

## **Abstract**

The master's thesis *Theoretical Problems of Spanish Lexicography* introduces issues associated with creating general monolingual dictionaries. The thesis has two main objectives.

Firstly, it aims to summarise the most frequent lexicographic issues and attempt to find their suitable solutions in practice through an analysis of significant research studies dealing with this subject. The issues have been divided into two groups depending on whether they regard the macrostructure (collection of dictionary entries) or microstructure (collection of headword information). As for the macrostructure, one of the main issues is posed by determining the criteria for the selection of dictionary entries. Modern descriptive lexicography considers lexical unit usage frequency to be the main criterion. The macrostructure of general monolingual dictionaries should generally not include proper nouns while productive affixes and affixoids, phraseological units with a high degree of idiomaticity, abbreviations and frequently used neologisms should be included. The thesis also explores the issue of distinguishing between cases of homonymy and polysemy and its impact on lexicographic practice. The chapter on microstructure focuses primarily on the issues of constructing lexicographic definitions with user comprehensibility being above all other requirements. Moreover, the thesis provides an overview of lexicographic components regarding orthography, pronunciation, grammar, language variation and etymology.

The second objective is using the acquired knowledge to conduct a critical analysis of three general Spanish monolingual dictionaries – *DRAE* (*Diccionario de la lengua española*; Real Academia Española), *DUE* (*Diccionario de uso del español*; Moliner, María) and *Lema* (*Lema – diccionario de la lengua española*; Battaner Arias, Paz) – followed by their comparison. The analysis suggests that *DRAE* is a dictionary burdened with tradition containing a multitude of archaisms in macrostructure and definitions often difficult to comprehend. Although it fosters a conservative approach to inclusion of neologisms, it contains a high number of Americanisms. These, by contrast, are not included in *Lema*, which is a purely synchronic general dictionary with high-quality definitions. It is open to inclusion of neologisms and suitable for the general public. *DUE* is a comprehensive general dictionary distinctive for the large amount of information about lexical unit usage it contains. Its macrostructure includes a significant number of neologisms and regionalisms. Electronic dictionaries (*on-line* version of *DRAE*, *CD-ROM* version of *DUE*) are generally considered to be more advantageous to the user than the printed ones (*Lema*).

## **Keywords**

lexicography, monolingual dictionary, macrostructure, microstructure