Lecture

What is a Glossary?

To develop one's vocabulary successfully it is very useful to create a glossary of terms most frequently used in a person's branch of knowledge or professional field.

Reading academic or professional literature we come across lots of terms that are unfamiliar to us in the beginning. Authors of books usually include lists of terms or glossaries for the readers to find explanations.

A **glossary** is a collection of words with their definitions, sometimes with translation into another language, comments and examples. They are usually listed in alphabetic order or compiled according to the topics.

The use of dictionaries and glossaries is very important when we are starting a new area in a foreign language.

Keeping a glossary will help not waste time on looking up new terms again and again in dictionaries if you don't remember them.

There are no definite rules for compiling a glossary, but there are a number of recommendations that it is advisable to follow:

- keep the alphabetical order,
- give an accurate translation of words,
- include explanations of terms.

Compiling a glossary you should remember that there are different types of terms, which are classified according to the following criteria:

1. Terms that represent a different interpretation of common linguistic meaning. These terms are usually polysemantic; they can acquire different meanings in the field of science and technology while maintaining a semantic connection with a general linguistic meaning.

It should be noted that such terms in various contexts can also denote concepts that are remote in meaning. For example, the following terminology words have the following meanings:

- Thread нить; резьба; поток; уровень; процесс (thread; flow; level; process; etc.)
- Cash наличные деньги; память быстрого доступа, временная память (cash; quick access memory, temporary memory)

2. Terms with a single meaning in a specific field of science and technology:

welding – сварка (welding),
software – программное обеспечение
(software).

3. Terms that have a number of meanings in a specific field of science or technology (polysemy in a specific sublanguage): run - выполнять, запускать.