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This unit is about the use of dictionaries and thesaurus in translation. After going through the Unit the learners will be able to:

- Know specifically what does a dictionary or thesaurus mean
- Understand various other terms associated with different types of dictionary and thesaurus
- Have an idea of the salient features of dictionary and thesaurus and the difference between the two
- Know the method of using dictionaries and thesaurus, its utility, pitfalls and disadvantages
- Learn how to use them effectively in translation as writing tools.

8.1 Introduction

Writing original texts at our own is easy, but translation is cumbersome. A translator has to carry the theme, message and ideas with precision from one language to another with the same beauty and charm as the original text. It often becomes difficult to understand a given expression in the source language or find the exact synonym of a word, phrase or idiom in the target language. When we use other resources like friends and learned people or other people speaking the target language, the information that we get may be erroneous if that particular person is misinformed or unable to perceive correctly what we say. At such a juncture, standard dictionaries and thesaurus extend their immense help to the translator.

Every dictionary or thesaurus cannot be deemed reliable. A lot of trash is available in the market and in the web in the name of dictionary or thesaurus. Such compilations are prepared by misinformed people without adequate knowledge of the language. Greedy publishers get the compilations prepared at a low cost from such people who even do not have the necessary dedication and patience to ponder into various sources of knowledge to find out the actual meaning or etymology of a word. Be whatsoever, a dictionary or thesaurus obtained from a reliable source or compiled by learned authors no doubt serve us a lot.

Dictionaries and thesauruses are available in various forms, viz., printed volumes, CDs and DVDs and even in the form of software in the web that can be downloaded and used even in the mobile phone. This

has no doubt solved the problem of carrying big volumes with us to our work place, but they need to be further developed a lot in terms of quality. We have to apply our mind, knowledge and wisdom even after referring any dictionary or thesaurus during translation. Moreover, different types of dictionaries and thesauruses are also available for various subjects and methods of compilation; and therefore it is very important to have the knowledge of all such types so that we can pick-up the most appropriated one for our specific use.

In this unit we will discuss various aspects of a dictionary and a thesaurus and learn how we can use them in translation.

8.2 Terms Related to Dictionary and Thesaurus

Before we proceed to use a dictionary or a thesaurus, let us go through some of the technical terms that are intimately associated with such compilations, without which it may be difficult for us to use and take full advantage of such compilations:

1. Collation: Collation is the assembly of written information into a standard order. Many systems of collation are based on numerical order or alphabetical order, or extensions and combinations thereof. Collation is a fundamental element of most office filing systems, library catalogues, and reference books.

Collation is different from classification. Classification is concerned with arranging information into logical categories, while collation is concerned with the ordering of the items thereof, usually based on the form of their identifiers. Formally speaking, a collation method typically defines a total order on a set of possible identifiers called **sort keys** (differentiating or selecting key or formula), which consequently produces a total pre-order on the set of the given items.

A collation algorithm (method) is the process of comparing two given character strings (elements) and deciding which should come before the other. When an order has been defined in this way, a sorting algorithm (method) can be used to put a list of any number of items into that order.

The main advantage of collation is that it makes it fast and easy for a user to find an element in the list, or to confirm that it is absent from the list. Other advantages are that one can easily find the first or last elements on the list or elements in a given range; useful for alphabetically ordered data when one may be sure of only the first few letters of the sought item.

2. Alphabetical order: As we know a dictionary is a list of words of a particular language with their meanings in the same or other language(s). A language has millions of words out of which the reader wants to find out the meaning or usage of only one. It is therefore necessary that all these words have to be listed in such a scientific manner that one can easily locate his search consuming least time.

Collation is listing of things. There are various ways of listing things. We list numbers in the numerical order and historical events in the chronological order. In numerical order, the listed numbers go on increasing or decreasing according to its value. In chronological order various events are arranged in the increasing order of the dates of their incidence. However, in the case of words, it has to be listed alphabetically.

Alphabetical order is a system whereby words are placed on the basis of the position of its initial letters in the conventional order of the alphabet. It is one of the methods of **collation**. To determine which word comes first in alphabetical order, their first letters are compared. If they differ, then the word whose first letter comes earlier in the alphabet is the one which comes first. If the first letters are the same, then the second letters are compared, and so on. In this sequence, if a position is reached where a word has no more letters to compare while the other does, then the first (shorter) word is deemed to come first; for example, 'cart' comes before 'carthorse', 'woods' comes after 'wood', 'a' comes before 'add' which in turn comes before 'addition' and 'an'. The initial letters of words are compared serially from the beginning to determine the place of a word in comparison to others.

Capital letters (upper case) are generally considered to be identical to their corresponding lower case letters for the purposes of alphabetical ordering, though conventions may be adopted to handle situations where two words differ only in capitalization.

Certain limitations, complications, and special conventions are common in the alphabetical order; some of them are:

