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**ŠEŠKAUSKIENĖ, Inesa, 2013. *Ways with Words: Insights into the English Lexicon and Some Cross-Linguistic Aspects of Study*. Vilnius: Vilnius University Publishing House. 464 p. ISBN 978-609-459-199-0**

*Julia Ostanina-Olszewska (Lenkija / Polska)*

This book addresses issues relevant to student audiences, being based on the author's course in English lexicology. However, the wide scope of questions covered in the book expands the initial target audience to include many more people, such as linguists and language practitioners (translators, teachers, etc.), interested in word-building, semantics, translation, and cross-linguistic studies.

The book consists of two large sections—lexical morphology (or word-building) and lexical semantics, which together make up the core of the study of the lexicon. It also gives an overview of the most important trends in the field. The book contains 13 chapters which are grouped under two headings: *Key notions and word-building* and *Word meaning and vocabulary*. The first part includes sections of more general interest, which help to identify the field of study, explain the aspects and levels of analysis, and define key notions such as the word and the morpheme, etc. It then proceeds to discuss issues of word-building, covering three major types in English (derivation, conversion, and compounding) and an array of minor types (e.g., acronyms, blending, and back formation) which, in this technological world, are becoming extremely productive. The second part includes a discussion of the field of lexical semantics, the notion of meaning and several approaches to it, and the meaning relations—such as homonymy, polysemy, inclusion (hyponymy), and exclusion (overlapping and opposition)—that

are featured in most traditional textbooks, though with varying treatment. The section also covers the sources of English vocabulary and semantic change, and discusses the syntagmatic axis of word meaning, focusing basically on combinability and vocabulary variation.

The structure of the whole book and within each chapter is clear and well thought out. Each chapter follows a similar structural pattern: it begins with a short introduction, proceeds to major problems of the (sub)field, and ends with a summary of the main points and a set of tasks. This fully predictable structure of each chapter is undoubtedly a major asset of the book.

The topics covered are those traditionally included in similar coursebooks. However, the wide scope of topics does not diminish the depth of analysis, especially the analysis of some very interesting examples. The author's solid background is manifested in the long list of references, which includes a large number of books published during the last decade, leaving no doubt about the current relevance of the problems dealt with in the book under review.

What makes the book unique is its cross-linguistic aspect. Despite the fact that the book is not a systematic cross-linguistic study of English, Lithuanian, Polish, and Russian, it responds to the aims outlined in its introduction: to help students access English vocabulary through their own native language, be it Lithuanian, Russian, or Polish. Copious examples from those

languages, together with a discussion of such topics as lexical gaps and translation equivalents, makes the book a valuable source of information and discussion for future translators and linguists. The English language as a medium of instruction makes the book accessible to international students.

The tasks included at the end of each chapter are of great pedagogical value. They are logical, consistent with the information covered in the chapter, and address its topical issues. The materials included in the tasks have been drawn from dictionaries and language corpora, which leaves no doubt as to their authenticity. It is my understanding that the tasks have been pre-tested on students several times.

The text of the book is written in fluent English. The academic style does not make the book “heavy” or “dry;” quite the opposite—a good balance between academic style and the explicitness of the text makes the book very reader-friendly. Overall, this volume will provide valuable information to anyone interested in lexicology and lexical semantics. As already mentioned, numerous examples make it accessible to varied audiences.

The book *Ways with Words: Insights into the English Lexicon and Some Cross-Linguistic Aspects of Study* by Dr. Inesa Šeškauskienė constitutes a significant contribution to the study of vocabulary, as well as the teaching of lexical morphology and lexical semantics.