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REPRESENTATION OF ‘STATE’, ‘AUTHORITY’, AND ‘HUMAN RIGHTS’ IN ENGLISH DIGITAL AND PRINTED LEXICOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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Abstract

The paper investigates the lexicographic representation of the lexical units ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’ in English etymological, digital, and printed dictionaries. The relevance of the study is determined by the growing importance of political, legal, and humanitarian discourse in contemporary society, as well as by the necessity to clarify the semantic scope of the key nominations verbalizing the concepts STATE, AUTHORITY, and HUMAN RIGHTS. The research aims to identify and compare the meanings of the analyzed lexical units in various lexicographic sources and to determine the similarities and differences in their semantic structures.

The methodological framework combines general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, comparison, induction, deduction, and generalization) with special linguistic methods, including definition analysis, componential analysis, contextual analysis, contrastive analysis, and interpretation of etymological data. The empirical material comprises entries from digital dictionaries (Cambridge Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, and Online Etymology Dictionary) as well as printed lexicographic editions.

The results demonstrate that the lexeme ‘state’ possesses the broadest and most diversified semantic structure, combining meanings related to condition, political organization, territorial sovereignty, governmental activity, and ceremonial functions. The lexeme ‘authority’ reveals a relatively stable semantic core centered around power, legitimacy, institutional control, expertise, and permission, although different dictionaries foreground distinct semantic aspects. The collocation ‘human rights’ demonstrates the highest degree of semantic consistency across all analyzed sources and is primarily conceptualized through universality, fairness, equality, morality, legality, and protection from cruelty or institutional abuse.

The study concludes that etymological dictionaries emphasize historical semantic development, digital dictionaries foreground communicative flexibility and contextual adaptation, whereas printed explanatory dictionaries provide more systematic semantic stratification, phraseological representation, and stylistic

differentiation. The findings may contribute to further studies in lexicography, political linguistics, discourse analysis, and terminology research.

***Keywords**: lexicographic representation, 'state', 'authority', 'human rights', etymological, digital and printed lexicographic sources, commonalities, differences.*

1. Introduction.

A pressing issue for contemporary society remains the search for information, in which program management plays a significant role. The purpose of program management is to coordinate multiple projects by ensuring synergistic cooperation, pursuing a shared global objective, fostering positive interaction among all participants, maintaining consistency in implementation, and ensuring transparency, initiative, and visibility of results. In this regard, there emerges a need to identify and further establish the means of objectification and verbalization of the concepts fundamental to state projects, including those of a global scale, within English- and Ukrainian-language program management discourse, particularly the concepts of STATE, POWER, and HUMAN RIGHTS (which constitute the object and subject matter of our dissertation research). Given this direction of inquiry, it appears appropriate to determine the semantic scope and content of the key nominations representing these concepts primarily through lexicographic sources, which record stable/fixed meanings characteristic of a particular linguoculture.

The importance of studying the concepts selected for our research is beyond doubt, given their presence across all spheres of human activity. This primarily concerns the notion of the state: across all historical periods and countries, it has always played a critical role, serving as the foundation for organizing social life at a particular stage of development.

As for the notion of power, it has existed in society for as long as humanity itself. Artificial intelligence integrated into Google defines power as "the ability to influence others, govern, or possess the right to command. It may take political, governmental, economic, or other forms of power manifested through authority, legal entitlement, or coercion. Furthermore, 'power' may refer to governing state institutions, the government, or specific individuals vested with governmental authority" (Vlada, URL: https://surli.cc/yadxdp). Given such a broad interpretation, any linguistic study of political discourse requires verification of the dictionary meanings of the dominant lexical units that function as the principal verbalizers of the concepts that constitute the notion of power.

The word-combination 'human rights' is a key notion in contemporary humanitarian and legal discourse, reflecting the fundamental principles of a democratic society, individual freedom, and human dignity. The relevance of its study is determined by the necessity for precise interpretation, translation, and unification of the term across various scholarly and legal contexts.

Of particular importance is the analysis of lexicographic sources, especially explanatory dictionaries, which record the semantic peculiarities of this phrase. The lexicographic approach enables tracing the evolution of concepts, identifying

differences in interpretation, and ensuring the correct use of the term across scholarly communication, international law, and intercultural translation.

Therefore, the study of key nominations, that is, the basic lexical units through which the concepts STATE, POWER, and HUMAN RIGHTS are objectified in the consciousness of the speakers and directly realized in speech, appears justified through the use of dictionary definitions. This is also determined by the fact that verification of meanings in contemporary lexicographic sources must remain relevant to the time of research, since such sources undergo regular revision in response to historical and linguistic developments and thus reflect the changes characteristic of a specific historical period.

2. Literature Review.

Recent scholarship on lexicography increasingly treats dictionaries not as neutral repositories of meanings but as culturally, ideologically, and technologically mediated sources. This is crucial for the study of ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’, since these lexical units belong simultaneously to political, legal, institutional, and ethical discourse (Harding, 1994). In this respect, Chen’s discourse-oriented model of critical lexicography is especially relevant because it argues that dictionary entries should be examined as discourse products shaped by power relations, ideology, and institutional assumptions (Chen, 2019). This approach is directly applicable to entries such as ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’, where definitions may encode assumptions about governance, legality, obedience, legitimacy, and social order.

The methodological basis for analysing dictionary entries is also strengthened by studies of lexicographic definition. Mel’čuk’s theory of lexicographic definition treats definitions as controlled semantic paraphrases rather than loose explanations, which is useful for comparing printed and digital dictionaries in terms of shared semes and divergent semantic components (Mel’čuk, 2018). For the present topic, this means that definitions of ‘state’ may be decomposed into features such as “territory,” “government,” “political organization,” and “sovereignty”; ‘authority’ into “power,” “right,” “permission,” “expertise,” and “institution”; and ‘human rights’ into “basic rights,” “universality,” “fair treatment,” and “moral/legal entitlement.”

Digital lexicography has changed the conditions under which such concepts are represented. Lew argues that AI and machine translation have challenged the traditional role of dictionaries in reception, production, and translation, but have not eliminated the need for reliable lexicographic resources(Lew, 2024). This matters because digital dictionaries are regularly updated and may reflect contemporary shifts in political and legal vocabulary more quickly than printed dictionaries. However, digital flexibility also creates instability: meanings, examples, labels, and usage notes may change without clear historical traceability. Therefore, comparison between printed and digital sources is methodologically justified.

