
Piet van Sterkenburg (ed.) *A Practical Guide to Lexicography*. (Terminology and Lexicography Research and Practice 6.) Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company. 2003. xii + 459 pages. ISBN 90-272-2329-7 (hbk) € 145 / ISBN 90-272-2330-0 (pbk) € 65.

[Note: This is the [unabridged version](#) of a review published in the *International Journal of Lexicography* 17.3 (2004): 327–334.]

1. Target user group and aim of the textbook

Although dictionaries are increasingly being compiled for specific target user groups, it is not immediately clear whom *A Practical Guide to Lexicography* is supposed to address. From the preface one learns that a ‘dire need’ was felt for a ‘suitable course book ... aimed at professional lexicographers and students of language’ a decade ago, that Svensén’s textbook was apparently found to be not modern enough, but also that the production of a ‘durable course book seemed an impossible task’ back then (pp. ix-x). In 1999 Piet van Sterkenburg took up the editorial challenge ‘on the basis of a slightly revised scheme’ of the original draft (p. x). No statements are made regarding the revisions to the scheme, so one is bound to conclude that the target user group is as wide as in the original draft and that, for the textbook to be modern, considerable efforts ought to be devoted to the production and use of electronic dictionaries.

The editor invited mostly Dutch and Afrikaans speaking colleagues to provide him with ‘expert contributions’ devoted to ‘various aspects of the monolingual general-purpose dictionary’ as well as to ‘vital aspects involved in the making of bilingual or multilingual dictionaries’ (p. x).

2. Structure of the textbook

In all, 32 authors wrote 29 different contributions. These texts average 13 pages each and form the core of the work under review. The book also includes a 31-page glossary, a 22-page bibliography, and a 17-page general index at the end. Although the 29 contributions were inserted into a strict three-tier structure, the organisation seems rather haphazard. There are two main parts, viz. ‘The forms, contents and uses of dictionaries’ (I) and ‘Linguistic corpora (databases) and the compilation of dictionaries’ (II). The first part contains three chapters (1–3) and the second part four (4–7). Each chapter groups various contributions.

The only group forming a unit is Chapter 1, called ‘Foundations’ (1). This chapter brings together ‘The’ dictionary (1.1), Source materials (1.2), Uses and users (1.3), Types of articles (1.4), and Dictionary typologies (1.5). A better order would probably have been 1.1, 1.5, 1.4, 1.2, and 1.3, but at least basics are laid in all of them, without too much overlap content-wise.

Chapter 2 is entitled ‘Descriptive lexicography’ (2) and contains six contributions: Phonological, morphological and syntactic specifications (2.1), Meaning and definition (2.2), Dictionaries of proverbs (2.3), Pragmatic specifications: Usage indications, labels, examples (2.4), Morphology in dictionaries (2.5), and Onomasiological specifications and a concise history (2.6). One immediately notices an overlap between 2.1 and 2.5, while 2.2 as well as the second half of 2.6 undoubtedly belong to the first chapter. It is further absolutely unclear what 2.3 is doing in this chapter; it would, if anywhere, better fit in the next one.

‘Special types of dictionaries’ (3) is the title of Chapter 3 and only includes two contributions, viz. Bilingual dictionaries (3.1) and Specialised dictionaries (3.2). Calling a bilingual dictionary a ‘special type of dictionary’ seems farfetched, especially given that better candidates can be found, such as Collocation dictionaries (7.4).

The title of the second part (II) is the same as the title of contribution 5.2. Apart from the fact that something seems to have gone wrong here, equating corpora with databases is definitely not a good idea (as also argued in the book itself on p. 186). The first group of part II, Chapter 4, called ‘Corpora for dictionaries’ (4), contains four contributions: Corpora for lexicography (4.1), Corpus processing (4.2), Multifunctional linguistic databases (4.3), and Lexicographic workbench (4.4). While the first two talk about corpus-based lexicography, the third belongs to a chapter on natural language processing (NLP). The fourth does not deal with corpora at all.

Chapter 5 is entitled ‘Design of dictionaries’ (5) and brings together Developments in electronic dictionary design (5.1), Linguistic corpora (databases) and the compilation of dictionaries (5.2), and Design of online lexicons (5.3). A much better title for this chapter would have been ‘Advantages of electronic dictionaries’, as very little if anything is said about the true design of dictionaries.

In Chapter 6, on ‘Realisation of dictionaries’ (6), various aspects are once more revisited and a few new ones added, but it is a mystery why they were placed here. Even the topics make the overlap obvious: Phonological, morphological, and syntactic information (6.1; compare with 2.1 and 2.5), Occurrence examples (6.2; compare with 2.4), Semantic information (6.3; compare with 2.2), Usage labels (6.4; compare with 2.4), and Etymological information (6.5; also dealt with in 1.5).