- (a) When there are spaces or other word dividers, the decision must be taken whether to ignore these dividers or to treat them as symbols preceding other letters of the alphabet. For example, if the first approach is taken, i.e., ignore the space or word divider, then ‘car park’ will come after ‘carbon’ and ‘carp’ as in case of ‘carpark’, whereas in the second approach ‘car park’ will come before those two words ‘carbon’ and ‘carp’. The first rule is used in many dictionaries (but not all), the second in telephone directories.
 - (b) Abbreviations may be treated as if they were spelt out in full. For example, names containing ‘St.’ (short for the English word *Saint*) are often ordered as if they were written out as ‘Saint’. There is also a traditional convention in English that surnames beginning *Mc* and *M’* are listed as if those prefixes were written *Mac*.
 - (c) Expressions that represent personal names will often be listed by alphabetical order of surname, even if the given name comes first. For example, ‘Madhusudan Das’ and ‘Gangadhar Meher’ should be sorted as ‘Das Madhusudan’ and ‘Meher Gangadhar’ even if they are not written this way.
 - (d) Very common initial words, such as *The* in English, are often ignored for sorting purposes. So *The Shining* would be sorted as just ‘Shining’ or ‘Shining, The’.
3. **Diacritics:** A ‘**diacritic**’ is a sign, such as an accent or cedilla, which when written above or below a letter indicates a difference in pronunciation from the same letter when unmarked or differently marked. A **cedilla** is a diacritical mark placed below ‘c’ to indicate that it is pronounced as an ‘s’.
4. **Radical-and-stroke sorting:** Another form of collation is radical-and-stroke sorting, used for non-alphabetic writing systems such as the ‘hanzi’ of Chinese and the ‘kanji’ of Japanese, whose thousands of symbols defy ordering by convention. In this system, common components of characters are identified; these are called radicals in Chinese and logographic systems derived from Chinese. Characters are then grouped by their primary radical, and then ordered by number of pen strokes within radicals. When there is no obvious radical or more than one radical, convention governs which is used for collation. For example, the Chinese character 妈 (meaning ‘mother’) is sorted as a six-stroke character under the three-stroke primary radical 女. Here the strokes or structure of the lines has to be taken into consideration.

The radical-and-stroke system is cumbersome as compared to an alphabetical system in which there are a few characters, all unambiguous. The choice of which components of a logograph comprise separate radicals and which radical is primary is not clear-cut. As a result, logographic languages often supplement radical-and-stroke ordering with alphabetic sorting of the logographs. For example, the kanji word ‘Tōkyō’ (東京) can be sorted as if it were spelled out in the Japanese characters of the hiragana syllabary as ‘to-u-ki-yo-u’ (とうきょう), using the conventional sorting order for these characters. ‘**Syllabary**’ is a writing system whose characters represent syllables (letters).

5. **Ideogram:** This is about the type of graphic symbol. An ideogram or ideograph (from Greek ‘idéa’ and ‘gráphō’ (to write) is a graphic symbol that represents an idea or concept, independent of any particular language, and specific words or phrases. Some ideograms are comprehensible only by familiarity with prior convention; others convey their meaning through pictorial resemblance to a physical object, and thus may also be referred to as **pictograms**.
6. **Definition:** A definition is a statement of the meaning of a term; a word, phrase, or other set of symbols. Definitions can be classified into two large categories, viz., intentional definitions also called a *connotative* definition, that try to give the essence of a term and extensional definitions that proceed by listing the objects that a term describes. Another important category of definitions is the class of ostensive definitions, which convey the meaning of a term by pointing out examples. A term may have many different senses and multiple meanings, and thus require multiple definitions.

In modern usage, a *definition* is something, typically expressed in words, that attaches a meaning to a word or group of words. The word or group of words that is to be defined is called the *definiendum*, and the word, group of words, or action that defines it is called the *definiens*.

For example, let’s consider the definition of ‘elephant’. Elephant is defined as: “An elephant is a large gray animal native to Asia and Africa.” Here the word ‘elephant’ is the *definiendum*, and everything after the word is the *definiens* that is not the meaning of the word defined, but is instead something that conveys the same meaning as that word.

There are many sub-types of definitions, these include, among many others:

- (a) **Lexical definitions** or the common dictionary definitions of words already available in a language;
- (b) **Demonstrative definitions**, which define something by pointing to an example of it. For example, *"This," he said while pointing to a large grey animal, "is an Asian elephant."*
- (c) **Précising definitions**, which reduce the vagueness (ambiguity, unclearness) of a word, typically in some special sense, e.g., *'Large, among female Asian elephants, is any individual weighing over 5,500 pounds.* That means an Asian female elephant is such a large animal that its weight is over 5,500 pounds.

7. **Lexicon:** The word 'lexicon' derives from the Greek 'lexikos' meaning 'of or for words'. In linguistics, a lexicon is a language's inventory (record, catalogue, list) of lexemes. A '**lexeme**' is the minimal unit (as a word or stem) in the lexicon of a language. For example, go, went, gone and going are all members of the English lexeme 'go'. It means that a lexeme refers to the root of a word. A lexicon is the vocabulary of a person, language, or branch of knowledge, e.g., nautical (marine) or medical etc.

Linguistic theories generally regard human languages as consisting of two parts: a lexicon, essentially a catalogue of a language's words (its word-stock); and a grammar, a system of rules which allow for the combination of those words into meaningful sentences. The lexicon is also thought to include bound-morphemes, which cannot stand alone as words such as most prefixes (ଉପସର୍ଗ) and affixes or suffixes (ଉପସଂହାର). For example, the morphemes of 'discount' are 'dis' and 'count'. Here 'count' is a lexeme (root word) and 'dis' is a bound-morpheme, which cannot stand alone as a word. **Morpheme** means part of a word. In this sense, the vowels are the morphemes of the alphabet of a language.

In some analyses, compound words and certain classes of idiomatic expressions and other collocations are also considered to be part of the lexicon. Dictionaries represent attempts at listing, in alphabetical order, the lexicon of a given language.

8. **Etymology:** Etymology should not be confused with Entomology or Etiology (aetiology). It is the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time. By extension, the term 'the change'(of the word) means the origin (root) of a particular word.

The word etymology is derived from the Greek word etymologia, itself from etymon, meaning 'true sense', and the suffix -logia, denoting 'the study of.'

In linguistics, the term '**etymon**' is used to refer to a word or morpheme (e.g. stem or root) from which a later word is derived. For example, the Latin word candidus, which means 'white', is the etymon of English candid.

Etymologists make use of texts in these languages and texts about the languages to gather knowledge about how words were used during earlier periods of their history and when they entered the particular language(s). Etymologists also apply the methods of comparative linguistics to reconstruct information about languages that are too old for any direct information to be available.