Critical lexicography is particularly important for politically loaded

vocabulary. Fuertes-Olivera shows that dictionaries can reproduce social asymmetries and ideological bias, especially through definition, example selection, and inclusion/exclusion practices (Fuertes-Olivera, 2022). Although his study concerns gender bias, the same logic applies to political concepts: definitions of 'authority' may naturalize obedience; definitions of 'state' may privilege institutional order over citizens; definitions of 'human rights' may emphasize morality, legality, universality, or social consensus depending on the dictionary tradition.

The relation between dictionary meaning and legal meaning is another relevant research line. Solan demonstrates that legal interpretation depends heavily on how language is understood, but legal meaning and ordinary linguistic meaning do not always coincide (Solan, 2018). This is essential for 'human rights', because dictionary definitions simplify a concept that in legal discourse is institutionally complex. Roemling further shows that ordinary meaning in law requires triangulation across language varieties and corpus evidence, not mechanical citation of dictionaries (Roemling, 2025). Basile also distinguishes between ordinary and plain meaning, warning that legal interpretation cannot be reduced to a dictionary lookup (Basile, 2024). These studies justify treating dictionary definitions as linguistic evidence, not as final legal truth.

In discourse-sensitive analysis, Ong et al. emphasize that the choice of discourse analysis should align with research aims, especially when the study concerns power, institutional authority, and dominant meanings (Ong et al., 2024). This supports the use of critical discourse analysis for the entries 'state', 'authority', and 'human rights', as all three concepts contribute to the construction of political legitimacy (Byalkivska & Piddema, 2015; Ryhus, 2015; Van Dijk, 2002; Yanovets, 2018). Mercado Jaén, Bistaraki, and Schubert show how human rights language may be used institutionally to project legitimacy while avoiding deeper accountability (Mercado Jaén et al., 2025). Although their object is FIFA discourse rather than dictionaries, their findings are relevant to analyzing how lexicographic definitions may normalize or depoliticize human rights terminology.

Recent work in critical lexicography also shows that dictionary-making is linked to memory, identity, and social hierarchy. Staphorst's study of Woordeboekapartheid demonstrates that lexicographic representation can become a site of social and historical contestation (Staphorst, 2025). Chen's later study on anthropocentrism in Chinese dictionaries further confirms that dictionary entries can be analyzed through systemic-functional and critical lexicographical discourse approaches (Chen, 2024). These studies are valuable for the proposed topic because STATE, AUTHORITY, and HUMAN RIGHTS are not merely lexical units; they are conceptual nodes through which social order, institutional hierarchy, and individual status are linguistically represented.

Thus, the literature supports a combined methodology: componential analysis to identify semantic features; comparative analysis of printed and digital, and British and American, dictionary traditions; critical lexicographical discourse analysis of ideology and power; and legal-linguistic analysis of terms related to

rights and authority. The gap remains clear: there is limited focused research on the triad State–Authority–Human Rights in English printed and digital lexicographic sources. This makes the proposed study relevant.

3. Aim and Objectives.

The paper aims to provide a thorough outline of the lexicographic representation of three key lexical units that linguistically express the concepts STATE, POWER, and HUMAN RIGHTS in English. To achieve this aim, we set the following objectives:

1) to identify the meanings for ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’ in the digital dictionaries;

2) to define the meanings for ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’ in the printed dictionaries;

3) to generalize the obtained results in order to present the complete scope of the analyzed units’ meanings.

4. Methodology.

The study of the lexicographic representation of three key lexical units that realize the concepts STATE, POWER, and HUMAN RIGHTS in English required the consequent use of both general scientific (analysis, synthesis, comparison, deduction and induction, generalization, and description) and special linguistic (definition analysis (interpretation of the etymological results inclusive), componential analysis, contextual analysis, and contrastive analysis) methods. General scientific methods enabled the processing of the theoretical literature, the drawing of conclusions, and the description of the results. Special linguistic methods were useful in studying explanatory dictionaries (printed and digital) definitions (definition analysis), outlining the genesis and meanings development of the lexical units under research (interpretation of the etymological results inclusive), splitting the meanings into semes (componential analysis), verifying the meanings in speech (contextual analysis), and defining differences in the lexicographic representation (contrastive analysis).

Lexicographic sources entries for lexemes under analysis cover such editions:

digital:

– Cambridge Dictionary (URL: https://dictionary.cambridge.org/);

– Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. (URL: https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/);

– Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. (URL: https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/);

– Merriam-Webster Dictionary (URL: https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/);

– Online Etymology Dictionary (URL: https://www.etymonline.com);

– Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (URL: https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/);

printed:

– Collins English Dictionary. (2011);
– Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2012);
– Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010).

5. Results and Discussion.

5.1. Representation of 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Digital Dictionaries

5.1.1. Etymology of 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' based on Online Etymology Dictionary

STATE

Online Etymology Dictionary fixes the lexeme 'state' in English from 1200: stat ("circumstances, position in society, temporary attributes of a person or thing, conditions"). It originated from Old French estat ("position, condition; status, stature, station") and earlier from Latin status ("a station, position, place; way of standing, posture; order, arrangement, condition"). In the most general sense, 'state' meant "mode or form of existence", figuratively – "standing, rank; public order, community organization" (URL: https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=state). It is also mentioned that 'state' is "a noun of action from the past-participle stem" stare ("to stand") from Proto-Indo-European root *sta ("to stand, set down, make or be firm" with derivatives meaning "place or thing that is standing") (URL: https://www.etymonline.com/word/*sta-).

The development of meanings is given as follows: 1) for 1300 as "physical condition as regards form or structure", "particular condition or phase", and "condition with reference to a norm"; then for 1530s – as "mental or emotional condition"; by 1749 – 'state of mind'; from 1837 – "an agitated or perturbed condition" (colloquial); 2) from early 14th century – "splendor of ceremony, etc., appropriate to high office; dignity and pomp befitting a person of high degree"; then in 1705 – "lie in state" ("be ceremoniously exposed to view before interment"); for 1590s – 'keep state' ("conduct oneself with pompous dignity").

In quantum physics, 'state' was attested by 1913.

It is interesting that by 1530s the lexeme 'state' started to function with the meaning of "political organization of a country; supreme civil power, the government; the whole people considered as a body politic", being developed from the special use of 'state' meaning "condition of a country" and regarding to "government, prosperity" from late 13th century from Latin 'status rei public' ("condition (or existence) of the republicæ"). Then, from 1774, it acquired the meaning of "a semi-independent political entity under a federal authority of the bodies politic which together make up a federal republic". Besides, from 1630s, the British North American colonies received an alternative name as 'states'.

