The EURALEX Newsletter

This quarterly Newsletter is intended to include not only official announcements but also news on EURALEX members, their publications, career moves and (it is hoped) their opinions. Please try to support this by sending newsletter contributions to the Secretary at the above address. The deadlines for winter, spring, summer and autumn issues respectively are 15 September, 15 December, 15 March and 15 June annually.

Lexicography in your country

The editors of the Newsletter are interested in reports on lexicographical activities in all countries of the world. If you would like to report on the preparation and/or publication of dictionaries in your country, please ask for the special “framework” we have prepared to help you. The framework is available in printed or electronic form.

New dictionaries in Italy

In September 1994 the Italian publishing house GARZANTI launched three bilingual dictionaries of about 75,000 entries, format 20 x 13 cm, 40 full page illustrations, grammatical notes.

*Dizionario Garzanti di inglese*, pp. 1450.
*Dizionario Garzanti di francese*, pp. 1376.
*Dizionario Garzanti di tedesco*, pp. 1572.

This is advertised as “il primo dizionario italiano e tedesco dopo la caduta del Muro.”

EDIGEO, a group of freelance lexicographers working mainly for Zanichelli, revised and enlarged their pocket (16 x 11 cm) “essenziali” dictionaries published in 1989. The new dictionaries appeared in summer 1994; they are called “compatti”, have grammatical notes and patterns of dialogues useful when travelling.

*Dizionario Compatto tedesco-italiano italiano-tedesco* a cura di Edigeo Zanichelli Bologna pp. 576, 33,000 entries; *Dizionario Compatto francese-italiano italiano-francese* a cura di Edigeo Zanichelli Bologna pp. 576, 30,000 entries; *Dizionario Compatto inglese-italiano italiano-inglese* a cura di Edigeo Zanichelli Bologna pp. 576, 34,000 entries.

URBAN, another group working for Zanichelli, prepared the new Polish and Modern Greek bilingual dictionaries.

A new specialised bilingual dictionary based on a corpus of “phrases plausibles et authentiques” also appeared printed by Zanichelli in Spring 1994.

Annie Le Bris L’Economie et les affaires. Dizionario fraseologico Francese-Italiano Italiano-Francese dei termini dell’economia e del commercio Zanichelli Bologna pp. 1152, 8100 French entries 8400 Italian entries.

The Cambridge Language Survey: Implications for the lexicographer

The Cambridge Language Survey is a research project centred around the use of an Integrated Language Database providing facilities for intelligent, precise and rapid retrieval of information from a multi-domain corpus.

CLS believes that lexicographers’ work will be very different in the future in a number of ways. One prominent feature will be how the lexicographer’s work station changes as software tools are refined. “I always imagine it a bit like the cockpit of a jumbo jet. You've got huge amounts of information being displayed about the corpus, because as the software gets cleverer and cleverer it starts being able to sort language in different ways. The lexicographer can then select the relevant, interesting information without being burdened with the unnecessary stuff,” predicts Paul Procter of the CLS.

The latest development is a sense tagger. This software tool links every word in a corpus to a dictionary entry thereby allowing the lexicographer to search for and easily retrieve instances of a particular sense of a word. “If, for example, you're defining ‘bear’ the animal and want to search the corpus for examples of that sense of the word, you don't want to be given ‘bear’ the stock exchange.”

A combination of different types of linguistic coding (grammatical coding which carries information like countability of nouns, complementation patterns and semantic restrictions; subject coding which divides the world into a hierarchy of subject areas; and semantic coding, or descriptions of the semantic features of words such as colour and size) coupled with the sense tagger enable the lexicographer to examine and use a corpus in a number of ways.

One extremely useful facility is collocational analysis. A collocational search on occurrences of a particular sense of a word will supply information on the frequency and importance of collocates as well as their relative position in sentences. Lexicographers can then select examples worthy of inclusion and cut them directly into an entry.

Other languages

The CLS intends to build monolingual Integrated Language Databases for each of a range of European languages. As well as links between the dictionary and corpus in a language, there will be cross-links for translation equivalents between languages.

Software alignment tools will provide a mechanism for moving between corpora of different languages and support production of bilingual dictionaries.

