

## **Lexicography as reported: the EURALEX Conference Proceedings Bibliography (1983-2004)\***

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### **Abstract**

In this paper we present the EURALEX conference proceedings bibliography 1983-2004 compiled by the authors and distributed at this conference. We discuss the fields we chose to include in the database and briefly discuss its structure. The preparation of this bibliography led us to consider the changes the research field of lexicography has undergone over the years. We briefly compare the topics discussed in Euralex conference proceedings with articles published in the *International Journal of Lexicography* and in *Dictionaries*, the journal of the Dictionary Society of North America.

### **1 Introduction**

As university professors our interest in dictionaries stemmed from their relationship to lexicology, and then spread to lexicography as a research program in its own right. As is the case with carrying out any research program, one of the key factors for us has been being able to gain access to the published insights of others. The range of possible sources of information that specifically deal with dictionary research is relatively small. In the "General Introduction" to his 3-volume reference work *Lexicography. Critical Concepts*, Hartmann (2003: 13) mentions 17 journals, not all of which deal with lexicography directly; journals such as *Cahiers de Lexicologie* or *The International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, for example, often include articles that address issues of relevance to dictionaries and particularly

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to dictionary-making but are not, we believe, primarily concerned with lexicography as a field of research.<sup>1</sup> There are also a number of specialized monographs and texts that discuss some aspect of a particular dictionary or type of dictionary, as well as a handful of general texts that are very useful as introductions to the field.

In this context, we have found that the proceedings of EURALEX conferences are important sources of information for conducting research in lexicography. In our experience, initial investigation into a particular topic using EURALEX proceedings can be quite time-consuming, because each set of proceedings is self-contained and there is no general index available. We realized that our task would be simpler, and our research was likely to be much more thorough, if there were an index of EURALEX conference proceedings. We are fortunate to work at a university the library of which contains an almost complete set of EURALEX congress proceedings, but assume that that is not the case for everyone with an academic or professional interest in dictionaries. An index in electronic format with multiple search options should be of interest to those who do not have ready access to all the published proceedings of the Association and should save time for those who do. Furthermore, interlibrary loan services often prefer to send photocopies of articles rather than entire books to another site; this sometimes costly service depends on precise and accurate bibliographic references. We therefore contacted the EURALEX Board and received permission to begin work on our bibliography in July, 2005. The bibliography is available initially on CD-ROM and we expect that in the future it will be made available on the Euralex website.

## 2 Proceedings included in the bibliography

Since its creation in 1983, Euralex has held the following conferences for which proceedings have been published:

Year	Venue	Event
1983	Exeter	LEXeter '83. International Conference on Lexicography at Exeter
1985	Leeds	EURALEX Seminar.
1986	Zürich	ZurilEX. 2nd International EURALEX Congress
1987	Innsbruck	EURALEX Colloquium
1988	Budapest	BudaLEX. 3rd International EURALEX Congress
1990	Málaga	4th International EURALEX Congress
1992	Tampere	5th International EURALEX Congress
1994	Amsterdam	6th International EURALEX Congress
1996	Göteborg	7th International EURALEX Congress
1998	Liège	8th International EURALEX Congress
2000	Stuttgart	9th International EURALEX Congress

<sup>1</sup> Hartmann's list does not claim to be all-inclusive but rather is a list of references to his introductory chapter. There are journals devoted to lexicography in Europe that he does not mention (e.g. *Revista de lexicografía*, published by the Universidade da Coruña in Spain since 1994). This observation is not meant to be a criticism: Hartmann has been a key figure in establishing lexicography as a research field and we both applaud and are grateful for his efforts to make materials accessible to a larger audience.

2002	Copenhagen	10th International EURALEX Congress
2004	Lorient	11th International EURALEX Congress
2006	Turin	TurinLEX. 12th International EURALEX Congress

Figure 1. List of EURALEX Congresses

In addition, the Association has published a *Festschrift* for Sue Atkins (Correard, M.-H., ed. 2002), the articles from which have been included in this bibliography. In order to ensure that the bibliography would be ready for distribution in September, 2006, the authors decided to not include references for the papers presented at the Turin congress at this time.<sup>2</sup>

### 3 Structure of the database

The authors used Microsoft Access to create a relational database to organize the information that constitutes the bibliography. The following figure shows most of the fields that we included:

Monosemy and the Dictionary

Congress: BuddLEX '08, 2nd International EURALEX Congress Vol: Pages: 1326

Section: Metalexicography Id Paper: 5

Authorship: Béjar, Henri

Languages discussed:

Dictionary types: Monolingual

Abstract:  Abstract submitted by author

The paper aims at providing a definition of the notion of monosemy, which the author notes is "hardly ever defined or exemplified." The paper discusses a series of linguistic tests to help to define monosemy, and points up the differences between the approach to monosemy taken by theoretical linguists and the approaches taken by lexicographers.