Several more chronological periods list some other senses or their shades. E.g., from 1798 there appeared the political sense of 'state rights' in the US (this form was recorded by 1824).

There is a separate entry for the capitalized noun ‘States’ from late 14th century: ‘state of the realm’ (“one of the major classes constituting the body politic and participating in parliament” – 16th – 17th centuries of the Netherlands, since 1777 – for the United States of America).

As for the verb ‘state’, it has had the meaning of “to set in a position, fix (a date, etc.)” from 1590s; then by 1640s – of “declare, recite, set down in detail in words” (URL: https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=state).

AUTHORITY

Online Etymology Dictionary records the emergence of the lexeme ‘authority’ in the English language around the year 1200 in the forms *autorite*, *auctorite* with the meanings “authoritative passage/statement, book/citation resolving a dispute, passage from the Holy Scripture” ← from Old French *autorité*, *auctorité* “authority, prestige, right, permission, dignity, importance; Holy Scripture” ← from Latin *auctoritatem* “invention, advice, opinion, influence, command” ← *auctor* “master, leader, author” (URL: https://surl.li/zbmzfh).

A deeper etymological analysis directs attention to the forms and meanings of the lexeme ‘author’ (*author* (mid-14th century) ← *auctor*, *autour*, *autor* “father, creator, educator, one who creates” ← Modern French *auteur* ← Old French *auctor*, *autor* “author, initiator/inventor, creator, instigator” ← Latin *auctor* “promoter, producer, father, ancestor, builder, founder, trustworthy writer, authority, historian, performer, agent, responsible person, teacher”, that is, “one who causes growth” ← *auctus* “increased/enhanced” (*augere* “to increase”) ← Proto-Indo-European *aug-* “to increase.”

As for the development of the meaning of the lexeme ‘authority’ in English, from around 1300 it acquired the general sense of “legal validity,” as well as “authoritative doctrine” (even if contrary to common sense) and “an author whose statements are regarded as correct”. From the mid-14th century, it developed the meanings “the right to govern/command, the power to enforce obedience, the power/right to order or act”. In Middle English, it was also used in the senses of “power derived from a good reputation; the power/ability to persuade people; the capacity to inspire trust”.

From around 1400, the meaning “official permission, authorization/license” is attested, while from 1610 the lexeme was used to denote “persons belonging to the governing power”. Since the mid-19th century, it has also been recorded in the plural form as authorities, meaning “those who bear responsibility; those possessing police powers” (URL: https://surl.li/zbmzfh).

HUMAN RIGHTS

Since the designation of the concept *HUMAN RIGHTS* consists of two words and therefore forms an attributive collocation, the first component of which is the adjective *human* and the second one is the noun *right* in the plural form, the number and semantic scope of meanings for each element were analysed separately (with the data from Online Etymology Dictionary, explanatory digital (Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary, Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English) and printed (Oxford Advanced

Learner's Dictionary (2010), Collins English Dictionary (2011), Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2012)) dictionaries.

As a result of the analysis of the data provided by the Online Etymology Dictionary, it has been established that the noun 'right' derives from the Old English lexeme *riht / reht*, which possessed five meanings: "that which is morally right, duty, obligation"; "rule of conduct; law of a land"; "what someone deserves; a just claim, what is due, equitable treatment"; "correctness, truth"; "a legal entitlement, a privilege". Medieval English was characterized by the opposition between *right* and *might / wrong*.

From 14th century onward, the lexical unit 'right' was used with the meaning "a right action, a good deed" and consequently "that which is just or true, righteousness".

In 1721, the phrase 'civil rights' was recorded in American English to denote the "right of each citizen to liberty, equality, etc.".

As for the lexeme 'human', it entered usage as an adjective in the mid-15th century in the forms *humain / humaigne* "human" and derives from the Old French lexical unit *humain / umain* meaning "of or belonging to man" (12th century), which, in turn, originates from the Latin *humanus* "of man, human", "humane, philanthropic, kind, gentle, polite; learned, refined, civilized".

The phrase 'human rights' has been attested since the 1680s. Based on the presented etymological data, *human rights* may be defined as the rules governing human behaviour in society; that which is right and just from the perspective of human morality and therefore obligatory for observance and implementation; that which every person deserves, namely fair treatment of an individual within society.

5.1.2. 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Cambridge Dictionary

STATE

The digital Cambridge Dictionary presents the details for 'state' used as a noun, verb, or adjective (in UK and US English variants, as well as in business use).

Namely:

from Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary:

noun meaning:

– condition ("a condition or way of being that exists at a particular time");

– country ("a country, especially as represented by its government");

– the government of a country;

– "a part of a large country with its own government, such as in the US, Australia, Brazil, or Germany";

– the States (informal) – "used to refer to the US";

verb meaning:

– "to say or write something, especially clearly and carefully";

adjective meaning:

– "provided, created, or done by the state (= government of a country)";

– "State events are formal official ceremonies that involve a leader of a country or someone who represents the government";

– "referring to a part of a large country that has its own government";

from American Dictionary:

noun meaning:

– way of being ("a condition or way of being");

– place ("one of the political units that some countries, such as the US, are divided into");

– "a state is also a country or its government";

– the States (US history) – "The States is another way of referring to the United States";

verb meaning:

– express ("to express information clearly and carefully");

adjective meaning:

– place ("provided, created, or done by the state") (e.g., state police);

– "State also refers to formal or official government activities" (e.g., a state dinner);

from Business English:

noun meaning:

– "the condition that someone or something is in a particular time";

– government ("a country with its own government");

– government ("a part of a large country such as Australia, Germany, or the US that has its own government");

– government ("the government of a country");

– the States (informal) – "used to refer to the United States of America";

verb meaning:

– "to say or write something, especially when it is done clearly and carefully";

– "to give or agree the details of something" (usually passive, e.g., a stated commitment/goal);

adjective meaning:

– government ("provided, owned, or done by the government of a country") (e.g., state companies; state education);

– "relating to a particular state of a country, especially the US" (e.g., a state agencies/legislature);

(URL: https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/state).

AUTHORITY

The contemporary online Cambridge Dictionary provides four meanings for both British and American English variants of the lexeme 'authority'. In British English, the meanings include: "the moral or legal right, or the ability to control"; "a group of people with official responsibility for a particular area of activity"; "(plural) a group of people possessing official legal power to make decisions or force others to obey laws within a specific field"; and "an expert".