The last group, Chapter 7, called ‘Examples of design and production criteria for major dictionaries’ (7), includes Design and production of bilingual dictionaries (7.1), Design and production of terminological dictionaries (7.2), Design and production of monolingual dictionaries (7.3), and Collocation dictionaries (7.4). Contribution 7.1 could as well have been included in the chapter on descriptive lexicography, 7.2 is on such a meta-level that it cannot be seen as providing practical design and production criteria, 7.3 repeats once more what could be found many times over throughout the book, and 7.4 would better fit with the special types of reference works.

3. Coherence across the contributions

This state of affairs is either the result of a textbook plan that turned out to be not that effective after all, or the plan was good but the contributors did not adhere to it. Perhaps it is even a combination of both, and the editor had to make do with the contributions he eventually received. The result for a textbook, no matter the intended readers, is rather devastating. If one reads the book from cover to cover, the repetition becomes a true nuisance. The text suffers from three types of repetition, the first one being rather *gentle*, such as in ‘humans often go wrong, tend to overlook the obvious and may prefer the odd or peripheral’ (p. 19), ‘Individuals notice the unusual, whereas corpora will highlight the common and frequent senses’ (p. 232), and ‘computational routines are becoming essential in an area which is often inadequately covered by traditional “readers”’: the analysis of the commonest words of the language’ (p. 267). This gentle type sometimes results in near-identical phrases, however, like ‘In languages such as Finnish, French, Polish, with regular stress, it ...’ (p. 252) vs. ‘... languages in which stress is regular (e.g. French, Polish, Finnish)’ (p. 354). The second type of repetition is *countable*, in that the

same idea is not repeated more than half a dozen to a dozen times. Examples include the recommendation that productive affixes be lemmatised (pp. 73, 125, 255, ...) or the discussion of definition ‘per genus proximum et differentia(e) specifica(e)’ (pp. 89, 135, 288, ...). The third type of repetition is (virtually) *uncountable*, as it is repeated all over the book, again and again, such as the discussion of semasiology vs. onomasiology, reception vs. production, or the (debatable) claim that space is not an issue in electronic dictionaries.

In general, coherence throughout the work is a serious problem. Given that the textbook is written in English, most contributors also tried to find English examples and cite or compile English dictionary articles. All too often, however, references to especially Dutch dictionaries appear out of the blue. A sentence such as for example ‘But even small dictionaries, with a lower degree of complexity than the comprehensive Dutch monolingual *Grote Van Dale*, know the problem’ (p. 218), following a discussion of English, Spanish, and French dictionary examples, can only be understood if one knows the authors work at Van Dale. Similar problems can for instance be found on pp. 125, 314, 321, ...

Coherence indeed goes beyond the need for a strict style sheet controlling fonts, font styles, typeface sizes, placement of running headers, etc. As to the latter, note that there is no agreement between the titles of contributions 2.4, 2.6, and 4.3, and the description in the right-hand running header, and that the left-hand running header of contributions 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4 contains a spelling error (‘criteria for major dictionary’). Another good case in point is the use of he, his, him, ... vs. he/she, his/her, him/her, ... While most contributors used the first series of pronouns and possessives, some preferred to be politically correct and opted for the second series. The latter option seems to be a difficult effort, as in nearly all instances the two systems end up being mixed (compare e.g. pp. 122–123 with the surrounding text, or for the reverse, p. 329 with the surrounding text). Conversely, in contribution 3.1 the feminine forms were used throughout – a confusing distraction given the practice in the rest of the book.

One actually wonders if all authors knew what they were contributing and what for. While some view their contribution as a *chapter* in a larger entity (pp. 71, 114, 127, ...), others regard theirs as an *article* (pp. 83, 240, 349, ...), and in at least one contribution reference is made to both chapter (p. 298) and article (p. 310) in addition to *paper* (p. 311). On p. 337 the word chapter is furthermore used to refer to a particular section of one contribution, while the reverse applies on p. 228 where *section* refers to an entire contribution. This terminology is important if one is willing to make sense of a cross-reference such as ‘You will find more on databases in the next chapter’ (p. 307). Is the reader referred to the next section (§4), the next contribution (6.5), or the next chapter (7)? One author simply refers to his text as a *contribution* (p. 288).