By analyzing related languages with a technique known as the comparative method, linguists can make inferences about their shared parent language and its vocabulary. In this way, word roots have been found that can be traced all the way back to the origin of, for instance, the Indo-European language family. Even though etymological research originally grew from the philological tradition, currently much etymological research is done on language families where little or no early documentation is available, such as Uralic and Austronesian.

9. **Phonetics:** Phonetics pronounced /fə'netiks/, from the Greek phōnē, (sound, voice), is a branch of linguistics that comprises the study of the sounds of human speech; or, in the case of sign languages, the equivalent aspects of sign. It is concerned with the physical properties of speech sounds or signs (phones), their physiological production, acoustic (related to sound and hearing) properties and auditory perception. Phonology, on the other hand, is concerned with the abstract, grammatical characterization of systems of sounds or signs.

The field of phonetics is a multilayered subject of linguistics that focuses on speech. In the case of oral languages there are three basic areas of study, viz.,

- (a) **Articulatory phonetics:** It is the study of the production of speech sounds by the vocal tract by the speaker.
- (b) **Acoustic phonetics:** It is the study of the physical transmission of speech sounds from the speaker to the listener.

(c) **Auditory phonetics:** It is the study of the reception and perception of speech sounds by the listener.

10. Pronunciation: Pronunciation is the way a word or a language is spoken, or the manner in which someone utters a word. If one is said to have 'correct pronunciation', then it refers to both within a particular dialect.

A word can be spoken in different ways by various individuals or groups, depending on many factors, such as the duration of the cultural exposure of their childhood, the location of their current residence, speech or voice disorders, their ethnic group, their social class, and their education. The essential elements of pronunciation are (a) Nose (b) Lips (c) Teeth (d) Palate and (e) Linguistic terminology.

In some languages, such as the English language, a dictionary has more than 5,000 words. The pronunciation of words is not apparent from their spelling. In these languages, dictionaries usually provide the pronunciation. For example, the definition for the word dictionary might be followed by the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) spelling /'dɪkʃənəri/. American English dictionaries often use their own pronunciation spelling systems, for example dictionary dɪk'·shə·nār·ē. The IPA is more commonly used within the British Commonwealth countries. Yet others use a pronunciation respelling system; for example, dictionary may respelled 'DIK-shə-nair-ee'. Some online or electronic dictionaries provide audio recordings of words being spoken.

11. Semasiology: Semasiology from Greek 'semasia' meaning 'signification, meaning' is a discipline within linguistics concerned with the question "what does the word X mean?". It studies the meaning of words regardless of their phonetic expression. Semasiology departs from a word or lexical expression and asks for its meaning, its different senses, i.e. polysemy. The opposite approach is known as onomasiology.

The term was first used by Christian Karl Reisig in 1825 in his *Lectures on Latin Linguistics* and was in use in English by 1847. Semantics (ଶିକ୍ଷାର୍ଥ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ) replaced it in its original meaning, beginning in 1893. Currently, the discipline is most commonly understood as a branch of lexicology, the study of words, and as a branch of semantics, and more narrowly ascribed as a subfield of lexical semantics, though sometimes referred to as a synonym of semantics. The exact meaning of the term is somewhat obscure, because according to some authors semasiology merged with semantics in modern times, while at the same time the term is still in use when defining onomasiology.

12. Onomasiology: Onomasiology from Greek 'onomāzo' (to name), which in turn is from 'onomā' (name) is a branch of linguistics concerned with the question "how do you express X?" It is in fact most commonly understood as a branch of lexicology, the study of words, although some apply the term also to grammar and conversation. The majority of linguists seem to link onomasiology to diachronic (historical) questions, i.e. questions on how and why things change their names.

Onomasiology, as a part of lexicology, starts from a concept which is taken to be prior (i.e. an idea, an object, a quality, an activity etc. and asks for its names. The opposite approach is known as 'semasiology' where one starts with a word and asks what it means, or what concepts the word refers to.

For example, "What are the names for long, narrow pieces of potato that have been deep-fried?" is an onomasiological question. The answers for this question are: *french fries* in the US, and *chips* in the UK, etc.

If we ask just the reverse question, "What is the meaning of the term *chips*?" it will be a semasiological question; and its answers will be: 'long, narrow pieces of potato that have been deep-fried' in the UK, 'slim slices of potatoes deep fried or baked until crisp' in the US.

13. Linguistic prescription: Linguistic prescription (or prescriptivism) is the practice of elevating one variety or manner of language use over another. It may imply that some forms are incorrect, improper, or illogical, or lack communicative effect, or are of low aesthetic value. Sometimes informed by linguistic purism, these practices may address such linguistic aspects as spelling, grammar, semantics, pronunciation, and syntax (ବାକ୍ୟ-ରଚନା). They may also include judgments on socially proper and politically correct language use.

Linguistic prescriptivism may aim to establish a standard language, teach what a particular society perceives as a correct form, or advise on effective communication. If usage preferences are conservative, prescription might appear resistant to language change; if radical (progressive, revolutionary), it may produce neologisms (newly coined words or phrases).

Prescriptive approaches to language are often contrasted with descriptive linguistics ‘**descriptivism**’, which observes and records how language is actually used. The basis of linguistic research is ‘**text corpus**’ analysis and field study, both of which are descriptive activities. Description, however, may include researchers' observations of their own language usage.

Despite being apparent opposites, prescription and description may inform each other, as comprehensive descriptive accounts must take speaker preferences into account, and an understanding of how language is actually used is necessary for prescription to be effective.

14. Text corpus: In linguistics, a ‘corpus’ (plural- *corpora*) or ‘text corpus’ is a *large and structured set of texts*, that are nowadays usually electronically stored and processed. They are used to do statistical analysis and hypothesis testing, checking occurrences or validating linguistic rules within a specific language territory.