In American English, the dictionary records the following meanings: "the power to control or demand obedience from others"; "someone with official

responsibility for a particular area of activity"; "(plural) the police or other government officials"; and "an expert".

For Business English, the dictionary provides five meanings: "official power to make decisions for people or to tell them what to do"; "official permission or the legal right to do something"; "an official organization, usually established by the government"; "the ability to influence people and inspire respect, particularly due to confidence or extensive knowledge"; and "a person who is an expert in a particular field" (URL: https://surl.li/dmbxha). https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/authority).

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All digital/electronic dictionaries of English contain the collocation 'human rights', although its interpretation varies somewhat. For example, the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary defines *human rights* as "the basic rights to fair and moral treatment that every person is believed to have" (basic rights to fair treatment in accordance with moral norms which, according to common belief, every person should possess) (URL: https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/human-rights). The Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's Dictionary describes this collocation as "basic rights which many societies believe that all people should have" (basic rights that, in the opinion of many societies, all people should possess) (URL: https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/)). The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English provides the following definition: "human right noun [countable usually plural] one of basic rights that many societies think every person should have to be treated in a fair equal way without cruelty, for example by their government, or the right to vote" (which fully coincides with the definition presented in the printed edition of the dictionary – see below) (https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/).

5.1.3. 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary

STATE

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary outlines some etymological data for the lexeme 'state'. It fixes the Middle English form stat ← Anglo-French estat ← Latin status ← stare. The first known use as of a noun "mode or condition of being" dates back to 13th century; as of a verb "to set by regulation or authority" – 1647.

It gives the meanings for 'state' as a noun or a verb (adjective is presented with statable):

noun:

1a "mode or condition of being";

1b(1) "condition of mind or temperament";

1b(2) "a condition of abnormal tension or excitement";

2a "a condition or stage in the physical being of something";

2b "any of various conditions characterized by definite quantities (as of

energy, angular momentum, or magnetic moment) in which an atomic system may exist";

3a "social position";

3b(1) "elaborate or luxurious style of living";

3b(2) "formal dignity" (pomp);

4a "a body of persons constituting a special class in a society" (estate sense);

4b plural "the members or representatives of the governing classes assembled in a legislative body";

4c obsolete "a person of high rank" (as a noble);

5a "a politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory, especially: one that is a sovereign";

5b "the political organization of such a body of people";

5c "a government or politically organized society having a particular character";

6 "the operations or concerns of the government of a country";

7a "one of the constituent units of a nation having a federal government";

7b "States plural: the United States of America";

8 "the territory of a state";

verb:

1 report: "to express the particulars of especially in words";

2 report: "to set by regulation or authority".

AUTHORITY

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary provides four principal meanings (including semantic shades) for the lexeme 'authority':

1. a) the power or ability to influence or direct thought and behavior; b) freedom granted by someone in a position of authority ("right", e.g. "*Who gave you the authority to do as you wish?*");
2. a) persons possessing the power to command ("government"); b) a governmental agency or body established to administer a state enterprise generating revenue;
3. a) grounds, warrant, or authorization; b) persuasive force;
4. a1) a quotation (as a citation from a book/file) used for defence or support; a2) the source of such a quotation; b1) a final statement or set of statements (such as an official court decision); b2) a decision functioning as a precedent; b3) testimony or evidence; c1) a person quoted or consulted as an expert.

(URL: https://surl.lu/xancdx; https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/authority?src=search-dict-box).

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This collocation is provided in plural with the meaning "rights (such as freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution) regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons" (known from 1629) (URL: https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/human%20rights).

5.1.4. 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

STATE

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary presents the meanings for 'state' only as a noun:

– country "a country considered as an organized political community controlled by one government";

– part of country "an organized political community forming part of a country";

– government "the government of a country";

– condition of somebody/something "the mental, emotional, or physical condition that a person or thing is in";

– official ceremony "the formal ceremonies connected with high levels of government or with kings and queens";

– the US – the States "the United States of America"

(URL: https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/state_1?q=state).

AUTHORITY

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary provides both the current meanings for the lexeme 'authority' and its brief etymological note. Thus, it is mentioned that the Middle English lexical unit *authority* derives from the Old French *autorite* ← Latin *auctoritas* (*auctor* ← *augere* "to increase, originate, promote").

The dictionary records six meanings of this lexeme: 1) "the power to give orders to people" (position); 2) "the power or right to do something" (authority); 3) "official permission to do something" (permission); 4) "the people or an organization who have the power to make decisions or who have a particular area of responsibility in a country or region"; 5) "the power to influence people because they respect your knowledge or official position"; 6) "a person with special knowledges" (an expert/specialist) (URL: https://surl.li/usawqk; https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/authority?q=authority)

HUMAN RIGHTS

This dictionary provides this collocation in the singular form as 'human right' and further states that it is usually used in plural. It is defined as "one of the basic rights that everyone has to be treated fairly and not in a cruel way, especially by their government". Besides it is mentioned within two topics – social issues and politics (URL: https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/human-right?q=human+rights).

5.1.5. A Comparative Analysis of Digital Dictionaries' Definitions for 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights'

The comparative analysis of the digital lexicographic representation of the

lexeme ‘state’ demonstrates both quantitative and semantic variation across the Cambridge Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. The Cambridge Dictionary provides the broadest functional distribution of meanings, presenting the lexeme as a noun, verb, and adjective in British English, American English, and Business English variants. The semantic structure is organized around three dominant conceptual spheres: condition/way of being, political entity/government, and official/state-related activity. Merriam-Webster offers the most extensive semantic differentiation, distinguishing eight principal noun meanings with numerous semantic shades, as well as two verb meanings. Unlike Cambridge and Oxford, Merriam-Webster includes archaic, scientific, social, emotional, and legal interpretations, which considerably broadens the conceptual scope of the lexeme. Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary presents the most compact model, limiting the lexeme to noun meanings and focusing mainly on political organization, government, condition, ceremonial functions, and references to the United States. Thus, Cambridge demonstrates the strongest orientation toward practical language use and variation across English types, Merriam-Webster provides the deepest semantic stratification and diachronic extension, whereas Oxford focuses on the most stable and conceptually central meanings relevant to political and social discourse.