Figure 2. Sample screen from the database used to create the bibliography

<sup>2</sup> We plan to continue with this bibliography and will add the Turin proceedings at a later date. The Turin congress organizers offered to make an electronic version of the proceedings available to us as soon as it was ready, but we decided that it was preferable to begin with past events.

Some comments on these fields are in order. Some fields, such as Congress, Volume, and Pages are self-explanatory. The Editors and publication data of the proceedings (date and place of publication and the ISBN) are present on a separate table because all entries for any single congress share the same data. This information must be retrievable for users but did not need to be present on our work screen. Because this bibliography has arisen in conjunction with conference proceedings, we felt it was important to include the city the conference was held in, so that a complex search could include the name of the city and type of dictionary, for example. As with the publication data, this information was included in a separate table. In this way we hope to address the needs of users who might recall having heard (or heard about) a paper on a particular topic in a particular venue, without forcing them to draw the connection between a particular city and the edition (e.g. third, fourth, fifth, etc.) of the congress. The Author field appears as a drop-down menu. All authors were entered into the database individually, so that users would be able to sort all papers written by any single person.

Since the title of a paper indicates the language the paper was written in, and the languages used are easily recognizable to the potential users of this bibliography, we did not create a separate field for the language of the paper. We did, however, feel that it was important to establish a separate field for the languages discussed in the body of the paper for several reasons. The language a paper is written in often bears no relationship to the data discussed, so the languages discussed must be specified. Although for the most part EURALEX paper titles are informative, there are some cases for which they are of little help. There are also several cases in which not all the languages discussed in the paper are mentioned in the title. Importantly, someone doing research on dictionaries of a particular language or a particular language combination should be able to use this bibliography to easily retrieve all the papers treating specific languages. The list of languages discussed was not preestablished but rather includes only those languages which have been the object of EURALEX Congress papers up through 2004. We used the Library of Congress language codes (ISO 639.2) to identify the languages, which appear in a drop-down menu. If, in future proceedings, other languages are the object of papers, they will be added to the updates of the bibliography.

Two fields, Section and Abstract, require additional commentary. EURALEX conferences have not always been divided into the same sections. Let us compare the 1988 congress held in Budapest with the 2002 congress held in Copenhagen.

3rd Congress – Budapest, 1988	10th Congress – Copenhagen, 2002
Prelexicographical Theory – Monolingual	Computational Lexicography and Lexicology
Prelexicographical Theory – Bilingual	Lexicological Issues of Lexicographical Relevance
Case Studies	Reports on Lexicographical and Lexicological Projects
Computational Lexicography	Bilingual Lexicography
Dictionary Use	The Dictionary-Making Process
Terminography and Translation	Phraseology and Collocations
Lesser Known Languages	Historical and Scholarly Lexicography – Etymology
Project Reports	Different Lexicographical and Lexicological Topics
	Poster Session
	AILA Symposium (Learner's Dictionaries)
	Workshop on Collocations

**Figure 3.** Comparison of Congress sections as included in the proceedings

This variation, of course, reflects the growth of the Association and the number of participants presenting papers: the 1988 volume from Budapest contains 62 papers and is 580 pages long, whereas the proceedings of the 2002 congress in Copenhagen consists of two printed volumes with 83 papers and 10 posters (amounting to 864 pages). We have dealt with the differences in section headings in the following ways. One, in our introduction to the bibliography, we have listed the sections as found in each proceedings volume. Two, in those cases in which we believe the name of a section has changed but, in fact, the nature of the papers has remained constant, we have used a short name that we hope will orient users in their searches. For example above, our field "Computational Lexicography" includes the papers presented in Copenhagen in the "Computational Lexicography and Lexicology" section as well as those from the "Computational Lexicography" section from the Budapest proceedings.

