 Lexis and literariness 132
5.7 Metaphor 138
5.8 Lexis, poetics and mind 142
5.9 Arbitrariness, words, ideology: A note 146
5.10 Conclusion 148

6 Lexis and lexicography 150

6.0 Introduction 150
6.1 The image of the dictionary: User and use 150
6.2 Dictionary definitions 152
6.3 Grammar and the dictionary 154
6.4 Fixed expressions and the dictionary 158
6.5 Monosemy, polysemy and dictionary entries 163
6.6 Corpora, computers and lexicography 167
6.6.1 The COBUILD Project 167
6.7 Further major innovations (1990 onwards) 174
6.7.1 Lexicography and English-language learning: Contrasts and comparisons 177

6.8	*A dictionary for production*	179
6.9	*Conclusions and prospects*	180
7	**Learning and teaching vocabulary**	184
7.0	*Introduction: Some historical perspectives*	184
7.1	*Early words: Mother-tongue English*	186
7.2	*The growth of word-meaning: Children into adults*	189
7.2.1	*The syntagmatic–paradigmatic*	190
7.2.2	*Concrete–abstract progression*	190
7.2.3	*Generalizations*	191
7.3	*L1 and L2*	191
7.4	*Memorization*	193
7.5	*What is a difficult word?*	195
7.6	*The Birkbeck Vocabulary Project*	197
7.7	*Recent developments: The explicit–implicit continuum*	202
7.8	*Transitions*	205
7.9	*Vocabulary and language teaching: Introduction*	205
7.10	*Word lists: Vocabulary for beginners*	206
7.11	*Words in context*	209
7.12	*Word sets and grids: Vocabulary for advanced learners*	213
7.13	*Vocabulary in discourse: Fixed expressions and lexis in use*	220
7.13.1	*Fixed expressions and learnability*	223
7.14	*Lexical foundations for language teaching*	224
7.15	*Cloze and its uses*	226
7.15.1	*Procedures*	226
7.15.2	*Discourse cloze*	229
7.16	*Computer corpora and word lists once more*	231
7.17	*Words and limits: Which words, and how many words?*	235
7.18	*Core vocabulary and language study: Back to the core*	236
7.19	*Conclusions: Knowing and teaching vocabulary*	238

PART III
Case studies 245

8 Case study: Lexis, tones and ironies 247

8.0 Introduction 247
8.1 General framework 248
8.2 Gricean analysis of irony: Lexical perspectives 249
8.3 Irony, lexis and genre 252
8.4 Conclusions 256
8.5 Appendices: Informant tests 257

9 Case study: Style, lexis and the dictionary 263

9.0 Introduction 263
9.1 Semantics, associations and definitions 263
9.2 Semantic space 267
9.3 Informants and the measurement of 'meanings' 270
9.4 Core vocabulary and the dictionary: A sample entry 275
9.5 Conclusion 279
9.5.1 Further conclusion (1997) 281
9.6 Coda 282

Bibliography 284
Bibliography of dictionaries 307
Bibliography of language corpora 309
Index 311