“If we have corpora of French and German we can collect what are often called parallel corpora where the same sorts of materials are being collected – perhaps sports articles from a newspaper – for both languages and where a study of the vocabulary of these in comparison with each other might provide useful information. We are also interested in aligned corpora where one corpus is a direct translation or equivalent of the other. A famous example of this is the proceeding of the Canadian Parliament, which appears in English and French simultaneously.” Corpus software is to be developed which will automatically link sentences in these aligned corpora and allow very useful bilingual analysis to be undertaken.
CLS Partners
The Cambridge Language Survey has partners in several European countries. There are four distinct types:
In addition to the creation of publishing products, the software resulting from our endeavours is intended to be of benefit to the scholarly community.
Paul Procter

Special interest group for speakers of agglutinative languages
At the 4th Euralex conference in Malaga, August 1990, a group of members who were native speakers of agglutinative languages got together to start a SIG within the Euralex. A very enjoyable dinner in Malaga marked the beginning of this sub-group, and among the members were Turkish, Finnish, Hungarian and Korean speakers. This SIG, however, did not take off due to lack of co-ordination but the idea has survived.
A proposal was made to the Euralex Board at the 6th Euralex conference in Amsterdam by the Turkish-speaking member of the group and the idea was welcomed.
The co-ordinator of this SIG, Ms Petek Kurtbőke is looking forward to hearing from all the Euralex members who are native and non-native speakers of agglutinative languages. Address for correspondence: 4/43 Megalong Road, Nedlands, Perth 6009 WA, Australia.

New publications

Forthcoming Events
1995
6–9 April Brighton, UK: Conference in Contrastive Semantics and Pragmatics. Info: Katarzyna Jaszczolt, The Language Centre, University of Brighton, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9PH, UK. Tel.: 273 642192. e-mail: kmjatvms.bton.ac.uk.
10–12 April Newcastle, UK: Conference of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain. Info: Nigel Fabb, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland G1 1XH.
19–22 April Maastricht, The Netherlands: Maastricht session of the 2nd international Maastricht – Łódź Duo Colloquium on “Translation and Meaning” (see 1995,
22–24 September for the Łódź session). Info: Drs. Marcel Thelen, Rijkshogeschool Maastricht, Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, P.O. Box 964, 6200 AZ Maastricht, The Netherlands. Tel.: 31 43 46 66 40, 31 43 46 64 71 (direct line). Fax: 31 43 46 66 49.

May Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine: 2nd International Conference on Lexicography. Info: Kharkov Lexicography Society, Kharkov Polytechnical University, 5 – A Vesnina str., Kharkov, Ukraine 310023. Tel.: 7 0572 435 094 or 450 102 or 400 801. Fax: 7 0572 435 094.

9–11 June Copenhagen, Denmark: 3rd Language International Conference on Teaching Translation and Interpreting. Info: Cay Dollerup, Centre for Translation and Lexicography, University of Copenhagen, 96 Njalsgade, DK 2300 Copenhagen S. Tel: 45 31 54 22 11. Fax: 45 32 96 15 18.


28–30 September Lyon, France: Fourth Colloquium of AUPELF-UREF “Lexicomatique et dictionnairiques”. Info: P. Thoiron, CRTT, Université Lumière-Lyon 2, 86 rue Pasteur, 69365 Lyon Cedex 07. Tel.: 78 69 72 13. Fax: 78 69 56 01. e-mail: thoiron@atdiogene.univ-lyon2.fr.

29 August–2 September Vienna, Austria: 10th European Symposium on Languages for Special Purposes “Multilingualism in Specialist Communication”. Info: Gerhard Budin, University of Vienna, Inforterm. Tel.: 43 1 26 75 35 310. Fax: 43 1 216 32 72.

22–24 September Łódź, Poland: Łódź session of the 2nd international Maastricht – Łódź Duo Colloquium on “Translation and Meaning” (see 1995, 19–22 April for the Maastricht session). Info: Dr. habil. Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, Institute of English Studies, University of Łódź, Al. Kosciuszki 65, 90–514 Łódź, Poland. Tel.: 48 42 36 63 37. Fax: 48 42 36 63 37, 48 42 36 68 72. Telex: 88 62 91 UL PL. e-mail: ZAJEANFA at plunlo51.bitnet.


1996

29 March–1 April Exeter, UK: Conference of the Association for Language Learning (ALL), “Language world”, Info: ALL, C. Wilding, 16 Regent Place, Rugby CV21 2PN, UK.

15–19 July Sidney, Australia: 23rd International Systemic Functional Congress. Info: Diana Slade, Centre for Language and Literacy, School of Adult and Language Education, Faculty of Education, Sidney University of Technology, PO Box 123, Broadway 2007, New South Wales, Australia. e-mail: D. Slade at UTS.EDU.AU.