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Analyses of Verbs of Direct Action in English Explanatory Dictionaries

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Abstract:

The interpretation of verbs of direct action in English dictionaries varies depending on the type of dictionary and the intended audience. For example, verbs of direct action in the Oxford academic dictionary are characterized by a high level of informativeness. Merriam Webster's dictionary provides short definitions of verbs of direct action and sometimes incomplete sentences. The Macmillan dictionary, as the Cambridge dictionary was written in a neutral and concise form. This article analyses the interpretations of verbs of direct action briefly in English dictionaries.

Key words: verbs of direct action, verbs, dictionary, explanatory dictionary, annotated dictionary, annotated translation dictionary

Introduction

English dictionary "A Dictionary of the English Language" was officially founded in the 18th century by Samuel Johnson. Later, the variety of English language dictionaries and their level and quality were increased based on lexicographic research such as educational explanatory dictionaries, explanatory dictionaries for native speakers, short translation and annotated translation dictionaries, as well as thesaurus dictionaries and corpora were created.

Materials and Methods

Dictionaries cover lexeme explanations, its functional indicators and meanings in speech in different aspects. In particular, directional verbs are interpreted as follows in the explanatory dictionary intended for language learners.

STAGGER [stægə] Word forms: 3rd person singular present tense staggers , present participle staggering , past tense, past participle staggered 1. VERB If you stagger , you walk very unsteadily, for example because you are ill or drunk. <i>He lost his balance, staggered back against the rail and toppled</i>	CRAWL [krɔ:l] Word forms: 3rd person singular present tense crawls , present participle crawling , past tense, past participle crawled 1. VERB When you crawl , you move forward on your hands and knees. <i>Don't worry if your baby seems a little reluctant to crawl or walk. [VERB] I began to crawl on my hands and knees towards the</i>
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<p><i>over</i>. [VERB adverb/preposition] <i>He was staggering and had to lean on the bar</i>. [VERB]</p> <p>Synonyms: totter, reel, sway, falter More Synonyms of stagger</p> <p>2. VERB If you say that someone or something staggers on, you mean that they only just succeed in continuing. <i>Truman allowed him to stagger on for nearly another two years</i>. [VERB adverb/preposition] ...a government that staggered from crisis to crisis. [VERB adverb/preposition]</p> <p>Synonyms: lurch, reel, stumble, sway More Synonyms of stagger</p> <p>3. VERB If something staggers you, it surprises you very much. <i>The whole thing staggers me</i>. [VERB noun]</p> <p>Synonyms: astound, amaze, stun, surprise More Synonyms of stagger</p> <p>4. VERB To stagger things such as people's holidays or hours of work means to arrange them so that they do not all happen at the same time. <i>During the past few years the government has staggered summer vacation periods</i>.</p> <p>Derived forms: NOUN staggerer ('staggerer)</p> <p>Word origin: dialect <i>stacker</i>, from Old Norse <i>staka</i> to push</p>	<p><i>door</i>. [VERB preposition/adverb] <i>As he tried to crawl away, he was hit in the shoulder</i>. [VERB preposition/adverb]</p> <p>Synonyms: creep, slither, go on all fours, move on hands and knees</p> <p>2. VERB When an insect crawls somewhere, it moves there quite slowly. <i>I watched the moth crawl up the outside of the lampshade</i>. [VERB preposition]</p> <p>3. VERB If someone or something crawls somewhere, they move or progress slowly or with great difficulty. <i>I crawled out of bed at nine</i>. [VERB preposition/adverb] <i>They had not foreseen the higher inflation in France when most of Western Europe was crawling out of recession</i>. [VERB preposition/adverb] <i>Hairpin turns force the car to crawl at 10 miles an hour in some places</i>.</p> <p>4. VERB [only cont] If you say that a place is crawling with people or animals, you are emphasizing that it is full of them. [informal, emphasis] <i>This place is crawling with police</i>. [VERB + with] ...rock-hard earth littered with rubbish and crawling with vermin. [VERB with noun]</p> <p>Word origin: from Dutch <i>kraal</i> KRAAL</p>
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These examples were taken from the Collins dictionary, and there are several reasons for evaluating this dictionary as a resource for language learners. First, the dictionary is distinguished by the fact that its lexical coverage is wider than other annotated dictionaries. According to the author and editors, 750 thousand lexical units are explained in the dictionary. The scope of coverage is much higher than that of Webster, Oxford, Cambridge educational dictionaries, which have 450-500 thousand lexical units. Secondly, the structure of this dictionary is more improved than that of the listed educational dictionaries. Encyclopedic explanatory dictionaries contain the lexical unit, its phonetic characteristics (transcription), grammatical parameter, semanticization (explanation), combination norm, derivation possibilities, etymological information, lexicographical evidence, lexicographical symbols, semantic relations, etc. are significant because the presence of this information in the article is due to the thorough and perfect structure of the dictionary, its information indicates that the level of activity is high.

