

SUMMER 2012

# EURALEX NEWSLETTER



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## **The EURALEX Newsletter**

This quarterly Newsletter is intended to include not only official announcements but also news about EURALEX members, their publications, projects, and (it is hoped) their opinions, and news about other lexicographical organizations. Please try to support this by sending newsletter contributions to Paul Bogaards at the email address above. The deadlines for spring (March), summer (June), autumn (September), and winter (December) issues are respectively 15 January, 15 April, 15 July, and 15 October annually.

## **The EURALEX Web Site**

The URL of the EURALEX web site is [www.euralex.org](http://www.euralex.org)

## **15th EURALEX Congress - OSLO 2012**

The EURALEX Congresses bring together professional lexicographers, publishers, researchers, software developers, and others interested in dictionaries of all types. The next Euralex Congress will be held in Oslo, Norway, 7-11 August 2012. The program offers plenary lectures, parallel sessions on the topics listed below, software demonstrations, pre-congress tutorials and specialized workshops. The program also includes a special session for students and work in progress, a book and software exhibition, and social events for participants and their guests. The congress will be organized by the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo, and the Language Council of Norway. The Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies is involved in extensive research and teaching in the fields of Scandinavian literature and languages, among other subjects Lexicography, Onomastics, Language Technology and Computing in the Humanities.

**Registration** - The page for registration is now open: <https://epay.uio.no/pay/shop.ordercreate.action?project=103290>. Early registration will be open until June 15th 2012.

**Academic programme** - The call for papers is now closed. All submitted papers have been peer reviewed and accepted papers are being edited for the proceedings of the 15th Euralex Congress, Oslo 2012. Thank you to all those who have submitted papers, and to all colleagues who have been reviewing them. As things look now, there will be approximately one hundred presentations, oral speeches, demonstrations and posters. All the announced fields will be covered:

- Lexicography and National Identity
- Indigenous Languages and Lexicography
- Corpus-driven Lexicography
- Lexicography in Language Technology
- Multilingual Lexicography
- Lexicography and Semantic Theory
- Terminology, LSP and Lexicography
- Reports on Lexicographical and Lexicological Projects

It seems that the topics of multiword expressions like proverbs, collocations and idioms are the most popular, as well as reports from lexicographical and lexicological projects, but several have responded to the main topic of the congress 'Lexicography and National Identity', which will have a special session at the conference. These are topics of current interest to our contemporaries, especially in Scandinavia with two national dictionaries being completed in the near future. Also the related topic 'Indigenous Languages and Lexicography' is represented by several presentations. All together the presentations will give a good overview of what is going on in European lexicography at present.

**Plenary speakers** - The following speakers have accepted our invitation to deliver plenary lectures.

- Ole Henrik Magga, Norway, Professor of Sami languages, Sámi allaskuvla / The Sámi University College, Guovdageaidnu / Kautokeino: *Lexicography and indigenous languages.*
- Arnfinn Muruvik Vonen, Norway, Director General, The Language Council of Norway, Professor of General Linguistics: *Diversity and democracy: written varieties of Norwegian.*
- Bolette Sanford Pedersen, Denmark, Professor in Language Technology, The University of Copenhagen: *Lexicography in Language Technology (LT).*
- Gilles-Maurice de Schryver, Belgium / South Africa, Professor of African Linguistics, Dept of Languages and Cultures, Ghent University, Belgium; Extraordinary Professor, Xhosa Dept, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa: *Lexicography in the Crystal Ball: Facts, trends and outlook.*

- Michael Rundell, United Kingdom, Editor-in-Chief, Macmillan Dictionaries (<http://www.macmillandictionary.com>), Director, Lexicography MasterClass (<http://www.lexmasterclass.com>): *It works in practice but will it work in theory? The uneasy relationship between lexicography and matters theoretical*

You can read short summaries of their lectures on our web page: <http://www.hf.uio.no/euralex/programme/plenary.html>

### *Social program*

- 7.8. - 12.15 p.m. Registration and welcome reception at Oslo University, Blindern
- 7.8. - 15.00 p.m. Opening ceremony
- 8.8. - 18.00 p.m. Reception at The Oslo City Hall
- 9.8. General meeting Euralex
- 10.8. Excursion and Conference dinner
- 11.8. Closing session

