A History of Roget's *Thesaurus*: Origins, Development, and Design

Werner Hüllen



Contents

Preface	vii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The initial hypothesis	1
1.2 Outline of the book	5
2 Peter Mark Roget	9
2.1 Facts and ideas	9
2.2 Roget's curriculum vitae	11
2.3 Scientist and lexicographer	17
2.4 A skeleton history of the <i>Thesaurus</i> from 1852 to 1899	20
2.5 Early criticism	24
3 Words, words	27
3.1 Hamlet's repartee	29
3.2 Polysemy and homonymy	32
3.3 Synonymy	36
3.4 Semantic fields	40
3.5 Semantic features	50
3.6 Semantic models	59
3.7 Reverse theories of synonymy	64
3.8 Saussure on the linguistic sign	69
4 Synonymy: Early Statements and Practices	73
4.1 An ordering grid	73
4.2 Some classical treatments of synonymy	77
4.3 Isidore of Seville's differentiae	93
4.4 Poetic synonyms in Beowulf	96
4.5 Erasmus' De copia verborum	104
4.6 Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost	109
4.7 Archbishop Trench on synonymy and morality	115
5 The Beginnings of Practical Synonymy	119
5.1 Hard-word dictionaries	119
5.2 Synonymy in philosophy and lexicographical practice	161
6 The Emergence of the English Synonym Dictionary	199
6.1 Instigation from abroad: Abbé Gabriel Girard	199
6.2 Girard's followers on the Continent	208
6.3 Girard's followers in Britain	213

vi Contents

6.4 The English synonym dictionary appears	236
6.5 Roget and the English synonym dictionary	276
7 The Topical Tradition in English Lexicography	277
7.1 Onomasiology between 800 and 1700	277
7.2 The classification of knowledge	291
7.3 Onomasiological lexicography between 1700 and 1852	298
8 Roget's Thesaurus: A Topical Dictionary of Synonyms	323
8.1 On analysing Roget's Thesaurus	323
8.2 The 'Introduction'	327
8.3 The macrostructure	331
8.4 The microstructure	337
8.5 Pragmatic structures	347
8.6 Semantic fields	362
8.7 Semantic features	368
8.8 Frames, schemata, and scripts	371
Appendix: 'Plan of Classification' and 'Tabular Synopsis' of	377
Roget's Thesaurus	
Bibliography	391
Index	405