Certainly, structures of textbooks vary, but there is a set of characteristics one expects to find. These characteristics include a practical introduction and conclusion, a step-by-step description, a sound system of cross-references, suggestions for further reading, and sometimes exercises. Some of these aspects will be discussed here, others further below. Two contributions have no headings or only one (2.4 and 4.4), a layout that is really only appropriate for a festschrift. Quite a number of contributors abuse the section ‘Conclusion’ and pack it with new information (e.g. 4.4 and 5.1), while others do not even have such a section (e.g. 2.3 and 6.1). Only a single contribution has concluding paragraphs with suggestions for further reading (4.1) and just two contain exercise-like instructions (six in 1.5 and nine in 6.2). Exit textbook.

4. Cross-references and citations

In all, there are 97 explicit cross-references throughout the book. (This count does not include the implicit cross-references such as for instance ‘As noted above’ (p. 151), ‘the matter of the user’s wishes is central to the following paragraph’ (p. 117), or useless pointers like ‘will be discussed where relevant’ (p. 115).) As many as 74 of these cross-references are *internal*, thus connecting the different sections of a single contribution, and only 23 are *external*, referring to other contributions in the book. If well done, those cross-references could have offered some coherence. Unfortunately, only one internal cross-reference is explicit in that it includes the page number, i.e. ‘discussed in Section 4, p. 67’ (p. 51), while many others are too often wrong. Examples include: ‘see Section 2.9’ (p. 75), yet this section does not exist; ‘see §3.2’ (p. 76), while one is precisely in that section; or ‘in §2.1.1’ (p. 119), where it should be §3.1.1. Most external cross-references are found between contributions authored by the same person or in contributions where the editor is co-author. Examples of the first are the cross-references between 4.1 and 4.2, examples of the second are the cross-references found in 7.3. Even though in all but a few cases entire contributions are referred to, there are yet again numerous errors. The author order is wrong in the cross-reference to 6.4 (p. 290), one author is missing in the cross-reference to 5.1 (p. 362), and there is no point in referring to 4.4 (p. 353) for more on corpus design, as that contribution deals with dictionary compilation software. The latter two external cross-references appear in a contribution co-authored by the editor, making these errors even more painful. Somehow one would expect the editor having at least a rough idea of *who* wrote *what* in his own book.

Needless to say, the various contributions also contain cross-references to outside sources; such cross-references mostly accompany citations. It is nonetheless surprising to note that every now and then the page numbers are not mentioned for *exact* quotes (cf. e.g. p. 33). Likewise, page numbers are missing for most references, which is particularly sad when one is actually referring to *specific* sections of books (cf. e.g. p. 45). Anyhow, for cross-references to outside sources to be successful, one needs to make sure that there is a place where one can find all the required bibliographical details, and that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the citation code and the entry code to those bibliographical details. This and related issues are the topic of the next section.

5. References and bibliography

It is well known that every scientific discipline has its own way to deal with citations and the linked bibliographical details, and also that there is (unfortunately) considerable variation within each discipline. However, no matter what system one chooses, the least one can expect as a reader is that that system is internally consistent, unambiguous, and does not deviate too much from related scholarly practice. The system used in this book – if there is any system – cannot be called anything else but an utter mess.

The compilers were brave enough to collect all the various bibliographical details of the contributions, and arranged them in a bibliography that can be found near the end of the book. They however forgot to clean up the bibliographical details listed at the end of contributions 2.3, 2.4, and 5.2 (and to adapt the reference systems of those contributions). Although the bibliographical details of dictionaries are often separated from the details of other literature in scholarly writing about lexicography, this has not been done in this book. In principle there is nothing wrong with this approach, were it not that there is no system whatsoever to list the dictionaries between the other literature: a total of 96

reference works are included under the (presumed) editor(s), 39 can be found under their title, 9 under the publishing house, 8 under the abbreviation (supposedly) used in the contributions, and 3 under the institution that produced the work. Although some reference works are included more than once, it is needless to say that actually finding a dictionary in the bibliography is a challenge. As if this situation were not enough, there are still a few more factors that complicate the search.

Firstly, some authors simply refer to ‘the four learner’s dictionaries of English’ (p. 32), ‘the *Longman*, *Chambers* and *Oxford* dictionaries’ (p. 74), ‘the *Oxford*’ (p. 306), etc., leaving it to the reader to decide which of the hundreds of possible dictionaries is meant in each case. A random sample of a similar but less acute problem for Dutch dictionaries includes: ‘the “contemporary *Van Dale*” (1996)’ (p. 72), ‘the “larger *Van Dale*” (1999)’ (p. 72), ‘the Dutch *Van Dale*’ (p. 299), etc. Of course, seasoned lexicographers will know what is meant with the ‘big four’, or that the second edition of the ‘contemporary *Van Dale*’ was edited by Van Sterkenburg et al. in 1996 and the thirteenth edition of the ‘larger *Van Dale*’ by Geerts et al. in 1999. How a learner must know this remains a mystery.

