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د. عفاف سامي صالح	اسم التدريسي
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### محتوى المحاضرة

#### What Are Lexicalized Words?

**Lexicalized words** are words that represent a **single concept or idea** and are stored as a single unit in the **mental lexicon** (your mental "dictionary"). In simple terms: A **lexicalized word** is a word or phrase that has become an **established, conventional way** to express a particular meaning in a language.

#### Key Features:

- It expresses a **complete concept**.
- It is **recognized by native speakers** as a natural expression.
- It often has **no direct one-word translation** in other languages.

#### Examples of Lexicalized Words:

## 1. English:

“**Headache**” → a single word for "pain in the head."

“**Babysitter**” → a person who watches children.

“**Upload**” → to send data to the internet.

These are all **lexicalized concepts** in English — even though they might have been compound words originally, they are now treated as single vocabulary items.

## 2. Other Languages:

- **German: “Schadenfreude”**  
→ Pleasure from someone else's misfortune.  
English speakers often borrow this because there is **no exact equivalent**.
- **Japanese: “Tsundoku”**  
→ Buying books and letting them pile up without reading them.

These are **lexicalized in their original language** — they represent complete, familiar ideas expressed in one word.

## Why Are Lexicalized Words Important?

George Yule uses them to illustrate how **different cultures and languages lexicalize different concepts**.

This ties directly into the idea of **linguistic relativity** — some languages name and notice things that others don't.

Example from *The Study of Language*:

In some Indigenous languages, there are many **lexicalized words for snow** — each describing a specific type — while English just says “snow.”

This shows how **language encodes cultural priorities**.

## Summary Definition:

A **lexicalized word** is a word or phrase that has become a fixed, recognized way to refer to a concept in a particular language. **Does Language Determine Thought, or Does Thought Determine Language?**

This debate is most famously explored through the **Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis**, which George Yule discusses in *The Study of Language*.

## Two Main Views:

### 1. Language Determines Thought

#### (Linguistic Determinism – Strong Version of Sapir-Whorf)

This idea suggests that the **language you speak controls how you think**.

- If a language has no word for a concept, speakers supposedly can't think about that concept.

#### Example:

If your language doesn't have a future tense, can you truly "think" about the future?

**Criticism:** Most linguists (including Yule) argue this is too extreme. People can still think abstractly even if they lack a specific word.

### 2. Thought Determines Language

This is the opposite idea: **humans think independently of language**, and then create language to express those thoughts.

#### Example:

We all experience love, anger, or time—but we describe them differently based on our culture and language.

**Criticism:** This view may ignore how much language *shapes* our mental habits and attention.

### **3. Middle Ground: Linguistic Relativity**

This is the **weaker** version of the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, and the view Yule supports:

**Language influences thought, but does not completely determine it.**

**Example:**

- Some Indigenous Australian languages use cardinal directions (north/south) instead of "left" and "right". Speakers are more aware of orientation than others.
- Russian has two words for "blue" (light blue "голубой" and dark blue "синий"), so Russian speakers may notice shades of blue more easily than English speakers.