

Abstract

Title: Comparative aspects of Latvian and Czech lexicons: Materials for assembling a Latvian-Czech dictionary

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The primary aim of this work is to classify the Latvian lexicon, or better its relevant segment, into individual groups, definable semantically, grammatically, syntagmatically, pragmatically, and so on, and to attempt to find for these classifications an ideal method of lexicographical adaptation and apply it to an emerging Latvian-Czech dictionary (the very first manual of its type). To this end, modern instruments were utilized which, in the recent past, have radically altered the methodology of lexicographical work: on the one hand, the linguistic corpora, which nowadays represent authentic, linguistic usage and, on the other hand, the specialized lexicographic software TshwaneLex, in which a lexical database of Latvian is constructed and from which the dictionary itself will be subsequently constructed. Because of the limited size of the Latvian corpus it was not possible to completely eliminate traditional sources, and the author of the work was forced to consolidate traditional and modern lexicographical methods. His primary source however remained the corpus data, which are directly compared with descriptions in current lexicographical and general linguistic manuals and potential variances are resolved in the results of the data acquired from the corpus. The lexicographical solutions in this work are concurrently presented by means of model entries. In many cases, it concerns an innovative solution, to this time not utilized in any bilingual dictionary having Latvian as a source language: it is also the result of changes of the approach and

alterations of the material base. In addition, some findings from contemporary Latvian grammar were checked and made more precise.

In the study, lexicographical work is presented in all of its complexity. The forthcoming dictionary is first demarcated from a typological point-of-view, its goals and intended readers defined. Subsequently, the sources for the material base are stratified and the technical aspect of the dictionary's creation is presented. Further on, it proceeds from the assembling of a list of entries to the formation of individual lead entries and accompanying information apparatus all the way up to the final phase of editing and inspection of the manuscript of the dictionary. At the same time, it makes use of a combined theoretical-practical method: individual problems are consulted theoretically with backing in authoritative, linguistic manuals and compared both with corpus data and with their description in dictionaries. Finally the decision strategies are described, leading to the presented lexicographic solution. A trio of case studies closes the study, where lexicographic practice from a closer perspective is applied to selected lexemes.

The work constitutes a guaranty of a professional, non-dilettantish approach and a necessary theoretical framework to a separate lexicographic activity. It is, then, merely a step towards a greater task: the creation of a Latvian-Czech dictionary. In this sense, this work remains open and is to a certain extent conditioned by the successful publication of the dictionary.

Keywords: bilingual lexicography, contrastive lexicography, corpus lexicography, Latvian-Czech dictionary, lexicographical database, TshwaneLex