The lexeme ‘authority’ reveals a higher degree of semantic consistency across the analyzed digital dictionaries, although differences in semantic prioritization remain visible. The Cambridge Dictionary distinguishes four meanings in both British and American English and five in Business English, structuring the semantic field around legal or moral power, institutional responsibility, official control, expertise, and social influence. Merriam-Webster offers the most semantically diverse interpretation, dividing the lexeme into four principal semantic blocks, each with numerous sub-meanings related to power, governmental institutions, legal authorization, persuasion, citation, precedent, testimony, and expertise. This dictionary significantly expands the semantic field beyond political and institutional meanings toward epistemological and legal-discursive functions. Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary provides six meanings and additionally includes a concise etymological note tracing the lexeme back to Latin auctoritas and augere. Oxford emphasizes authority as power, permission, institutional responsibility, influence based on knowledge, and expertise. Consequently, all three dictionaries conceptualize ‘authority’ through the interconnected notions of power, legitimacy, and expertise; however, Cambridge foregrounds practical communicative usage, Merriam-Webster foregrounds semantic complexity and legal-discursive extension, whereas Oxford presents a balanced combination of institutional, interpersonal, and epistemic authority.

The collocation ‘human rights’ demonstrates the highest degree of semantic uniformity among the analyzed lexical units. In all digital dictionaries, the collocation is interpreted in terms of fundamental rights, fairness, equality, protection from cruelty, and universality. Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary defines ‘human rights’ as the basic rights to fair and moral treatment that every

person is believed to possess, thereby emphasizing moral consensus and ethical universality. Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's Dictionary similarly interprets the collocation as rights which many societies believe all people should have, focusing on collective social recognition. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English expands this interpretation through explicit references to equal treatment, freedom from cruelty, governmental behaviour, and voting rights, thus introducing clearer political and legal dimensions. Merriam-Webster provides the most legally explicit definition by specifying rights such as freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution, thereby foregrounding juridical protection and institutional guarantees. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary presents the collocation in the singular form 'human right' with a note on its frequent plural usage and defines it as one of the basic rights guaranteeing fair and non-cruel treatment, especially by governments. Unlike the lexemes 'state' and 'authority', whose semantic structures vary considerably across dictionaries, collocation 'human rights' demonstrates a stable conceptual core centered on justice, equality, morality, legal protection, and universal human entitlement.

5.2. Representation of 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Printed Dictionaries

5.2.1. 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010)

STATE

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010) presents the lexeme 'state' as a noun, an adjective, and a verb (p. 1442–1443). As a noun, it has 6 meanings: condition of sb/sth, country, part of country, government, official ceremony, the US (p. 1442), namely:

– *condition of sb/sth*: "[C] the mental, emotional or physical condition that a person or thing is in <…>", e.g., '*a confused state of mind*', '*a bad state of repair*', '*a state of shock*';

– *country*: "(also State) [C] a country considered as an organized political community controlled by one government <…>";

– *part of country*: "(also State) [C] (abbr. St.) an organized political community forming part of a country <…>";

– *government*: "(also the State) [U, sing.] the government of a country <…>", e.g., '*matters/affairs of state'*;

– *official ceremony*: "[U] the formal ceremonies connected with high levels of government or with kings and queens <…>";

– *the US*: "the States [pl.] (informal) the United States of America <…>".

Below are some idioms: *be in/ get into a state; in a state of grace; a state of affairs; the state of play* (p. 1442–1443).

As an adjective, the analyzed lexeme has 3 meanings and is used only before a noun. It can be written both with a small ('*state'*) and a capital ('*State'*) letter.

The meanings comprise:

– *government*: "provided or controlled by the government of a country: *state education* <…>";

– *official*: "connected with the leader of a country attending an official ceremony <…>", e.g., '*a state visit*';

– *part of country*: "connected with a particular state of a country, especially in the US: *a state prison/ hospital/ university, etc*." (p. 1443).

Two (2) meanings are mentioned for a verb:

– "to formally write or say sth, especially in a careful and clear way";

– "[VN] [usually passive] to fix or announce the details of sth, especially on a written document" (p. 1443).

AUTHORITY

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010) gives the lexeme 'authority' in the list of register words with the same root: *author, authoress, authorial, authoring, authoritarian (authoritarianism), authoritative (authoritatively), authority, authorization(-isation), authorize(-ise), Authorized Version, authorship* (p. 84). It presents 6 meanings: power – 2 meanings; permission, organization, knowledge, and expert – 1 meaning each. Thus,

– *power*: "1 [U] the power to give orders to people <…>"; "2 [U] ~ (to do sth) the power or right to do sth <…>";

– *permission*: "[U] official permission to do sth <…>";

– *organization*: "[C, usually pl.] the people or an organization who have the power to make decisions or who have a particular area of responsibility in a country or region <…>";

– *knowledge*: "[U] the power to influence people because they respect your knowledge or official position <…>";

– *expert*: "[C] ~ (on sth) a person with special knowledge <…>". There is also one synonym mentioned next – specialist, followed by the idiom 'have sth on good authority'.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Explanatory dictionaries present information for the lexemes *human* and *right* in a similar manner, namely by indicating the number and content of meanings (sometimes accompanied by illustrations of usage in context) for the different parts of speech in which these units may function (adjective, noun, adverb, verb, interjection), as well as by defining the entire collocation where it is included in the dictionary.

Thus, the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* distinguishes nine separate meanings for the noun *right*: "sth morally good 1 what is morally good or correct: She doesn't understand the difference between right and wrong…"; "moral/legal claim 2 (to sth/to do sth) a moral or legal claim to have or get sth or to behave in a particular way: Everyone has a right to a fair trial… They had fought hard for equal rights. – see also animal rights, civil rights, human right"; "for book/movie, etc. 3 rights [pl.] the authority to perform, publish, film, etc. a particular work, event, etc.: He sold the rights for $2 million"; "not left side 4 the/sb's right [sing.]

the right side or direction 5 [sing.] the first, second, etc. road on the rights side: Take the first right, then the second left 6 a right [sing.] a turn to the right: to make a right"; "politics 7 the right, the Right [sing. + sing./pl. v.] political groups that most strongly support the capitalist system – compare Right Wing: The Right in British politics is represented by the Conservative Party 8 the right [sing. + sing./pl. v.] the part of a political party whose members are most conservative: He's on the right of the Labour Party"; "in boxing 9 a blow that is made with your right hand" (pp. 1258–1259). Particular attention should be paid to the second meaning, since it directly relates to human rights: a moral or legal claim to possess or obtain something, or to behave in a particular manner.

