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WHAT IS A BILINGUAL SPECIALIZED DICTIONARY GOOD FOR?

Modern approaches to lexicography undertake function as

> "fundamental to all theoretical and all lexicographical decisions relating to the conceptual basis for a dictionary and the specific dictionary itself"(Bergenholtz, Nielsen 2006:283).

Modern theory of dictionary functions relies on the lexicographer's knowledge of the needs of the users,

> " the focus of preparing dictionaries for a particular subject – field should be the needs of its user group in specific situations." (Bergenholtz, Nielsen 2006:281).

All debates about dictionaries and dictionary-making (Landau 2001) begin with the former's classification according to various types or genres. Since the subject of our paper addresses both non-specialists and specialists in lexicography we shall use 'type' for a bird's eye view of dictionary subcategorization :

> " The various categories and subcategories which result from such classifications are referred to as dictionary types, sometimes called dictionary genres. In fact, the latter seems more relevant as a specialist term than the former because, despite a long tradition in literary studies ('literary genre'), musicology ('music genre'), or film studies ('film genre'), 'genre' denotes a purely metalexicographical term, while 'type' may designate reference works as used by both specialists and non-specialists"(Podhajecka 2009 : 154).

The most frequently mentioned criteria in classifying dictionaries are : scope of coverage (e.g., the general or special dictionary, the monolingual or bilingual dictionary); shape /size or content (e.g., the pocket , unabridged or desk dictionary); manner of financing (e.g., the commercial dictionary or scholarly dictionary); the complexity of the headword (e.g., the dictionary of idioms or collocations, dictionary of phrasal verbs) ; the type of target user (e.g., the learner's dictionary or dictionary for native speakers ; specialized dictionaries : legal , accounting , medicine, mechanical engineering, etc.). Another criterion is the nature of the dictionary seen as a product under various formats : paper dictionaries , recorded dictionaries on CDs , Internet dictionaries and online dictionaries, as representative samples of large computer corpora, and computer corpora themselves (BNC, MICASE, LOB, FROWN, etc.). Other criteria refer to age (children's dictionaries); learners' language level (dictionaries for advanced learners) the number of entries, etc. :

> 'The use of many variables in typologies being inevitable, because reference works (cf. dictionaries) may be similar in some respects but may diverge in others'(Podhajecka 2009 : 154).

Swanepoel ((2003: 45) states that :

> "[T]he main aim of such typologies is to provide prospective dictionary users with a classification of existing dictionaries based on a set of distinctive features that - provide a systematic overview of the various categories and subcategories of dictionaries that are distinguished; – indicate what the most distinctive feature(s) of each main category and each subcategory is/are; – make it possible to explicate the differences and correlations of different dictionaries within a (sub)category" (quoted in Podhajecka 2009 : 154).

These features may give relevance to each type and help target users in choosing the most useful for their needs (Dima 2007).

Traditionally, the most important coordinate in subcategorizing bilingual (specialized) dictionaries is the lexicographer 's decision to compile the dictionary either as an aid to the comprehension (of texts) or description of the source language or as an aid to the production

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of texts in the target language (Zgusta 1971). More recently functional lexicography has turned these aims into communication – orientated functions named after the use situation, as briefly presented below, following Bergenholtz and Nielsen (2006 : 287) :
a) to assist the users in solving problems related to text reception/ production of texts in the native language
b) to assist the users in solving problems related to text reception/ production of texts in a foreign language
c) to assist the users in solving problems related to translation of texts from the native /a foreign language into a foreign /the native language

As a result, while consulting bilingual specialized dictionaries, users (lay-persons, experts, semi-experts) may find the necessary information about the special subject field they are interested in and compare the subject field in the native and in the foreign culture with a view to fulfill both linguistic and professional needs.

Professionals and specialized translators turn to the bilingual rather than to the monolingual dictionary (Hartmann 2001; Bejoint 1994) due to a number of advantages which will be described by providing samples of translation equivalents from the *English-Romanian Dictionary for Mechanical Engineering* (Deleanu, Dima, Sorcaru 2009):
(a) It is handy to find a translation equivalent to a given L2 lexical item, equivalent which is not directly connected with differences in culture and or in the surrounding world as it happens with polysemantic words in monolingual general dictionaries (Tomaszczyk 1983; Snell-Hornby 1987). The dictionary compiler represents the scientific phenomena in as exact and precise terms as possible even if, according to Zgusta

> " It would , however , be a mistake to think that the coordination of the equivalent terms in them is plain sailing : the scientific terminology has an " anisomorphism " of its own manifested when terminological sets of different languages are compared" (1971: 298).