A corpus may contain texts in a single language (*monolingual corpus*) or text data in multiple languages (*multilingual corpus*).

corpora that have been specially formatted for side-by-side comparison are called *aligned parallel corpora*. There are two main types of parallel corpora which contain texts in two languages. In a *translation corpus*, the texts in one language are translations of texts in the other language. In a *comparable corpus*, the texts are of the same kind and cover the same content, but they are not translations of each other. To exploit a parallel text, some kind of text alignment identifying equivalent text segments (phrases or sentences) is a prerequisite for analysis. Machine translation algorithms (a precise set of rules, formula used in machine translation) for translating between two languages are often trained using parallel fragments comprising a first language corpus and a second language corpus which is an element-for-element translation of the first language corpus.

In order to make the corpora more useful for doing linguistic research, they are often subjected to a process known as annotation (ବିଭିକ୍ଷା). An example of annotating a corpus is part-of-speech tagging, (*POS-tagging*), in which information about each word's part of speech (verb, noun, adjective, etc.) is added to the corpus in the form of *tags*. Another example is indicating the lemma (base) form of each word. When the language of the corpus is not a working language of the researchers who use it, interlinear glossing is used to make the annotation bilingual.

Some corpora have further *structured* levels of analysis applied. In particular, a number of smaller corpora may be fully parsed (ପଦବ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟା). Such corpora are usually called ‘Treebanks’ or ‘Parsed Corpora’. The difficulty of ensuring that the entire corpus is completely and consistently annotated means that these corpora are usually smaller, containing around one to three million words. Other levels of linguistic structured analysis are possible, including annotations for morphology (ଶବ୍ଦରଚନା), semantics (ଶବ୍ଦାର୍ଥ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ) and pragmatics (ସଂକ୍ଷେପ ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ, study of language-use).

Corpora are the main knowledge base in corpus linguistics. The analysis and processing of various types of corpora are also the subject of much work in computational linguistics, speech recognition and machine translation, where they are often used to create hidden Markov models for part of speech tagging and other purposes. Corpora and frequency lists derived from them are useful for language teaching. Corpora can be considered as a type of foreign language writing-aid as the contextualized grammatical knowledge acquired by non-native language users through exposure to authentic texts in corpora allows learners to grasp the manner of sentence formation in the target language, enabling effective writing.

8.2.1 Self-Check Exercises with Model Answers:

1. The assembly of written information into a standard order is known as _____.
2. Arranging information into logical categories is called _____.
3. The system whereby words are placed on the basis of the position of its initial letters in the conventional order of the alphabet is _____.
4. A ‘diacritic’ is a sign which when written above or below a letter indicates a difference in _____ from the same letter when unmarked or differently marked.
5. A _____ is the minimal unit (as a word or stem) in the lexicon of a language. For example, go, went, gone and going are all members of the English lexeme _____.

6. Parts of word that cannot stand alone as words such as most prefixes and affixes or suffixes is called a _____.
7. In linguistics, the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time is known as _____.
8. _____ is a large and structured set of texts that are nowadays usually electronically stored and processed for comparison of texts and machine translation.

Model Answers to the Self-Check Exercises:

1. Collation 2. Classification 3. Alphabetical order 4. Pronunciation 5. lexeme , go 6. bound-morpheme 7. Etymology 8. text-corpus

8.3 Dictionary

Although the first recorded dictionaries date back to Sumerian times (these were bilingual dictionaries), the systematic study of dictionaries as objects of scientific interest themselves is a 20th-century enterprise, called lexicography.

A dictionary is a collection of words in one or more specific languages, often alphabetically or by radical and stroke for ideographic languages, with usage of information, definitions, etymologies, phonetics, pronunciations, translation, and other information; or a book of words in one language with their equivalents in another, also known as a **lexicon**. It is a lexicographical product designed for utility and function, curreted with selected data, presented in a way that shows inter-relationship among the data.

8.3.1 Salient features of a dictionary

A standard dictionary exhibits the following salient features:

1. It contains words and phrases arranged in the alphabetical order;
2. Words that a particular page begins and ends with, are given on the left and right side top corners respectively, that helps the reader compare alphabetically his word with them and determine whether it may be found in that particular page or on a prior or subsequent page;
3. In digital dictionaries, it displays related word suggestions with the letters used as we go on typing a word in the search engine. In case we type a wrong spelling, we can find the correct word among the suggested words on the screen;
4. We get information as to the correct spelling of the word and also if it is alternatively spelt; e.g., organization (UK) and organization (American), honour (UK) and honor (American)... and so on;
5. English dictionaries give us an idea of the typical pronunciation of the word written with diacritical marks over and below roman letters. However, most of the Indian languages don't require such information to be given in a dictionary as their letters are specifically designed according to the pronunciation and accent;
6. It also indicates which part of speech does the word belong in its given form;
7. It gives us the information about its various forms in other parts of speech, plural and comparative-superlative degrees etcetera;
8. We come to know the meaning and definition of the word in a very simple language;
9. Some times sketch diagrams and illustrations are also given to make the idea of its meaning clear;
10. Good dictionaries also give information of the synonyms and antonyms of the word;
11. We can also know about the meaning and usage of the phrases or idioms containing the given word;
12. It also gives information of its different meanings when the word is used in various other senses;
13. A good dictionary gives us information about the idiomatic usage of a word;
14. We also get the knowledge about the syntax when the word is used in different types of sentences;
15. It gives information about the etymology of the word and genesis of its evolution to the present form;
16. Various types of bilingual and multilingual dictionaries covering different subjects like literature, specific fields of science and technology, administrative terminology etcetera are available that give us up-to-date knowledge of the works done in that field;
17. Standard dictionaries include separate chapters incorporating into it the calques or loan words that are in common use in the language taken as the source language of the dictionary;

18. Information about weights and measures, festivals, instruments, plants and flowers, animals and birds etc with their synonyms in the target language are also given in good dictionaries with pictographs;
19. Separate chapters for phrases and idioms of the source language may also be found with their identical idioms in the target language.
20. Separate chapters on the various conventional word-phrases used in the royal families, courts and ancient classical words are sometimes given in a good dictionary that helps us understand classical and religious literature in that language.