The lexeme 'human' as an adjective possesses three meanings: "1 [only before noun] of or connected with people rather than animals, machines or gods: the human body/brain human anatomy/ activity/ behavior/ experience human life human need…"; "2 showing the weaknesses that are typical of people, which means that other people should not criticize the person too much: human weaknesses/ failings human error"; "3 having the same feelings and emotions as most ordinary people; the human touch" (p. 729). From a conceptual perspective, the first meaning carries greater significance, since it concerns everything that is, in one way or another, connected to human beings.

The collocation 'human right' is presented separately (with a note indicating its more frequent usage in the plural form) and is defined as follows: "one of the basic rights that everyone has to be treated fairly and not in a cruel way, especially by their government: The country has a poor record on human rights": *to campaign for human rights; human rights abuses/violations* (p. 730).

5.2.2. 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2012)

STATE

The lexeme 'state' is presented with two parts of speech – a noun and a verb.

As for the noun, it has 10 meanings, 5 of which are emphasized: condition, government, country, part of a country, and official ceremony. Below are the descriptions for all 10 meanings:

– *condition*: "[C] the physical or mental condition that someone or something is in <…>", e.g., '*in a bad/ terrible etc state', 'sb's mental/ physical/ emotional state', 'in no fit state to do sth', 'be in a good/ bad state of repair'*;

– *government*: "[singular, U] (also the State) *especially BrE* the government or political organization of a country <…>", e.g., '*state employees/ property/ regulations etc', 'state-owned/ state-funded/ state-subsidized etc', 'matters/ affairs of state'*;

– *country*: "[C] a country considered as a political organization <…>", e.g., *'a NATO member state', 'democratic/ one-party/ totalitarian etc state'*;

– *part of a country*: "[C] (also State *BrE*) one of the areas with limited law-making powers that together make up a country controlled by a central government, such as the US and Australia <…>";

– *the States*: "*spoken* a word meaning the US, used especially by someone when they are outside the US <…>";

– *be in a state/ get into a state*: "*BrE spoken* to be or become very nervous, anxious, or excited <…>";

– *official ceremony*: "[U] the official ceremonies and events connected with government or rulers <…>", e.g., '*state visit', 'state occasion'*;

– *state of affairs*: "*formal* a situation", e.g., 'unsatisfactory/ sad/ sorry state etc of affairs';

– *the state of play*: "*especially BrE* a) the position reached in an activity or process that has not finished yet <…> b) the score in a sports game";

– *lie in state*: "if the body of an important person who has just died lies in state, it is put in a public place so that people can go and show their respect" (p. 1720).

As for the verb (a transitive one), 'authority' possesses only 2 meanings: "to formally say or write a piece of information or your opinion" and "if a document, newspaper, ticket etc states information, it contains the information written clearly" (p. 1720).

AUTHORITY

In *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2012), 'authority' is listed among such register lexemes as *author, authoress, authoring, authoritarian (authoritarianism), authoritative (authoritatively), authority, authorization(-isation), authorize(-ise), authorship* (p. 97–98). It has 9 meanings, of which 5 are highlighted, namely: power, organization, expert, permission, and personal quality. The whole list of meanings includes the following:

– *power*: "[U] the power you have because of your official position <…>", e.g., '*the authority to do sth', 'authority over', 'in authority'*;

– *the authorities*: "[plural] the people or organizations that are in charge of a particular country or area";

– *organization*: "[C] an official organization or a government department that has the power to make decisions, and has particular responsibilities", e.g., '*the local authority', 'Welsh health authorities*';

– *expert*: "[C] someone who knows a lot about a subject and whose knowledge and opinions are greatly respected", e.g., '*a leading authority*';

– *permission*: "[C, U] official permission to do something", e.g., '*under the authority of sb', 'without sb's authority'*;

– *authority figure*: "someone who has a position of power, especially because of their job";

– *personal quality*: "[U] a quality in the way you speak or behave which makes people obey you";

– *I have it on good authority*: "used to say that you are sure that something is true because you trust the person who told you about it";

– *speak with authority*: "to be sure of what you are saying, because of your knowledge or experience".

The advantage of this dictionary lies in providing left-hand collocations with

'authority', i.e., verbs/ adjectives + authority, and also some typical phrases. Among left-hand collocations, there are the following ones: *have authority, exercise/ exert your authority, wield authority, abuse/ misuse your authority, establish/ assert/ impose/ stamp your authority, lose your authority | undermine/ weaken sb's authority, exceed/ overstep your authority, challenge sb's authority*. The list of left-hand collocations with adjectives covers such word combinations: *full/ complete/ total authority, absolute authority, parental authority | governmental authority | presidential authority | legal authority*. The phrase list is built of *'be in a position of authority', 'have an air of authority', and 'a challenge to sb's authority | an authority figure'* (p. 97).

HUMAN RIGHTS

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English distinguishes 13 meanings for the noun 'right' as well as provides several collocations with it ("human rights", "civil rights", "equal rights", "a fundamental/ basic right | a legal right | a constitutional right | political rights | women's rights | workers' rights | gay/ lesbian rights | animal rights"). The first meaning is worded as "*allowed* something that you are morally, legally, or officially allowed to do or have CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS" (pp. 1504–1505). The collocation 'human rights' means "the rights that everyone should have": "This company always operates with respect to human rights" (pp. 858–859).

The adjective 'human' possesses ten meanings, among which particular emphasis should be placed on the first: "belonging to or relating to people, especially as opposed to machines or animals: the human body, the human mind, the human spirit, the human eye, human behavior, human experience, human life, human error, human consumption", since it concerns everything that belongs or relates to human beings, especially in contrast to machines or animals.

The collocation 'human right' contains the noun in the singular form, although accompanied by a note regarding its more frequent use in the plural, and is interpreted as "one of the basic rights that many societies think every person should have to be treated in a fair equal way without cruelty, for example by their government, or the right to vote: human rights violations" – one of the fundamental rights which, according to many societies, every person should possess in order to be treated fairly and without cruelty, for example by the government, including the right to vote; *human rights violations* (p. 859).

5.2.3. 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights' in the Collins English Dictionary (2011)

STATE

The lexeme 'state' in *Collins English Dictionary* (2011) has 14 meanings: 1–10 for the noun as part of speech, 11–13 for the adjective, and 14 for the verb.