If we pay attention to the lexicography of verbs of direct action, it is impossible not to highlight two main achievements in interpretations. First, because the tense inflection in English verbs causes phonetic changes on the basis of the word, information about the inflection of verbs of directional action is given at the

beginning of the dictionary article. Although the example verbs do not undergo phonetic changes when inflected, these grammatical indicators of the article do not lose their relevance for native speakers. When verbs in English come with prepositions, they can be inflected. For this reason, the authors attach all the prepositional conjugations of these directional action verbs. In the phrasal verb language, the shift of meaning is more obvious in the context of speech reality. As mentioned above, English annotated dictionaries have their own style of explanation, which can be observed in the example of the interpretation of verbs of direct action.

Educational explanatory dictionaries intended for the audience learning English as a foreign language differ in structure and content from explanatory dictionaries intended for English speakers - we can see the differences in the example of verbs of direct action.

- I. **LEAP** *VERB* [LI:P] [INTRANSITIVE, TRANSITIVE] TO JUMP HIGH OR A LONG WAY + **ADV./PREP.** *A DOLPHIN LEAPT OUT OF THE WATER. WE LEAPED OVER THE STREAM. LEAP SOMETHING THE HORSE LEAPT A FIVE-FOOT WALL.*
- II. [INTRANSITIVE] + **ADV./PREP.** TO MOVE OR DO SOMETHING SUDDENLY AND QUICKLY – *SHE LEAPT OUT OF BED. HE LEAPED ACROSS THE ROOM TO ANSWER THE DOOR. I LEAPT TO MY FEET (= STOOD UP QUICKLY). THEY LEAPT INTO ACTION IMMEDIATELY. (FIGURATIVE) SHE WAS QUICK TO LEAP TO MY DEFENCE (= SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF ME). THE PHOTO SEEMED TO LEAP OFF THE PAGE (= IT GOT YOUR ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY). HIS NAME LEAPT OUT AT ME (= I SAW IT IMMEDIATELY).*
- III. [INTRANSITIVE] **LEAP (IN SOMETHING) (FROM...) (TO...)** TO INCREASE SUDDENLY AND BY A LARGE AMOUNT **SYNONYM** SHOOT UP *THE SHARES LEAPT IN VALUE FROM 476P TO CLOSE AT 536P. THE COMPANY SAW PRE-TAX PROFITS LEAP TO £14.5 MILLION IN 2004.*
- IV. **IDIOMS SOMEBODY'S HEART LEAPS** USED TO SAY THAT SOMEBODY HAS A SUDDEN FEELING OF HAPPINESS OR EXCITEMENT *MY HEART LEAPT AT THE NEWS. HER HEART LEAPED WITH JOY. JUMP/LEAP TO CONCLUSIONS | JUMP/LEAP TO THE CONCLUSION THAT...TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT SOMEBODY/SOMETHING TOO QUICKLY, BEFORE YOU KNOW OR HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THE FACTS THERE I GO AGAIN—JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.*
- look before you leap** (*saying*) used to advise somebody to think about the possible results or dangers of something before doing it.

The interpretation of verbs of direct action in the Oxford academic dictionary is characterized by a high level of informativeness. Grammatical indicators of the verb, such as transitive and intransitive, are given. Special importance is given to the expression of the idiomatic use of the word, the metaphorical-contextual meaning. The fact that proverbs and sayings with lexemes are given as an example reveals the linguistic-cultural and pragmatic features of verbs of direct action.