Secondly, even if some guidance is provided in the text, finding the reference in the bibliography remains a daring exploit in quite a number of instances. For example, the reference to ‘*Cassell’s Modern Guide to Synonyms & Related Words* (Partridge 1961)’ (p. 63) cannot be found under the author, nor under the title, nor under the publisher, nor under the abbreviation, but only as Hayakawa (1971)! Another example: ‘Prentice Hall’s *Illustrated Dictionary of Computing* (1995)’ (p. 157) turns out to be listed under Nader (1995), and not under the publisher or title. For those in need of more challenges: p. 313 is a good starting point.

Thirdly, wrong dates throw more spanners in the works. The reference to ‘Creswell & McDavid 1983’ (p. 106) has the date 1993 in the bibliography. Both dates are wrong and should be 1987. A similar confusion is created, among numerous others, by ‘Bernstein 1976’ (p. 134) vs. 1975 in the bibliography (the latter date seems to be correct).

Fourthly, the most mind-boggling aspect must be the abbreviations used to refer to well-known (and lesser-known!) dictionaries. Now that one became used to the abbreviations OALD#, LDOCE#, COBUILD#, and CIDE# to refer to the big four (with # indicating the edition number), one finds ‘ALDCE3’ (p. 103) for the first, ‘LDCE2’ (p. 110) for the second, and a full battery of options for the third, viz. for COBUILD1: ‘*Collins Cobuild*, 1987’ (p. 89), ‘COB3’ (p. 103; note the 3!), ‘Cobuild 1987’ (p. 134), and ‘The *COBUILD*’ (p. 231); for COBUILD2: ‘*Collins Cobuild*’ (p. 17), ‘COBUILD 2000’ (p. 283; 2000 is a reprint date and thus irrelevant), and ‘the CED’ (p. 353); and for COBUILD3 (which is moreover not included in the bibliography): ‘CED 2001’ (p. 354). One more example of mighty abbreviations: ‘WPDCEU, EU, MDCEU, WDEU, HDCU, AUS, MAU, DECW, RWGEUA’ is but one list of usage guides referred to on p. 109. The first abbreviation in this list stands for *Word Perfect: A Dictionary of Current English Usage* and is abbreviated WWDEI in the bibliography. This is simply beyond comprehension.

The references to the other literature have not been spared errors either. These include: (1) spelling errors in authors’ names, e.g. ‘Martin and Te Pas’ (p. 5; should be ‘Ten Pas’), ‘Swanepoel & Van der Poel’ (p. 44; should be ‘Van de Poel’), or ‘Bogaars’ (p. 239; should be ‘Bogaards’); (2) wrong dates, e.g. ‘Boisson et al. (1990)’ (p. 9; should be ‘1991’), ‘Cruse 1984’ (p. 110; should be ‘1986’), or ‘Johansson (2002)’ (p. 211; should be ‘2001’); and (3) conflicting page ranges, e.g. ‘Hausmann (1989:1ff.)’ (p. 9; none of the

four entries in the bibliography allows 1ff.), ‘Morris (1938:6)’ (p. 102; page range in bibliography is 79–137), or ‘Kuhn 1979:99’ (p. 128; page range in bibliography is 187–200; also note that the correct spelling is ‘Kühn’).

Lists of errors are certainly uninteresting reading material. However, considerable space was devoted to them since summing the reference errors across the 29 contributions results in a shocking 118 in all. This figure is, unfortunately, only the starting point. In the bibliography there are 14 cases where author(s) and date are identical, which implies that only the initiated or devoted reader will be able to ‘match’ the reference with the correct bibliographic entry. A reference such as ‘Hausmann 1989–1990’ (p. 143), for example, automatically refers to as many as seven entries in the bibliography. If the references throughout the text were bad, the bibliography beats this many times over. The bare values will suffice this time: there are 3 double entries, 18 entries are listed in a wrong alphabetical position, 38 references have not been referred to, as many as 109 entries are missing (and are collectively referred to 134 times), and the bibliography itself is riddled with an overwhelming 363 errors and inconsistencies!