So, as a noun, it has 10 meanings:

– "the condition or circumstances of a person or thing";

– "a sovereign political power or community";

– "the territory of such a community";

– "the sphere of power in such a community: *matters of state*";

– "(*often cap*) one of a number of areas or communities having their own governments and forming a federation under a sovereign government, such as in the US or Australia";

– "(*often cap*) the government, civil service, and armed forces";

– in a state: "*informal* in an emotional or very worried condition";

– lie in state: "(of a body) to be placed on public view before burial";

– state of affairs: "circumstances or condition: *this wonderful state of affairs*";

– "grand and luxurious lifestyle, as enjoyed by royalty, aristocrats, or the wealthy: *living in state*" (p. 786).

Three (3) meanings for an adjective include:

– "controlled or financed by a state: *state ownership*";

– "of or concerning the State: *state secrets*";

– "involving ceremony: *a state visit*" (p. 786).

As a verb, lexeme 'state' is presented in the forms '*stating'* and '*stated'*, meaning "to express (something) in words [Latin *stare* to stand]" (p. 786).

AUTHORITY

Collins English Dictionary (2011) presents the lexeme 'authority' with 8 meanings, alongside other register words with the same root, namely: *author, authoritarian (authoritarianism), authoritative (authoritatively), authority, authorize(-ise), Authorized Version, authorship* (p. 44).

It is stated that the 'authority' can function in both singular and plural forms. Its 8 meanings are distributed as follows:

– "the power to command, control, or judge others";

– "a person or group with this power: *a third escapee turned himself in to the authorities*";

– "a decision-making organization or government department: *the local authority*";

– "an expert in a particular field";

– "official permission: *he had no authority to negotiate*";

– "a position that has the power to command, control, or judge others: *people in authority*";

– on good authority: "from reliable evidence";

– "confidence resulting from expertise [Latin *auctor* author]" (p. 44).

HUMAN RIGHTS

The *Collins English Dictionary* presents the lexeme 'right' with forty meanings distributed across four parts of speech (adjective, adverb, noun, and verb), ten of which (26–35) belong to the noun. Meanings 26 and 27 should be distinguished as those capable of co-occurring with the adjective 'human': "26 a freedom or power that is morally or legally due to a person: the defendant had an absolute right to a fair trial" (a freedom or right morally or legally belonging to a person); "27 anything that accords with the principles of legal or moral justice" (everything corresponding to the principles of legal or moral justice) (pp. 685–686).

The adjective 'human' possesses four meanings: "1 of or relating to people: human occupants"; "2 having the qualities of people as opposed to animals, divine beings, or machines: human nature"; "3 kind or considerate"; "4 a human being" (p. 377), among which, once again, the first is the most significant for the purposes of the present study, namely that which relates to people.

5.2.4. A Comparative Analysis of Printed Dictionaries' Definitions for 'State', 'Authority', and 'Human Rights'

The comparative analysis of the printed lexicographic sources demonstrates that the lexeme 'state' possesses the broadest and most diversified semantic structure among the analyzed units. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (2010) presents 'state' as a noun, adjective, and verb with eleven meanings in total, primarily concentrating on political organization, condition, government, official ceremonies, and territorial-administrative division. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2012) further expands the semantic field by distinguishing ten noun meanings and incorporating numerous phraseological units and idiomatic constructions, such as state of affairs, state of play, and lie in state, thereby extending the lexeme beyond purely political discourse into emotional, situational, and ceremonial usage. *Collins English Dictionary* (2011) provides the most extensive quantitative representation, with fourteen meanings distributed across noun, adjective, and verb forms. Unlike *Oxford* and *Longman*, *Collins* also emphasizes territorial sovereignty, the governmental apparatus, a luxurious style of living, and emotional condition. Thus, all three printed dictionaries conceptualize 'state' through the dominant semantic domains of condition and political organization; however, *Oxford* demonstrates greater terminological compactness, *Longman* foregrounds practical contextual usage and idiomaticity, whereas *Collins* provides the broadest semantic and stylistic diversification.

The lexeme 'authority' reveals a comparatively stable semantic core across all analyzed printed dictionaries, although the degree of semantic elaboration differs considerably. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* distinguishes six meanings structured around power, permission, institutional organization, influence based on knowledge, and expertise. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* presents the richest semantic and collocational representation, distinguishing nine meanings and supplementing them with extensive left-hand collocations, phraseological patterns, and typical combinations, such as *exercise authority*, *abuse authority*, *governmental authority*, and *speak with authority*. This significantly broadens the lexeme's pragmatic and discourse-oriented dimensions. *Collins English Dictionary* offers eight meanings and places stronger emphasis on institutional and interpersonal power relations, including command, governmental organizations, official permission, expertise, and authority as confidence derived from knowledge. In all three dictionaries, the dominant conceptual components remain power, legitimacy, institutional control, and expertise; however, *Oxford* foregrounds conceptual clarity and categorization, *Longman* foregrounds communicative functionality and collocational productivity, whereas *Collins*

foregrounds institutional hierarchy and sociolinguistic usage.

The collocation ‘human rights’ demonstrates the highest degree of semantic consistency among the analyzed printed lexicographic sources. In *the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, the collocation human right is presented in the singular form, with a note on its predominant plural usage,* and is interpreted as one of the basic rights guaranteeing fair and non-cruel treatment, especially by governments. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* provides a broader contextual interpretation by explicitly connecting ‘human rights’ with fairness, equality, voting rights, and protection against cruelty, while also integrating the collocation into a larger semantic network of rights-related constructions, including *civil rights*, *equal rights*, and *fundamental rights*. *Collins English Dictionary* does not isolate the collocation separately but instead derives its conceptual basis from the meanings of ‘right’ as moral/legal entitlement and justice, together with ‘human’ as relating to people. Quantitatively, *Oxford* and *Longman* provide more explicit lexicographic representation of the collocation itself, whereas *Collins* emphasizes the semantic compatibility of its constituent elements. Qualitatively, all three dictionaries converge on the notions of universality, morality, legality, fairness, and protection of individuals, thereby demonstrating a highly stable conceptual core for ‘human rights’ in contemporary English printed lexicography.

Table 1.