- V. **DECLINE** VERB [DI-'KLĪN , DĒ-] *INTRANSITIVE VERB 1*: TO BECOME LESS IN AMOUNT THE PRICE OF THE STOCK *DECLINED*.
- VI. **2**: TO TEND TOWARD AN INFERIOR STATE OR WEAKER CONDITION HIS HEALTH *DECLINED* EMPLOYEE MORALE *DECLINED* AFTER THE LAYOFFS.
- VII. **3**: TO WITHHOLD CONSENT WE INVITED HIM BUT HE *DECLINED*.
- VIII. **4A** OF A CELESTIAL BODY : TO SINK TOWARD SETTING THE *DECLINING* SUN **B**: TO DRAW TOWARD A CLOSE : WANE THE DAY *DECLINED*
- IX. **5A**: TO SLOPE DOWNWARD : DESCEND **B**: TO BEND DOWN : DROOP... EYES ... *DECLINING* TOWARD THE GROUND ...— HENRY FIELDING **C**: TO STOOP (SEE *STOOP* ENTRY 1 SENSE 3B) TO WHAT IS UNWORTHY... THE DIREFUL SHAMEFUL STATE ADAM *DECLINED* INTO ...— EDWARD TAYLOR
- X. **6** *ARCHAIC* : TO TURN FROM A STRAIGHT COURSE : STRAY
- XI. *TRANSITIVE VERB 1A*: TO REFUSE ESPECIALLY COURTEOUSLY *DECLINE* AN INVITATION *DECLINED* TO GIVE HER NAME TO THE REPORTER **B**: TO REFUSE TO UNDERTAKE, UNDERGO, ENGAGE IN, OR COMPLY WITH *DECLINE* BATTLE
- XII. **2** *GRAMMAR* : TO GIVE IN PRESCRIBED ORDER THE GRAMMATICAL FORMS OF (A NOUN, PRONOUN, OR ADJECTIVE) *DECLINE* THE LATIN ADJECTIVE "BREVIS"
- III. **3**: TO CAUSE TO BEND OR BOW DOWNWARD... THE CLOVER ... *DECLINES* ITS BLOOMS.— W. C. BRYANT
- IV. **4** *OBSELETE* **A**: AVERT... EVASIONS ARE SOUGHT TO *DECLINE* THE PRESSURE OF RESISTLESS ARGUMENTS ...— SAMUEL JOHNSON **B**: AVOID... SINNERS ... DESPAIRING TO *DECLINE* THEIR FATE ...— THOMAS KEN

Merriam Webster's dictionary provides definitions in short, sometimes incomplete sentences. Examples are also given as short, long sentences, not in the form of sentences. Although all the meanings of the lexeme are covered, due to the non-traditional method of presentation, the reader does not get complete information about the norms of using this word. There are not enough examples of combining verbs of directional action with prepositions.

AMBLE verb [I usually + adv/prep] UK ['æm.bəl] US ['æm.bəl] to walk in a slow and relaxed way: *He was ambling along the beach. She ambled down the street, stopping occasionally to look in the shop windows.*

Synonym mosey informal

Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

to walk: *The baby has just learned to walk.*

to stride: *She strode purposefully up to the desk and demanded to speak to the manager.*

to march: *He marched right in to the office and demanded to see the governor.* to stroll: *We strolled along the beach.*

to wander: *She wandered from room to room, not sure of what she was looking for.*

The distinctive feature of the Cambridge Learning Annotated Dictionary is that the annotations are presented in a concise and formal manner. Phonetic and grammatical indications are followed by explanations and examples. At the end of the article, the thesaurus information, synonyms and antonyms according to semantic relations are provided. Prepositional conjugations of verbs of direct action given in this dictionary are not given much importance. However, because the sense of style has appeared in prepositional verbs of direct action, a semiotic shift may occur and this shift may reveal new expressive meanings.

- XV. **NUDGE VERB UK** [NADʒ] TRANSITIVE TO USE A PART OF YOUR BODY, ESPECIALLY YOUR ELBOW, TO GIVE A LITTLE PUSH TO SOMEONE OR SOMETHING
SHEILA NUDGED ME IN THE RIBS, AND POINTED AT PAUL. PATRICK NUDGED THE DOOR CLOSED WITH HIS FOOT.
- XVI. TRANSITIVE TO MAKE SOMETHING MOVE GRADUALLY OR A LITTLE WAY IN A PARTICULAR DIRECTION *THE CENTRAL BANK CAN NUDGE RATES LOWER IF NECESSARY.*
- XVII. INTRANSITIVE TO MOVE GRADUALLY IN A PARTICULAR DIRECTION
THE TEMPERATURES ARE NUDGING UP INTO THE EIGHTIES.
- XVIII. TRANSITIVE TO ENCOURAGE SOMEONE IN A GENTLE WAY TO DO SOMETHING *SHE TRIES TO NUDGE HER STUDENTS INTO READING MORE.*

The Macmillan dictionary, as the Cambridge dictionary was written in a neutral and concise form. Information about transitive and intransitive verbs of direct action is presented. There is no explanation, description or examples about the transfer of meaning when verbs are combined with prepositions and when they are used in a metaphorical sense.

Conclusion

As we can see, the interpretation of verbs of direct action in English dictionaries varies depending on the type of dictionary and the intended audience. The dictionary designed for English speakers provides a broader explanation of lexemes and etymological information. According to the analysis, the Oxford annotated dictionary provides linguistic, cultural and pragmatic aspects of verbs of direct action that meets the main requirement for the lexicographic source.

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