The important issue is that you use a dictionary of some kind and that you understand what it can provide for you. Whether you use a print or online dictionary, the entries offer a wealth of information. The following figure includes some of the most common dictionary entry components. Following the list is a color-coded entry for 'elementary' from Dictionary.com, based on the *Random House Unabridged Dictionary*, showing where various parts of the entry can be found:

- **Spelling:** The correct arrangements of letters for the word.
- **Pronunciation:** Phonetic pronunciation.
- **Syllabication:** Division of the word into syllables.
- **Part of speech:** Explanation of how a word is used within a sentence.
- **Plural formation:** Spelling for the plural form of a word (e.g., "babies" for the word entry "baby").
- **Word origin:** History of the word.
- **Meaning(s):** At least one, but usually more than one, explanation of the sense of a word.
- **Examples in context:** The word used in a phrase or sentence.
- **Synonyms and antonyms:** Words with similar and opposite meanings. In the case of the "elementary" entry, only synonyms (similar meanings) are given.
- **Common usage situations:** Specific circumstances where a word is used or misused.
- **Other forms:** Examples of related versions of the word.
- **Alternate spellings:** Some words have more than one acceptable spelling (e.g., "grey" and "gray"). The word "elementary" has no alternate spelling.

el·e·men·ta·ry [el-uh-men-tuh-ree, -tree]

—**adjective**

1. pertaining to or dealing with elements, rudiments, or first principles: *an elementary grammar*.
2. of or pertaining to an elementary school: *elementary teachers*.
3. of the nature of an ultimate constituent; simple or uncompounded.
4. pertaining to the four elements, earth, water, air, and fire, or to the great forces of nature; elemental.
5. *Chemistry.* of or noting one or more elements.

Origin:

1400–50; late ME *elementare* (< MF *elementaire*) < L *elementārius*.

See element, -ary

—**Related forms**

el·e·men·tar·i·ly [el-uh-men-ter-uh-lee], *adverb*

el·e·men·ta·ri·ness, *noun*

non-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

post-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

pre-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

qua·si-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

su·per-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

trans-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

un-el·e·men·ta·ry, *adjective*

—**Can be confused:** 1. eleemosynary, elementary (see synonym note at this entry);
2. elemental, elementary.

—**Synonyms**

1. Elementary, primary, rudimentary refer to what is basic and fundamental. Elementary refers to the introductory, simple, easy facts or parts of a subject that must necessarily be learned first in order to understand succeeding ones: *elementary arithmetic*. Primary may mean much the same as elementary; however, it usually emphasizes the idea of what comes first even more than that of simplicity: *primary steps*. Rudimentary applies to what is undeveloped or imperfect: *a rudimentary form of government*.

8.3.2 Types of dictionaries

A broad distinction is made between general and specialized dictionaries. Specialized dictionaries do not contain information about words that are used in language for general purposes, i.e., the words used by ordinary people in everyday situations. Lexical items that describe concepts in specific fields are usually called ‘*terms*’ instead of words, although there is no consensus whether lexicology and terminology are two different fields of study. In theory, general dictionaries are supposed to be semasiological, mapping word to definition, while specialized dictionaries are supposed to be onomasiological, first identifying concepts and then establishing the terms used to designate them. In practice, the two approaches are used for both types.

There are other types of dictionaries that don't fit neatly in the above distinction, for instance bilingual (translation) dictionaries, dictionaries of synonyms (thesauri), or rhyming dictionaries. The word dictionary (unqualified) is usually understood to refer to a monolingual dictionary of general-purpose.

A different dimension on which dictionaries (usually just general-purpose ones) are sometimes distinguished is whether they are prescriptive or descriptive, the latter being in theory largely based on linguistic corpus studies; and this is the case of most modern dictionaries. However, this distinction

cannot be upheld in the strictest sense. The choice of headwords is considered itself of prescriptive nature; for instance, dictionaries avoid having too many taboo words in that position. Stylistic indications viz., ‘informal’ or ‘vulgar’ etcetera present in many modern dictionaries is considered less than objectively descriptive as well.

Dictionaries are available in many types; some of them are: 1. General linguistic Dictionary 2. Thesaurus 3. Medical Dictionary 4. Legal Dictionary 5. Financial Dictionary 6. Acronyms 7. Idioms 8. Encyclopedia and many other types as well. All such dictionaries can be unilingual, bilingual or multilingual and the reader has to choose the specific one as per her/his need. However, the general dictionaries and encyclopedia generally overlap all other dictionaries and contain words and expressions pertaining to other specific fields as well.

8.3.3 Self-Check Exercises with Model Answers

Use a dictionary to answer these questions:

1. What are the various usage of the of the word ‘margin’?
2. How many different meanings does your dictionary have for the word ‘fine’?
3. What, if any, related forms of the word ‘subject’ are provided in your dictionary?
4. What parts of speech are listed in your dictionary for ‘close’?
5. What, if any, common usage situations are given in your dictionary for the word ‘scale’?
6. What does a dictionary generally give you?

Model Answers to Self-Check Exercises:

1. Blank space around the written area on a paper, edge, border, perimeter, gross profit, security deposit.
2. All right, Okay, very well, money paid as a punitive measure for delay or mistake, delicate etc.
3. Subjugate, subjective, subjugation
4. Verb: close something; adjective: closed something, close to some body or something; adverb: near with little space between; noun: (esp. in street names viz., Brookside Close. (One private house street closed at one end.)
5. Surmount, scale of measurement, scale leaf, series, exfoliation, scurf, graduated table, musical scale, shell etc.
6. A dictionary provides meanings, pronunciation, and definitions and synonyms for words.