Differences in the Lexicographic Representation of ‘State’, ‘Authority’, and ‘Human Rights’ in Etymological, Digital, and Printed Explanatory Dictionaries

Source Type	State	Authority	Human Rights
Etymological dictionaries	emphasis on development from “standing/condition” to political organization and sovereignty	development from authorship, prestige, and intellectual legitimacy to institutional power and command	derived from concepts of morality, justice, lawful entitlement, and human obligation
Digital explanatory dictionaries	broad functional variation; political, governmental, territorial, emotional, and scientific meanings	stable semantic core focused on power, legitimacy, expertise, and institutional control	highly stable semantic core: universality, fairness, equality, legal protection
Printed explanatory dictionaries	most detailed semantic diversification; strong idiomatic and phraseological representation	extensive collocational and discourse-oriented expansion	stable conceptual interpretation centered on morality, legality, equality, and protection
Dominant lexicographic focus	diachronic semantic evolution	communicative and legal-discursive functionality	universal ethical and legal values
Greatest semantic variability	‘state’	‘authority’	minimal variability

6. Conclusions.

The analysis of etymological, explanatory digital, and printed lexicographic sources demonstrates that the lexical units ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’

possess both stable conceptual cores and substantial semantic variation depending on the type and purpose of the dictionary source. Etymological dictionaries primarily reveal the diachronic evolution of meanings and demonstrate how the conceptual structures of these lexical units developed historically. Thus, 'state' originally denoted "standing," "condition," or "position," later acquiring political meanings related to government, sovereignty, and political organization. Similarly, 'authority' initially referred to authorship, prestige, and intellectual legitimacy before developing meanings connected with power, command, institutional control, and legal authorization. The collocation 'human rights', unlike the previous two lexical units, demonstrates a later historical formation and is etymologically grounded in the concepts of justice, morality, obligation, and lawful entitlement. Consequently, etymological sources foreground semantic genesis, historical transformation, and conceptual expansion over time.

Digital explanatory dictionaries demonstrate a greater orientation toward communicative practice, contextual flexibility, and adaptation to different variants of English usage. In the case of 'state', digital dictionaries provide the broadest functional distribution of meanings across noun, adjective, and verb forms while emphasizing political organization, governmental activity, territorial division, and condition. *Merriam-Webster*, however, additionally introduces scientific, emotional, and legal dimensions, thereby considerably expanding the semantic scope of the lexeme. The lexeme 'authority' reveals a relatively stable semantic nucleus in digital sources, centered around power, legitimacy, institutional responsibility, expertise, and permission. Nevertheless, dictionaries differ in semantic prioritization: *Cambridge* foregrounds practical communicative usage, *Merriam-Webster* emphasizes legal-discursive and epistemological meanings, whereas *Oxford* combines institutional and interpersonal authority. The collocation 'human rights' demonstrates the highest semantic consistency across digital dictionaries, since all definitions revolve around universality, fairness, equality, morality, legal protection, and freedom from cruelty. The differences concern only the degree of legal specificity and the level of contextual elaboration.

Printed explanatory dictionaries, in contrast, demonstrate greater structural stability, more detailed semantic stratification, and stronger integration of phraseological, collocational, and stylistic information. The lexeme 'state' possesses the broadest semantic diversification in printed sources, especially in *Collins English Dictionary*, where emotional, ceremonial, territorial, political, and stylistic meanings coexist within a single lexical structure. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* additionally expands the practical contextualization of the lexeme through idiomatic expressions and phraseological constructions. The lexeme 'authority' remains semantically centered around power, institutional control, legitimacy, expertise, and permission; however, printed dictionaries, particularly *Longman*, considerably broaden its pragmatic potential through collocations and discourse-related patterns. The collocation 'human rights' remains conceptually the most stable lexical unit across all printed dictionaries. Although *Oxford* and *Longman* provide direct definitions of the collocation and *Collins*

derives its meaning through the semantic interaction of ‘human’ and ‘right’, all printed sources consistently conceptualize ‘human rights’ through morality, legality, equality, universality, and protection from governmental or institutional abuse. Therefore, the main difference between etymological, digital, and printed sources lies in their lexicographic priorities: etymological dictionaries emphasize historical semantic development, digital dictionaries foreground flexibility and communicative adaptation, whereas printed explanatory dictionaries provide the most systematic semantic organization, collocational representation, and stylistic differentiation.

The findings may contribute to further studies in lexicography, political linguistics, discourse analysis, and terminology research. *Further research* may focus on the contexts of ‘state’, ‘authority’, and ‘human rights’ in the documents of international organizations, as well as on identifying the specific features of their use.

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Анотація

У статті опрацьовано лексикографічне представлення лексичних одиниць 'state', 'authority' та 'human rights' в англомовних етимологічних, цифрових і друкованих словниках. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена зростанням значущості політичного, правового та гуманітарного дискурсу в сучасному суспільстві, а також необхідністю уточнення семантичного обсягу ключових номінацій, що вербалізують концепти STATE, AUTHORITY і HUMAN RIGHTS. Метою дослідження є виявлення та порівняння значень аналізованих лексичних одиниць у різних лексикографічних джерелах, а також визначення подібностей і відмінностей у їхніх семантичних структурах.

Методологічна основа поєднує загальнонаукові методи (аналіз, синтез, порівняння, індукцію, дедукцію та узагальнення) зі спеціальними лінгвістичними методами, зокрема дефініційним аналізом, компонентним аналізом, контекстуальним аналізом, контрастивним аналізом та інтерпретацією етимологічних даних. Емпіричний матеріал охоплює словникові статті цифрових словників (Cambridge Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English та Online Etymology Dictionary), а також друкованих лексикографічних видань.

Результати дослідження демонструють, що лексема 'state' має найширшу та найбільш диверсифіковану семантичну структуру, поєднуючи значення, пов'язані зі станом, політичною організацією, територіальним суверенітетом, державною діяльністю та церемоніальними функціями. Лексема 'authority' виявляє відносно стабільне семантичне ядро, зосереджене навколо влади, легітимності, інституційного контролю, експертності та дозволу, хоча різні словники акцентують

увагу на різних семантичних аспектах. Словосполучення ‘human rights’ демонструє найвищий ступінь семантичної узгодженості в усіх проаналізованих джерелах і переважно концептуалізується через універсальність, справедливість, рівність, моральність, законність і захист від жорстокості чи інституційного зловживання.

У статті зроблено висновок, що етимологічні словники акцентують історичний розвиток значень, цифрові словники висувають на перший план комунікативну гнучкість і контекстуальну адаптацію, тоді як друковані тлумачні словники забезпечують більш системну семантичну стратифікацію, фразеологічне представлення та стилістичну диференціацію. Отримані результати можуть бути використані в подальших дослідженнях із лексикографії, політичної лінгвістики, дискурс-аналізу та термінознавства.

***Ключові слова**: лексикографічна репрезентація, ‘state’, ‘authority’, ‘human rights’, етимологічні, цифрові та друковані лексикографічні джерела, спільне, відмінне.*

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