ABSTRACTS

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Danie J. Prinsloo

Electronic Dictionaries viewed from South Africa

The aim of this article is to evaluate currently available electronic dictionaries from a South African perspective for the eleven official languages of South Africa namely English, Afrikaans and the nine Bantu languages Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Ndebele, North-ern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Tswana, Tsonga and Venda. A brief discussion of the needs and status quo for English and Afrikaans will be followed by a more detailed discussion of the unique nature and consequent electronic dictionary requirements of the Bantu languages. In the latter category the focus will be on problematic aspects of lem-matisation which can only be solved in the electronic dictionary dimension.

Richard Almind

Designing Internet Dictionaries

The design of internet dictionaries roughly falls into two categories: built from the ground up and converted from print. Whereas the former often shows little influence from the hands of the lexicographer the latter proves that printed and electronic pub-lish-ing require very different design solutions. Unfortunately, this has not yet been brought to the attention of the publishers. The article will try to explain this on the basis of a critical examination of two internet dictionaries, neither of which are overly con-vincing in their approach.

Petra Storjohann

elexiko: A Corpus-Based Monolingual German Dictionary

This article provides an introduction to *elexiko*, the first German hypertext dictionary to be compiled on a corpus basis, which is currently being developed at the *Institut für Deutsche Sprache Mannheim* (IDS). First, a brief account of the design is given, followed by a demonstration of the methods and tools that are being employed to compile it. *elexiko* will provide not only an improved quantity of lexical information, but also a new quality of information which will be explained and illustrated at different levels of the microstructure of the dictionary. The description of word meaning and use in *elexiko* will be presented in detail, with a particular focus on the treatment of collocations, ambiguity, vagueness, and the presentation of senses. The development of a theoretically grounded procedure for lexicographic disambiguation is also described. This is then followed by a brief account of the treatment of grammatical details. Finally, issues of usability, the progress of the project and its future perspectives will be considered.

Sandro Nielsen & Lise Mourier

Internet Accounting Dictionaries: Present Solutions and Future Opportunities

An examination of existing accounting dictionaries on the Internet reveals a general need for a new type of dictionary. In contrast to the dictionaries now accessible, the future accounting dictionaries should be designed as proper Internet dictionaries based on a functional approach so they can be used in communication-oriented and knowledge-oriented situations. The lexicographers need to take a large number of aspects into consideration and this should be done by identifying the need of an international target group and present the data in such a way that the lexicographical information costs are kept at a low level.

Henning Bergenholtz & Mia Johnsen

Log Files as a Tool for Improving Internet Dictionaries

In their advertisements, dictionary publishers often praise their dictionaries for taking into account the exact needs of the users. Until the beginning of the 1980s, however, no theoretical contributions on dictionary use were available, neither in the form of purely theoretical considerations nor in the form of empirical research. Since then, the situation has changed completely. Such a large number of user surveys have been carried out that it is no longer possible to give a complete overview. Nevertheless, this has led to no significant improvement of the situation as the majority of these surveys are not related to concrete examples of dictionary use. The surveys, which have always been concerned with printed dictionaries, have therefore not contributed to substantial improvements of dictionary conception.

In the case of internet dictionaries, on the other hand, technical possibilities enable lexicographers to monitor user behaviour in a different and much more precise way. Analyses of log files reveal exactly which lemmas and which types of information have been requested, and, perhaps more significantly, which lemmas and which types of information have been requested but were not found in the dictionary. Furthermore, log files allow lexicographers to see the types of information which have not, or not yet, been searched for. All in all, log files may thus be used as a tool for improving internet dictionaries – and perhaps also printed dictionaries – quite considerably.

Flemming Smedegaard

Sprogvidenskab og virksomhedskommunikation

In recent years, the humanities and particularly linguistics have gained an increasing influence within the field of business communication. Business communication has traditionally been seen as a discipline within the social sciences, and for instance copy writing has conventionally been an issue for advertising agencies or advertising departments, not an area for academic research. In this article I shall demonstrate how a linguistic theory as Systemic Functional Linguistics is developing within the studies of business communication at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. I shall argue why Systemic Functional Linguistics is useful for business communication in general, and how Systemic Functional Linguistics can be used not only for copy writing but also for communication analysis, organizational culture analysis and communication and campaign planning.