8.4 Thesaurus

The word ‘thesaurus’ is derived from 16th-century Latin *thēsauros*, which in turn is the Latinisation of the Greek ‘*thēsauros*’, meaning ‘treasure, treasury or storehouse’. The etymology of this word is uncertain. The term ‘thesaurus’ was applied to every dictionary or encyclopedia during the period from 16th to the 19th centuries. In antiquity, Philo of Byblos authored the first text that could now be called a thesaurus.

The Amarakosha is a thesaurus in verses in Sanskrit language written in the 4th century. The first modern thesaurus was *Roget's Thesaurus*, first compiled in 1805 by Peter Mark Roget, and published in 1852. It was in this historical work that the meaning ‘collection of words arranged according to sense’ was first attested in Roget's title and *thesaurer* in Middle English for ‘treasurer’. Entries in *Roget's Thesaurus* are listed conceptually rather than alphabetically.

A *thesaurus* is a reference work that lists words grouped together according to similarity of meaning, containing synonyms and sometimes antonyms as well, whereas a dictionary provides definitions for words, and generally lists them in alphabetical order.

Although a thesaurus includes synonyms, it should not be taken as a complete list of all the synonyms for a particular word. The entries are also designed for drawing distinctions between similar words and assisting in choosing exactly the right word. Unlike a dictionary, *a thesaurus entry does not give the definition of words.*

ISO 25964, the international standard for information retrieval thesauri, defines a thesaurus as a “*controlled and structured vocabulary in which concepts are represented by terms, organized so that relationships between concepts are made explicit, and preferred terms are accompanied by lead-in entries for synonyms or quasi-synonyms.*”

8.4.1 Salient features of a thesaurus

Whether you use an online or hard-copy thesaurus, you will encounter the following features.

- **Identified word:** The word you enter will typically be shown at the top of the page.
- **Number of thesaurus entries:** In online thesauruses, all entries related to your identified word will be included. Sometimes, as in the case of the fifty entries that go with the sample “walk” entry, you will have to click to subsequent pages to see all the entries.
- **One whole entry:** A thesaurus page has running entries (one after the other). Each entry follows the same format, so you can easily see where one entry ends and another begins.
- The identified word as the main word in an entry.
- The **part of speech** of the word as the word is used in the different entries. As is the case with “walk,” words often can be used as more than one part of speech. “Walk” has both noun and verb entries.
- **The definition of the identified word as used in each entry.**
- **Synonyms** for each of the main words.
- **Antonyms** for the main word. Due to the nature of the word “walk,” only one of the first seven entries shows an antonym.
- The identified word as a synonym for a related main word.

The following figure shows four color-coded entries for the word ‘walk’ (out of fifty) at Thesaurus.com (based on *Roget’s Thesaurus*).

Main Entry: **walk**
Part of Speech: *noun*
Definition: brief travel on foot
Synonyms: airing, carriage, circuit, constitutional, gait, hike, jaunt, march, pace, parade, perambulation, peregrination, promenade, ramble, saunter, schlepp, step, stretch, stride, stroll, tour, traipse, tramp, tread, turn

Main Entry: **walk**
Part of Speech: *noun*
Definition: pathway
Synonyms: aisle, alley, avenue, boardwalk, boulevard, bricks, bypath, byway, catwalk, cloister, course, court, crossing, esplanade, footpath, gangway, lane, mall, passage, path, pavement, pier, platform, promenade, road, sidewalk, street, track, trail

Main Entry: **walk**
Part of Speech: *noun*
Definition: discipline
Synonyms: area, arena, bailiwick, calling, career, course, domain, dominion, field, line, metier, profession, province, sphere, terrain, territory, trade, vocation

Main Entry: **walk**
Part of Speech: *verb*
Definition: move along on foot
Synonyms: advance, amble, ambulate, canter, escort, exercise, file, foot, go, go on foot, hike, hit the road, hoof it, knock about, lead, leg*, locomote, lumber, march, meander, pace, pad, parade, patrol, perambulate, plod, prance, promenade, race, roam, rove, run, saunter, scuff, shamble, shuffle, slog, stalk, step, stride, stroll, strut, stump, take a walk, toddle, tour, traipse, tramp, travel on foot, traverse, tread, trek, troop, trudge, wander, wend one's way
Antonyms: run
 * = informal/non-formal usage

8.4.2 Types of Thesaurus

1. Thesaurus
2. Medical Thesaurus
3. Legal Thesaurus
4. Financial Thesaurus
5. Acronyms
6. Idioms

8.4.3 Self-Check Exercises with Model Answers

1. Find out 5 synonyms of the word 'domain' using a thesaurus.
2. Write 5 synonyms and two antonyms of the word 'retrieve'.
3. Fill in the blanks:
 - (a) The word 'Thesaurus' is derived from Greek '*thēsauros*', meaning_____.
 - (b) Entries in Roget's Thesaurus are listed _____rather than alphabetically.
 - (c) A thesaurus is a reference work that lists words grouped together according to_____.
 - (d) Thesaurus contains synonyms and sometimes _____as well.
 - (e) A thesaurus entry does not give the _____of words.

Model answers to self-check exercises:

1. Realm, region, land, field, sphere, orbit, area, arena etc.
2. Synonyms: recollect, regain, call back, recall, recover, remember, find etcetera;
Antonyms: forget, block, black out, draw a blank etc.
3. (a) treasure, treasury or storehouse, (b) conceptually (c) similarity of meaning, (d) antonyms (e) definition

8.5 Dictionary and Thesaurus compared

A **dictionary** is a collection of words along with their meaning, definition and description of usage. A **thesaurus** presents words as word families, listing their synonyms without explaining their meanings or usage. **Thesauri** may list words alphabetically or conceptually.