### **Meaning description in Nordic dictionaries - Report from a Symposium in Oslo January 20-22, 2012**

The 19th annual symposium arranged by The Nordic Association of Lexicography was held at Lysebu outside Oslo, Norway, hosted by Rikke E. Hauge, Norway and by the principal editors of LexicoNordica, Henrik Lorentzen, Denmark and Emma Sköldberg, Sweden. The primary aim of the symposium was to make a survey of different methods used in writing definitions in lexicography, and further to discuss challenges and problems identifying and describing meaning and use of lexical items, especially related to other types of information in the semantic description of lemmas. 21 participants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Faroe Islands attended the symposium, and 9 presentations on the subject were given, concluded by a general discussion of the topics and problems presented.

Three of the papers focused on general problems of meaning description, four on more specific approaches applied in concrete projects and two on problems on the borderline between lexicography and other subject fields.

In a paper entitled 'Necessary, sufficient, typical? – some thoughts on definitional practice', *Henrik Lorentzen* and *Lars Trap-Jensen*, Society for Danish Language and Literature, treated the general issue of writing good definitions. They took their specific starting point in the principles formulated in the style guide of The Danish Dictionary, a comprehensive monolingual dictionary of modern Danish published from 2003 to 2005. After a brief historical survey of

definitional practices in some major Danish dictionaries, and different types of meaning description applied in The Danish Dictionary, the paper concentrated partly on the principles of the classical Aristotelian definition and the problems involved, partly on explanations of the use of function words and pragmatic phrases. Expressing their personal preferences based on ideas of prototypical rather than exhaustive and all-inclusive definitions, the speakers finally addressed the question of tailored definitions for different user groups, citing comments and results from a recent user survey conducted on the online version of The Danish Dictionary.

*Henrik Hovmark*, University of Copenhagen, gave a presentation of word sense definition and prototype theory. He stated that during the last two decades prototype theory has advanced as a useful tool in lexicographic theory and practice. The claim is that prototype theory - with its focus on central, prototypical senses and their less common uses in crisscrossing networks - helps the lexicographer deal more easily and systematically with an often fuzzy linguistic reality. In his presentation Hovmark discussed the use of prototype theory in lexicographic word sense definition, focusing on three claims: Lexicographic use of prototype theory leads to 1) more precise definitions, 2) better identification of different senses of a word, and 3) better description of each lexical unit (different information types working together). He further suggested that many lexicographic practices already build on ideas similar to prototype theory. This theory may on specific points make the definitions more consistent, systematic and theoretically solid. Finally, the main contribution by prototype theory (and cognitive semantics) might be to provide an increased focus on empirical data and methods, favored by close connections between strands of corpus linguistics, cognitive linguistics and lexicography within recent years.

*Kristina Nikula*, University of Tampere, discussed the relations between text and image in monolingual dictionaries. In order to make the meaning of a word understandable for the dictionary user, she claimed that the description of word meaning should create a mental image of a prototypical object in the real world, for which the use of illustrations obviously might be of great help. In Nikula's opinion the use of pictures in Swedish monolingual dictionaries does not, however, seem to be founded on any real theoretical assumptions about how the interaction between illustration and verbal definition of meaning works. Her impression was that the pictures have been chosen more or less at random, and that the use of pictures is not optimal because of lack of theory. Nikula's goal was to create a theoretical framework for the use of illustrations in dictionaries. As a basis for the study ideas from prototype semantics and ecological perception theories were implemented.

*Carina Nilstun* The Norwegian Academy's Dictionary (NAOB) from The Norwegian Academy for Language and Literature, focused her presentation on one of many aspects in the updating process of an existing dictionary: how to simplify the meaning description of the lexical units. The meaning

description in Norsk Riksmålsordbok (NRO), a diachronic, literary dictionary comprising 6 volumes (1937-1995) often has a complex structure with extensive sense division. Consequently semantic restructuring is required in the updating process, as many NRO article structures are unnecessarily deep and complex. Some characteristics are to be identified through concrete entries (or entry parts), and examples of revised descriptions were shown. Many of the complex meaning structures of NRO are being simplified from deep to shallow meaning description, since NAOB aims to be a user-orientated modern dictionary.