Sections such as "Lesser Known Languages" and "Different Lexicographical and Lexicological Topics" posed a different problem. These section labels are not particularly useful for database searches, and thus we attempted to reduce the number of papers not classified by thematic to a minimum. At the close of this edition, we have added one section, "Metalexicography," which includes several papers that were previously not classified thematically. Whenever a paper has been placed in a category different from that in which it appears in the corresponding proceedings for the purposes of this bibliography, a note to that effect has been included in the Abstract field. We may also note here that we decided to maintain the category "Plenary Papers" as a separate section. Although we considered reclassifying these papers, plenaries often provide overviews of the field and as such are difficult to assign to a subtopic. Moreover, we felt that identifying a paper as a plenary presentation was useful information.

The Abstract field includes the authors' abstract for the paper as it appeared in the proceedings. Many of the papers presented at the early EURALEX congresses, however, appeared without an abstract. In those cases we have supplied a very brief abstract based on our reading of the paper, and the abstracts we have written are marked as such (i.e. the box "Abstract submitted by author" is left empty):

#### 4 Analysis of data

As we stated in the *Introduction*, we were first interested in carrying out this project as a means to aid academic research in lexicography. Preparing a bibliography of this sort provides us with an excellent opportunity to track the development of the field as seen in the conference papers, and allows us as well to compare lexicography as presented at EURALEX conferences with lexicography as it is discussed in specialized journals. Given that we are still in the process of creating the database at the time this proceedings volume has gone to press, it is impossible for us to present a complete analysis. We are able, however, to point to some interesting areas for comparison. If we consider the following seven sections over the past four conferences (i.e. Liège 1998, Stuttgart 2000, Copenhagen 2002, and Lorient 2004), we see that the number of papers on computational topics is relatively constant, whereas it appears that the number of papers on dictionary use is on the decline (the figure shows the number of papers published in a particular section):

**Computational lexicography**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
23	13*	17	17

13\* 7 papers on Internet lexicography, 6 papers on Corpora, tools and NLP Dictionaries

**Phraseology and Collocations**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
4	12	4	6

2002 8 papers in a Euralex workshop on restricted collocations

**Dictionary-making process**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
6	4/3/6	8	12

Notes on the 2000 proceedings:

4 = corpus-based dictionary making

3 = Dictionary making: special types of information

6 = making historical dictionaries with the computer

**Bilingual lexicography**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
5	7	4	12

**Lexicographical and lexicological projects**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
6	6	13	12

**Terminology and dictionaries**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
5	10	4	9

**Dictionary use**

1998 (Liège)	2000 (Stuttgart)	2002 (Copenhagen)	2004 (Lorient)
11	4		4

Figure 5. Number of papers presented in selected sections, 1998-2004

Interestingly, that might not be the impression one would have of the research interests in the field from reading the 2002 issue of the *International Journal of Lexicography*, in which there are several articles on dictionary use. Readers of the 2002 issue of *Dictionaries* might conclude that lexicographers in North America have very different interests from those working in Europe, because the entire 2002 issue of *Dictionaries* is devoted to historical English lexicography (specifically, to the *Middle English Dictionary*). A special issue of a journal devoted to a single topic, of course, does not accurately reflect the interests of a field as a whole, especially in the case of periodicals that publish a single issue per year (the case of *Dictionaries*; the *International Journal of Lexicography* publishes four issues per year).

Based on our own experience in attending DSNA and EURALEX conferences, however, we do believe that there are some differences between lexicography as a research field in North America and lexicography as a research field in Europe;<sup>3</sup> we hope that this bibliography might encourage others to explore those differences.

## 5 Conclusion

The Association's proceedings provide a significant outlet for new developments in the field and constitute an important source of information for researchers. Compilation of this bibliography has allowed us to see how our field is growing and changing with the times, and we hope that others will use it as they may see fit. We can only echo the words of R. R. K. Hartmann from the 1988 BudaLex congress (Hartmann 1988: 573):

I hope I have given an accurate picture of the lexicographical scene through the prism of its conference record. What is clear to me is that conferences are certainly one important means for exchanging information. We can all help to improve this information flow and thus raise the general level of knowledge in and about our field by ensuring that adequate documentation and dissemination facilities are made available, by being aware of what has been done before and in other places, and by generally encouraging openness and frankness.

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<sup>3</sup> DeCesaris attended the DSNA meetings in 2003 and 2005, and the EURALEX meetings in 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004. Many papers at DSNA discuss lexicology and provide a historical view of a particular dictionary or dictionary project; the number of papers on computational lexicography, terminology, and dictionary use, for example, was small in 2003 and 2005. The DSNA meetings do not have published proceedings.