Dictionary versus Thesaurus comparison chart		
	Dictionary	Thesaurus
Description	Collection of words in one or more specific languages listed alphabetically, which provides the meanings, definitions, etymologies and pronunciations of words.	A book that lists words grouped together according to similarity of meanings or synonyms and sometimes antonyms.
World's first	Much debate over the world's first dictionary. 2300 BCE in modern Syria or 3rd century BCE from China. Most trusted dictionary; Oxford English Dictionary published in full in 1884 as small books and in full after 50 years in 1928.	The first modern English thesaurus created by Peter Mark Roget published in 1852. In Sanskrit, the Amarakosha is a thesaurus in verse form, written in the 4th century.
Word Order	A dictionary lists words alphabetically.	A thesaurus may list words alphabetically or conceptually.
Word numbers	Oxford English Dictionary lists about 500,000 words and a further half a million technical and scientific terms.	Largest thesaurus contains more than 920,000 words.
Categories	There are specialized dictionaries such as for science or business.	Special thesauri are developed for information retrieval in information and science systems: a controlled vocabulary for indexing or tagging purposes.

8.5.1 Self-Check Exercises with Model Answers

Fill in the blanks:

1. Amarakosha is a ____ in verses in _____ language, written in the ____th century.
2. A book that lists words grouped together according to similarity of meanings or synonyms and sometimes antonyms is called a _____.
3. A dictionary lists words _____.
4. A thesaurus may list words alphabetically or _____.
5. The book or digital compilation that provides the meanings, definitions, etymologies and pronunciations of words is known as _____.

Model Answers to the Self-Check Exercises:

1. Thesaurus, Sanskrit, 4th
2. Thesaurus
3. Alphabetically
4. Conceptually
5. Dictionary

8.6 Using Dictionary and Thesaurus in Translation

Dictionaries and thesauruses provide writing assistance for writers of all levels of experience and ability. These are the tools that help you to do your very best writing. A dictionary can help you determine the precise denotations of words, while a thesaurus, used responsibly, can help you to capture subtle differences in the connotations of words.

While considering the ways and means how to make use of a dictionary easily in less time and effectively we have to take into account the various forms of the dictionaries available in our times. Technology is changing the face of dictionaries and thesauri. Dictionaries and thesauruses are available in both print and online media. Just twenty or thirty years ago, a good graduation gift for a college-bound student was a hard-cover dictionary. Today very few college students even own one because online dictionaries are readily available for free. By using an online dictionary, you can look up a word in the time it takes to type it, as opposed to taking the time to flip pages and scan through a page of words in a print dictionary. Therefore, the convenience of modern technology dictates that online dictionaries and thesauruses are the preferred choice of most students these days.

On the other hand, a hard-copy dictionary is still a great backup if you're unable to get online, and it can lead to some surprising discoveries of other words on the same page, just as browsing through a shelf of library books can put you in contact with books you might not have otherwise encountered.

8.6.1 How to use dictionaries and thesauri:

A. Step- One: Find out the word in a dictionary

1. Digital Dictionaries:

- (a) **Online Dictionaries and Offline Dictionary Software:** The digital online dictionaries are now-a-days very popular as these are easily available on the net for free and incorporated inside the mobile itself and can be referred to within a click's time. The selected dictionary software is downloaded from net and installed in the pc or the mobile. On opening the selected dictionary software, we see the search engine open with a round lens mark in it. On touching the space, the key board opens with an option for selecting the source language of the word we want to find in it. While typing a word, many related words with the initial spelling tags appear on the screen. If we find the intended word in this list, we can select it before we complete typing of the whole word. Immediately various meanings (Synonyms) of the word in the target language appear with a menu bar atop with options to find further information like definition or similar words etcetera and + signs on the right of the meaning words. We can get sentence structures of the concerned words by clicking on + sign and definition etcetera by clicking the relevant options on the menu-bar.
 - (b) **Digital dictionaries on CDs/DVDs:** Since carrying voluminous printed dictionaries to the workplace is difficult; it has now-a-days become conventional that the publishers of hard-bound printed dictionaries also provide a digital copy in the form of a CD/DVD. These instruments can be put in the CD/DVD driver of the PC and the difficult words can be searched easily for all the information that we get from a printed dictionary.
- 2. Printed Dictionaries:** The conventional printed dictionaries are still all the more relevant as compared to the digital ones. One has to look for the chapter that starts with the first letter of the word that we want to find in it. On getting the relevant chapter, we have to search for the initial two or three letters by comparing it with the pair of words printed on the top margin of the book. Since the dictionary is compiled in the ascending order of the letters in the alphabet, this comparison gives us an intuition whether we have to turn on pages forward or backward to locate the page that may contain our word. After reaching the relevant page, we have to again go on searching in the spell-comparison method and find out the exact position of our word, where it should be. If we get it, we get all the information and if it is not there, then we have to move for another resource to solve our problem.

B. Step- Two: Search for the meaning or definition or usage relevant to the context in hand

We generally get many diversified meanings and usage of a word in a dictionary; and all of them don't suit to the context in our hand. We have to try all these meanings in place of the original word and ponder if it matches perfectly to the context. This entirely depends upon the user's wit and knowledge of the language to find out the right choice relevant to the situation in the text. The original word may have been used idiomatically and if we don't understand the context correctly, we cannot correlate and find the correct meaning or synonym in the target language.

Examples:

1. His style, like that of the older logographers, is dry and bald.

Its ideal translation in Odia will be : ତାଙ୍କ ଶୈଳୀ ପୁରୁଣା ଭାଷଣ-ଲେଖକଙ୍କ ଭଳି ଶୁଷ୍କ ଓ ନୀରସ ।

Here ‘bald’ is used idiomatically with the implied meaning of ‘lacking charm.’ This meaning is not available in a dictionary or thesaurus.