*Bodil Rosqvist* from the University of Gothenburg presented a study of how a sample of 81 collocations contributes to the description of meaning in a multi-volume historical dictionary of Swedish from 1521 to modern Swedish (The Swedish Academy Dictionary, SAOB 1898–). The sample presented consisted of two-word expressions of five different grammatical construction types, and she concluded that collocations of different types contribute to the definitions in different ways. For instance are collocations often given as integrated parts of the definitions in articles describing verbs or adjectives, whereas they typically appear as illustrative examples in articles describing nouns or adverbs.

*Anna Helga Hannesdóttir*, also from the University of Gothenburg, gave a talk about equivalence and equivalents in bilingual lexicography. Translation was first described as a three-step process: (1) analysis of a linguistic string in a source language (SL), (2) transfer from SL into target language (TL), and, finally, (3) restructuring in TL. Hannesdóttir's point was that defining the semantic and pragmatic characteristics of a lexical unit in a SL and its alleged equivalent in a TL in bilingual lexicography largely follows the same track. In bilingual lexicography, the transfer consists exactly in establishing an equivalence relation between the lexical unit in SL and one in TL. Meticulous contrastive analysis of the same kind as is pertinent to bilingual lexicography may also be helpful in monolingual lexical descriptions; adequate equivalence relationships can indeed reveal language-specific features in both languages. Thus lexicography as an academic discipline could certainly benefit from principles formulated in translation theory being applied to bilingual lexicography, on the one hand, and from methods used in bilingual lexicography being applied to monolingual lexicography, on the other.

*Madeleine Halmøy* and *Sturla Berg-Olsen* from the large dictionary project Norsk Ordbok 2014 gave a talk about problems in the periphery of lexicography, namely about meaning description of the word *som* in *Norsk Ordbok*, which means 'as; like; that, which'. This translation is a prime example of a grammatical word the meaning of which must be characterised in very abstract terms, thus representing a fairly untypical challenge for the editors of a general monolingual dictionary. In their talk they analysed *som* as a word with a specific meaning that is apparent in all of its uses. They showed how this analysis is reflected in the format of a dictionary article, where the main guiding principle behind the division into submeanings is linguistic context and construction

types. Thorough treatment also of grammatical words is very important in any comprehensive dictionary. While dictionaries are not the first place one would look for analysis of grammatical phenomena, they do provide a focused and condensed format that in some cases is well-suited for presenting such analyses.

*Nina Pilke and Jaana Puskala*, University of Vaasa, opened with the question "Who acquires, who does research and who looks like Greta Garbo?" in their talk about language for specific purposes and gender-bound examples in dictionary entries. The aim of their study was to discuss whether the world described in monolingual (Swedish) and bilingual (Finnish-Swedish) dictionary entries represents the world outside the dictionaries. They focused on the examples given in entries *förvärva* (to acquire) and *forska* (to do research) and also analyzed how much and in what contexts the pronouns *han* and *hon* (he and she) are used in the entries. The results show that the most frequent sense of the verb *förvärva* in the real world (a company buys another company) can be found only in monolingual dictionaries, not in bilingual ones, although they are the popular ones among students. Quantitative analysis of the use of *han* (he) and *hon* (she) in the example sentences shows that there are differences in the prevailing practices. Qualitative analysis of the examples shows that women and men are not treated in the same way and that women are often portrayed in a stereotypic manner. Analysis of the agents connected to the verb *forska* (to do research) reveals that the use of the pronouns is equal with respect to both quantity and quality in only one of the dictionaries (monolingual) studied.

As a topic close to the borders of traditional lexicography, *Emma Sköldberg* from the University of Gothenburg presented a study of about 50 Swedish lexicalized emblems, i.e. non-verbal acts with a direct verbal translation, consisting of a word or a phrase (e.g. *nicka* 'nod', *skaka på huvudet* 'shake one's head' and *tummen upp* 'thumbs up'). Chiefly, she had explored the usage of the emblems in modern texts included in the Swedish Language Bank, in addition studied how the emblems were treated in four modern monolingual dictionaries of partly divergent type. Her study showed that many lexicalized emblems are a challenge to lexicographers. The gesture may be hard to describe (especially as it can be performed in slightly different ways). Furthermore, many emblems have both a literal and a metaphorical meaning and very special connotations.