The description of the following entries from the *English-Romanian Dictionary for Mechanical Engineering* (2009) is meant to prove that even in specialized domains polysemy is at work and might become an obstacle in finding equivalence of the terms unless the specialist is consulted.

> e.g. 1: *machine (mas) masina, aparat, dispozitiv, instrument, mecanism; bicicleta, motocicleta, automobil; a prelucra, a uzina*

The translational equivalents provided are ordered along two semantic dimensions *tools* and *means of transportation*. The narrowing of meaning through metonymy implies naturally the narrowing of subject-fields and specialization

> e.g., *masina, aparat, dispozitiv, instrument, mecanism.*

> e.g. 2 : *damper (TH) amortizor; umezitor; vana de aer (de combustie); (met) registru de ventilatie / de cos; (OM) amortizor; clapeta; (el) atenuator ; (el, c) surdina ; (cstr) amortizor de zgomot ; (auto) amortizor .*

The entry develops from general technical vocabulary to metallurgy field, electronics, civil engineering , automobile industry, providing the dictionary user with a wide range of contextual choices.
b) The translation equivalent necessarily covers the same semantic area as the L2 lexical item translated, since the translation conveys to the user the same denotative meaning as encoded by the original text so that we can here speak about 'denotational equivalence' as opposed to 'stylistic and/or connotational equivalence'(Tomaszczyk 1983).

> e.g. 3 : *infinitesimal (mat) infinit mic; infinitezimal; marime/valoare infinitezimala infim, minuscul, neinsemnat.*

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The usage of plural of the same word has as result both the representation in two separate entries and the raising to a more abstract level in specialization with no change in denotation.

e.g. 4 : *infinitesimals (mat) analiza infinitezimala*
e.g. 5 *: inertial lock (auto) incuietoare activata prin inertie*
inertial locks (auto) sistem de blocare prin inertie

(c) Bilingual specialized dictionaries supply translation equivalents which can be inserted into the context immediately as a comprehension and recognition test. By providing simple translations, bilingual dictionaries reinforce the idea that there should always be a one-to-one correspondence between L1 and L2, preventing a never-ending search for explanations of the words used in the definitions given in monolingual general dictionaries (Atkins 1985; Snell-Hornby 1987;Tomaszczyk 1983).

It is primarily the case of simple lexeme entries as in the following illustrations:

e.g. 6 : *galvanize(met) a galvaniza; garnet (met) granat; impedance (el) impedanta; kelly (OM) tija de antrenare*.

(d)Word collocations in bilingual specialized dictionaries are translated either using the word for word technique or explicitation thus facilitating the user's comprehension of the terms . Samples from the quoted dictionary include :

e.g. 7 : *feed pomp (TH)pompa de alimentare;*
e.g. 8 *: magnetic ageing (fiz) stabilizare magnetica;*
e.g. 9 *: machine oar(OM, alim, ind chim) paleta amestecatoare;;*
e.g. 10 *: female radius tool (mas-un) cutit de rotunjit exterior ;*
e.g. 11 *: feed trip dog (mec) cama pentru decuplarea automata a avansului ;*
e.g. 12 *: inert-gas shielded –arc process / welding (met) sudare cu arc in mediu gazos protector/inert;*
e.g. 13 : *machine for drawing off (alim, chim) instalatie de imbuteliere si agitare.*

Examples 8 and 9 are illustrations of how common words can change meaning when collocating with technical specialized words.

The use of bilingual dictionaries is still a matter of controversy within ELT but we consider it a must for professionals and specialized translators, acknowledging what Dima states :

" It is without question that all types of dictionaries have their role in the verbal marketplace , since selection is guided by usefulness"(2007: 75)

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REZUMAT
Dintre numeroasele etichete atribuite dicționarului, am ales-o pe aceea de a fi asemănat unei oglinzi , în virtutea faptului că reflectă atât gradul de cultură a unei națiuni cât şi nivelul de cunoaştere şi utilizare a limbii națiunii respective , la un moment dat, în decursul istoriei. Astfel, dicționarul este , în speță, produsul schimbărilor care au loc permanent, în toate sferele vieții sociale. Un exemplu concludent în acest sens îl constituie astăzi tipologia variată a dicționarelor limbilor naturale , plecând de la tradiționalul dicționar - carte , la dicționarul on-line şi corpusuri, fiecare adresându-se evident atât unui public larg , dar şi unor categorii specifice de utilizatori. Asupra unora dintre aceste aspecte, dar şi ale celor legate de avantajele utilizării unui dicționar bilingv de specialitate ne vom referi în lucrarea de față.

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