2. **Now-a-days aetiology is in craze.**

Its ideal translation in Odia will be : ଆଜିକାଲି ବ୍ୟାଧିନିଦାନ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ବହୁତ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ।

Here ‘craze’ is used idiomatically with the implied meaning of ‘famous.’ This meaning is not available in a dictionary or thesaurus.

8.6.2 Risk involved in using a dictionary or thesaurus

1. Though we are gradually becoming dependent upon the online dictionaries and thesauri and off-line dictionary-software, these forms of the digital dictionaries and thesauri are in the developing stage and will take a long time to attain the perfection-stage that the conventional printed books on the subject have reached. We therefore may get incorrect and wrong information about a word or phrase in the net-provided softwares.
2. The findings in a dictionary or thesaurus may not match our context; and in that case we have to go for other resources of information about the word.
3. Some times the soft or hard copies of the dictionaries and thesauruses fail to provide any information about our word and we are disappointed to see our word missing in it.
4. Online dictionaries and thesauri may be overused or used out of context. You might be tempted to use a fancier synonym or antonym for a word when a simple and direct approach might be best.
5. A dictionary is rather easy to refer as it contains explanations about the given meaning by way of suitable examples; whereas a thesaurus lacks this aspect of the dictionary and simply lists the synonyms and antonyms that the user may not be familiar to. So in this case we have to again ponder into a dictionary and understand them to find out our choice best suited to our need.
6. Thesaurus lacks many features of a dictionary that makes it difficult for the user to follow.

8.6.3 Self-Check Exercises with Model Answers

Fill in the blanks:

1. A dictionary is rather easy to refer than the thesaurus because a thesaurus neither gives the _____ of the word, nor tries to explain its concept with suitable _____.
2. You might be tempted to use a fancier synonym or antonym for a word when a _____ approach might be best.
3. _____ and _____ are good _____ tools for the writers and translators if used judiciously.

Answer the following:

4. Find three similar words for ‘subtle’ using a thesaurus.
5. Find out the meaning and 5 synonyms of the word ‘subtle’ in Odia using a dictionary.

Model Answers to the Self-Check Exercises:

1. definition, examples
2. simple and direct
3. Dictionary, thesaurus, writing
4. Insidious, pernicious, elusive
5. ଜଟିଳ, ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମ, ଗୁଡ଼, ତୀକ୍ଷ୍ଣ, ପରିଚ୍ଛନ୍ନ

8.7 Summing Up

- Dictionary entries include much information in addition to the correct spelling of the words viz., pronunciation, part of speech, various forms in other parts of speech, singular-plural, comparative-superlative degrees, definition, usage in sentences, its syntax, synonyms and sometimes sketch illustrations too.
- Thesauruses provide synonyms and antonyms for different parts of speech and different meanings of an identified word and for words related to the identified word.
- Dictionaries and thesauruses when used judiciously are helpful tools for all writers and translators.

- After finding the synonyms or various meanings of a word from the dictionary or thesaurus, we have to match each of them to the context in hand before proceeding ahead in translation, lest we should commit blunders.

8.8 Unit-End Exercises with Model Answers

Answer these questions:

1. Arrange the following words in the alphabetical order: accent, accustomed, accuse, acquire, a, an
2. Find out various Odia synonyms of the word 'interest'.
3. In what various meanings can you use the word 'term'? Write some of their Odia synonyms.
4. Find out various meanings of the word 'apply' and frame sentences using those conceptual synonyms.

Translate the following sentences into Odia using dictionaries and thesauri:

5. I am content with what God has given me.
6. The contents of this book will add to your wisdom.
7. The contents of the unclaimed and abandoned bag may be dangerous and fatal.
8. The surplus rain water exceeds the embankment of the river.
9. Goutam Budhha was an atheist. He believed and preached non-violence.

Model Answers to Self-Check Exercises

1. a, accent, accuse, accustomed, acquire, an
 2. ରୁଚି, ସାର୍ଥ, ସୁଧ, ଜଡ଼ିତ ହେବା
 3. Condition, terminus, period of time, agreement, consider as, accept somebody's conditions, relation, word used in specific meaning etc. In odia the synonyms are: ସର୍ତ୍ତ, ପ୍ରାନ୍ତ, ଅବଧି, ସାଲିସ, ମନେକରିବା, ସର୍ତ୍ତ ମାନିବା, ସମ୍ପର୍କ, ଶରାବଳୀ
 4. Request someone for some favour: In order to get a job one has to apply to various organizations.
Put a colour: I have applied the ivory colour on the walls.
Make use of: Please don't apply the same principle to everyone.
To be effective: The same rules apply to you too.
 5. ଭଗବାନ ମୋତେ ଯାହା ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି, ମୁଁ ସେଥିରେ ସନ୍ତୁଷ୍ଟ।
 6. ବହିଟିରେ ଥିବା ବିଷୟ ତୁମକୁ ବୁଝିମାନ କରିବ।
 7. କେହି ଦାବି କରୁନଥିବା ସେହି ପରିତ୍ୟକ୍ତ ମୁଣ୍ଡିଟିରେ ଥିବା ବସ୍ତୁ ଛୁଏତ ବଡ଼ ବିପଦଜନକ ଓ ମରଣାନ୍ତକ ବି ହୋଇପାରେ।
 8. ଉଦବୃତ୍ତ ବର୍ଷାଜଳ ନଦୀବନ୍ଧ ତେଇଁ ଚାଲିଯାଏ।
 9. ଗୌତମ ବୁଦ୍ଧ ନାସ୍ତିକ ଥିଲେ। ସେ ଅହିଂସାରେ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଓ ପ୍ରଚାର କଲେ।
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