Ronald R. Jacobsen

The role of knowledge systems in the linguistic construction of action scenes in novels and their translations

What makes one translation better than another? This paper argues that the best is the one that best mirrors the levels of organisation found in the source text while at the same time achieving coherence on as many of them as possible. For instance, in the English translation of Peter Hoeg's novel *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, the original Danish sentence which contains a BE-perfect, *Med Esajas i sin kiste er kommet et følge* ['With Isaiah in his coffin is come a procession'] (Høg 1993: 11) is translated as: *A procession follows Isaiah in his coffin* (Hoeg 1993: 4). This translation may achieve grammatical and local coherence, but certainly not global coherence since it involves a re-construal of the preceding text as a dynamic, or evolving, scene thereby clashing with the static one constructed in the source text. Likewise, it disagrees with the propositional content of the source text on several levels. This may be as it is, but the real problem is: how do you model the relations between the several levels of organisation found in a text like this in order to qualify/support a particular translation? The answer to this problem, this paper argues, is mental space (MS) theory. Accordingly, an outline of a very detailed analysis of the action scene constructed in the beginning of Don DeLillo's novel *Underworld* (DeLillo 1999a) is presented and compared with its Danish translation (DeLillo 1999b).

Alexander Künzli

L'interaction entre connaissances linguistiques et connaissances extralinguistiques en traduction. Une étude de cas

This study is a case study. Two professional translators were asked to translate a user guide from French into Swedish while thinking aloud. The focus of the study was on the interaction between their linguistic knowledge and their extralinguistic knowledge as revealed by the translation strategies and principles used by the participants to translate a complex noun phrase. The results show that extralinguistic knowledge can only facilitate the translation process and compensate for a lack of linguistic knowledge if the latter reaches a minimum threshold. A lack of linguistic knowledge cannot either be compensated for by applying translation strategies and principles that have proved successful when the translator is working from a language of which he or she has a better knowledge. Likewise, an education in the field of civil engineering does not amount to the same thing as being able to provide quality in technical translation. The results have potential implications for research and training.

Anne Wagner

Hypercodification de la *Common Law*: en quête de sens

Law is, by definition, the codification of modes of expression in a given society. However, its use is distinctive owing to the ways in which users apply or modify it. The shift in meaning between the product and its expression can be analysed not only within its content but also by the means of communication employed. The influence of spheres from intermediary competences, such as Administration and the Legal Profession is one of the main issues to explore. The linguist's analysis cannot be limited to language, but should also integrate corporal and sign communication. These interferences are the conveyors of a derived creation and are distinctive from written law countries to common law countries. My paper will focus on the modes of expression in English Law with a view to showing common and original features.

"C'est cesser de montrer la langue comme un édifice construit d'un seul bloc, mais substituer à cette image celle d'un étal offrant des types linguistiques parmi lesquels on ne saurait choisir au hasard. C'est montrer comment ces variétés se répartissent selon les niveaux économiques, sociaux et culturels, comment elles peuvent ou non être adéquates à une situation donnée, comment elles jouent dans le mécanisme de la distinction » (Klinkenberg J.M, 2001, *La Langue et le Citoyen*, PUF: 43-44).

Carsten Bergenholtz

Videnskabelig (u)redelighed – også et tema for lingvistik

The debate about scientific dishonesty over the last few years has revealed differences and confusion regarding scientific dishonesty. Every branch of science ought to have well-established criteria for scientific dishonesty, to be able to distinguish between sloppy science and dishonest science. Sc. dishonest behaviour is characterized by being dishonest or reckless, and by twisting the scientific message. The aim of this article is to a) provide a list of criteria to define scientific dishonesty, and b) exemplify and discuss specific linguistic aspects of the discussion. Furthermore it will be argued that agreeing on common rules is not enough as general rules can be interpreted differently. Therefore a common judgement is necessary, i.e. a committee, either local or national. It is recommended that any local institution establishes a committee of their own.