The symposium was closed by a general discussion of the topic boiled down to some few questions: Are monolingual and bilingual dictionaries becoming more similar? Are lexicography and translatology subject fields that should be more closely connected? Is prototype theory, or other linguistic theories usable in practical definition making and meaning description in dictionaries at all? Should linguistics and lexicography be closer connected? And the final, important question: What does an optimal meaning description look like?

The discussion was lively and several good points were made, though without coming to any final conclusion. The frontiers between grammars and dictionaries were discussed, several participants mentioned that some

modern grammars resemble dictionaries, and vice versa. And a wish for a closer connection between lexicography and semantics was put forward. This closing discussion leads naturally up to next year's symposium, which actually is the 20th in line, and will take place at the beginning of 2013. The main topic will be the relation between lexicography and general linguistics. Please see NFL's website for further information: <http://nordisksprogkoordination.org/nfl>.

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### **Forthcoming events**

2012

June

21-22, Leeds Metropolitan University, U.K.: Corpora across Linguistics. 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Inter-Varietal Applied Corpus Studies (IVACS 6). Information at: [www.ivacs.mic.ul.ie/](http://www.ivacs.mic.ul.ie/)

25-27, University Carlos III Madrid, Spain: 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Spanish Association for Lexicography (AELex 5). Information at: [www.uc3m.es/portal/page/portal/congresos\\_jornadas/](http://www.uc3m.es/portal/page/portal/congresos_jornadas/)

July

2-5, University of Pretoria, South Africa: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the African Association for Lexicography (AFRILEX 17). Information at: [www.afrilex.africanlanguages.com/](http://www.afrilex.africanlanguages.com/)

8-14, International Convention Centre, Jeju, Korea: 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 50). Information at: [www.acl2012.org/call/sub01.asp](http://www.acl2012.org/call/sub01.asp)

23-27, Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria: 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress on Dialectology and Geolinguistics (ISDG 7). Information at: [www.sidg.org/](http://www.sidg.org/)

25-28, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany: Comparative Linguistics, Historical Lexico-graphy, Modern Dictionaries. International Biennial Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology (ICHLL 6). Information at: [www.saw-leipzig.de/aktuelles/ichll/](http://www.saw-leipzig.de/aktuelles/ichll/)

August

7-11, University of Oslo, Norway, 15th EURALEX International Congress.  
 Information at <http://www.hf.uio.no/euralex>

20-24, University of Buea, Buea, Cameroon: Language Description and Documentation for the Development, Education and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Africa. World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL 7). Information at: [www.wocal.rutgers.edu/wocal7.html](http://www.wocal.rutgers.edu/wocal7.html)

September

3-7, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Text, Speech and Dialogue (TSD 15). Information at: [www.tsdconference.org/tsd2012/](http://www.tsdconference.org/tsd2012/)

6-8, University of Southampton, U.K.: Multilingual Theory and Practice in Applied Linguistics. 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL 45). Information at: [www.baal.org.uk/baal\\_conf.html](http://www.baal.org.uk/baal_conf.html)

18-21, FAU Erlangen, Germany: Wörter, Wissen, Wörterbücher. Annual Congress of German Applied Linguistics Association (GAL 42 – including Symposium on Lexicography). Information at: [www.gal-2012.phil.uni-erlangen.de/symposien.shtml](http://www.gal-2012.phil.uni-erlangen.de/symposien.shtml)

2013

January

21 – 25, Centre for Applied Linguistics, Santiago de Cuba: Thirteenth International Symposium on Social Communication,. Information at: [www.santiago.cu/hosting/linguistica/index.php?id=en](http://www.santiago.cu/hosting/linguistica/index.php?id=en)

May

23-25, Athens GA, U.S.A.: Biennial Meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA 19). Information at: [www.dictionariesociety.com/](http://www.dictionariesociety.com/)

August

4-9, National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria: Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 51). Information at: <http://acl2013.org/site/index.html>

14-16, Oslo, Norway: Biennial Conference of the Nordisk Forening for Leksikografi (NFL 12). Information at: <http://nordisksprogkoordination.org/nfl/konferencer-og-symposier>

20-22, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia: Biennial Conference of the Asian Association for Lexicography (ASIALEX 8). Information at: [www.asialex.org/](http://www.asialex.org/)