

## Lexicography. The Changing Landscape

**Salonee Priya (ed).**

Hyderabad, India: The Icfai University Press, 2009. 252 pages. ISBN 978-81-314-2438-4.

*Lexicography. The Changing Landscape* is a collection of selected papers, originally published in prestigious books and journals, which aims to present current research in the field of dictionary-making and lexicographical research in general. The book, edited by Salonee Priya, comprises 12 papers, or chapters, divided into two main sections. The papers selected constitute relevant contributions to the field of lexicography accounting for the achievements, challenges and unexpected possibilities that lexicographers come across. Therefore, the book is obviously addressed to lexicographers but also to people in general with a certain degree of expertise and interest in the hard task of dictionary-making and its technicalities. In her introduction to the book, Priya reflects on the fact that, although dictionaries are a common tool in everyday work, few people seem to realise exactly how much arduous work goes into the process of dictionary-making. The editor also provides the reader with an illuminating overview of the topic in which she reflects on lexicography and the value of dictionaries, and then goes on to deal briefly with the theme, motivation, research methods and outcome of each of the papers in the volume on an individual basis.

Section I, “Lexicons: the world of words”, introduces us to a fruitful journey into dictionaries in general and specific aspects of lexicography in particular. It starts with a paper authored by SALONEE PRIYA herself in which the history of Lexicography is revisited with the focus on the need for dictionaries in general. In the paper following, MARCUS SAMMER and STEPHEN SODERLAND present PanLexicon, a fully automatic and scalable tool for building word-sense-distinguished multilingual lexicons for translation from bilingual MRDs and monolingual corpora. In the third chapter, MUHAMMAD ILYAS SALEEM reflects on the historical background and the development of bilingual lexicography in the Indian subcontinent, focusing on English-Hindustani or -Urdu dictionary-making. The paper authored by GUIHONG CAO, JIANFENG CAO and JIAN-YUN NIE describes a system that automatically mines English-Chinese translation pairs from large numbers of monolingual Chinese web pages. Next, JULIA MILLER reflects on

learners' dictionaries and their actual use at the same time she calls for a greater use of these lexicographical tools in ESL grammar classes given the little time usually allocated to exploring and deploying a resource with such a potential. In their paper, RICHARD ALMIND, HENNING BERGENHOLTZ and VIBEKE VRANG reformulate solutions for the phraseological problem and respond to Farø's criticism of their Danish Idiom Dictionary.

Section II, "Glimpses of Lexicons", addresses in-depth several professional and electronic dictionaries as well as particular aspects of their development. In the first chapter of this section, NYSTRÖM, MERKEL, AHRENBURG, ZWEIGENBAUM, PETERSSON and ÅHLFELDT report on the process of creating an English-Swedish dictionary of medical terminology to conclude that time and effort are significantly reduced if compared with a manual approach. In the paper authored by SERGIO D. STONE, he analyses the dictionaries that US Courts tend to cite and thus rely on most often to translate and define Spanish terms, and compares the citation practices reported with those of Courts in three Latin-American jurisdictions. SANDRO NIELSEN reflects on the fact that most existing English accounting dictionaries lack the type of data needed to facilitate and improve the production of financial texts in English. The paper authored by ISABELLA CHIARI analyses six of the major Italian human-readable Electronic Dictionaries (ED) with the aim of observing their capabilities, features and applications. In "Developing Lexical Resources for Varieties of Hindi" ABHISHEK AVTANS and ARVIND KUMAR discuss the nuances of the creation of modern lexical resources for varieties of Hindi under the ongoing project "Hindi Lok Shabdakosh Pariyojana"; thus, such project becomes essential to document and create modern lexical resources of these languages with the aim of conserving and maintaining linguistic heritages. Finally, the article by GM DE SCHRIVER, DAVID JOFFE, PITTA JOFFE and SARAH HILLEWAERT presents a study aimed at playing down the prominent role assigned to the use of corpora for dictionary-making by describing an innovative online Swahili-English dictionary project and by disclosing some unknown aspects regarding true dictionary look-up behaviour.

I find one of the main strengths of the book to be its comprehensive scope, since it covers a good and interesting collection of European and Asian studies in the field of lexicography. It is also well balanced in terms of the themes addressed, which range from the use of the most advanced technologically-dependent lexicographical tools and methods in research to more in-depth reflections and overviews on historical and social issues

related to dictionary-making and users' needs. The quality and interest of the papers is unquestionable, as is the relevance of the information put forward to illustrate the use of new technologies and techniques at the forefront of lexicographical research. Nonetheless, at certain points, I have missed a more in-depth elaborated conclusion/discussion section that could have helped the reader to meaningfully recapitulate and fully grasp the meaning of what has been presented. In the same way, and despite the specialised character of the intended readership, I find some concepts, ideas, acronyms and abbreviations are not developed as explicitly as they might have been in order to not only allow the reader to follow up the research methods and outcomes more completely and easily but also to overcome the intrinsic complexity and specificity of some of the issues dealt with.

In spite of the few drawbacks mentioned, the book displays an impressive compilation of different and valuable research procedures and recent lexicographical investigation from the most varied perspectives. It also includes an impeccable variety of themes, research methods and relevant data, always with lexicography as the *leitmotiv*, and with the ultimate aim of reflecting on and improving the process of dictionary-making and the aspects related to it.

[Review received December 2009]

Reviewed by **Nuria Edo Marzá**  
Universitat de València (Spain)  
nuria.edo@uv.es