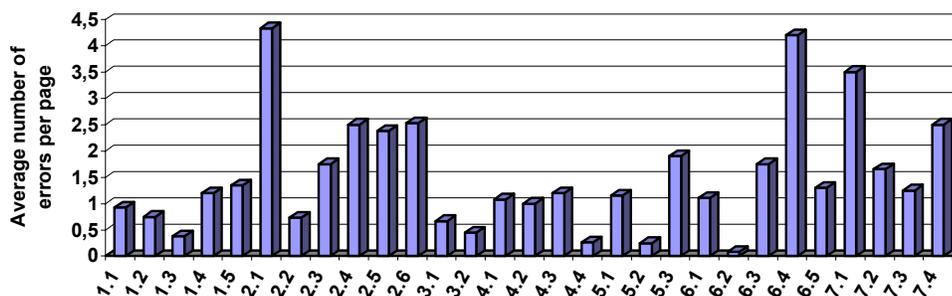
6. Spelling errors in quoted dictionary articles and in the main text

Turning to the quoted dictionary material, one also notices quite a few unfortunate aspects. Statements such as ‘Of all the dictionaries we consulted’ (p. 75), without actually naming those dictionaries, or ‘I could not trace the *Longman Dictionary of ...*’ (p. 387) and ‘I could not see the *Cassel Dictionary of ...*’ (p. 387) are inappropriate. More importantly, one could at least have expected an effort to show *real* dictionary articles, particularly for the revolutionary COBUILD#. One will however search in vain for a presentation that includes the Extra Column (e.g. pp. 79–81, 293–294, ...). Even the inclusion of phonetic transcription seems to have been too demanding (e.g. p. 103). Most worrisome, though, are the typing errors in the quoted dictionary articles – 35 of them were counted. Examples include: ‘Income is the tax that you have to pay regularly to the government ...’ (p. 89), ‘A **dog** is ... something that is satisfactory or of poor quality’ (p. 105), and ‘... The **lycée** covers the school years known as “seconde” (15–16 year-olds, “première” (16–17 year-olds) and terminal” (17–18 year-olds)’ (p. 147). The first statement, which is luckily not true, stands at *income tax*; the word ‘tax’ should be inserted as the second word. The second statement stands at one of the senses of *dog*; where the word satisfactory should of course be ‘unsatisfactory’. The last example stands at *lycée* and includes very common errors; in this case not all brackets and quotation marks come in pairs, which makes sentences like this one hard to read.

To (temporarily) conclude the error and inconsistency quagmire of this book, a brief look at the main text in this regard follows. As could have been expected, Dutch words do appear every now and then, such as *van* instead of the English *by* in ‘van N. R. (= Nathanael Richards)’ (p. 97) or in ‘van Lutz Makkensen’ (p. 143), while the genitive form is sometimes formed as in Dutch, i.e. without the apostrophe, such as in ‘van den Baars *Comprehensive ...*’ (p. 328; should be ‘Van den Baar’s *Comprehensive ...*’). Linked to the uniformity issues, it is also not surprising that numerous words are written in multifarious ways, such as ‘CDRom’ (p. 48) vs. ‘cd-rom’ (p. 153) vs. ‘CD-ROM’ (p. 161) vs. ‘CDROM’ (p. 246), or ‘loan-words’ (p. 105) vs. ‘loan words’ (p. 299) vs. ‘loanwords’ (p. 313), or ‘macro-structure’ (p. 115) vs. ‘macro structure’ (p. 325) vs. ‘macrostructure’ (p. 370), etc., in addition to the alternation between British and American spelling throughout. One particular error seems to have occurred at the final composition stage of

the book, as it is unlikely that so many different authors would have introduced the same type of error. A tiny sample: ‘include affix es’ (p. 116), ‘words or affix es’ (p. 120), ‘words take suffix es like *-ness* or *-ity*’ (p. 123), etc.; ‘derivation al rules’ (p. 119), ‘derivation al analysis’ (p. 254), ‘collocation al dictionary’ (p. 378), etc.; ‘those who prefer annotation s can’ (p. 183), ‘The number of occurrence s of a word’ (p. 359), ‘each with its collocat e s and stopwords’ (p. 382), etc.; or ‘non-dialect ic language’ (p. 301). All classic typing errors (and copy-editing oversights?) are also present in abundance, including non-words: ‘forthightly’ (p. 175), ‘dictioanty’ (p. 254), etc.; missing spaces: ‘languagethat is used’ (p. 134), ‘two or more may beconflated’ (p. 174), ‘according to isa or part-of relations’ (p. 339), etc.; repetition: ‘would make make’ (p. 246), ‘for which it it is’ (p. 252), ‘and not of a particular knowledge field knowledge field’ (p. 334), etc.; extra words: ‘will be not be’ (p. 183), ‘in a processing a’ (p. 190), ‘to refer to the these steps’ (p. 242), etc.; missing (sections of) words: ‘Printed material may divided’ (p. 175), ‘Traces of this past can found in the language’ (p. 305), ‘to distinguish the transitive use of a verb from its transitive use’ (p. 310), etc.; typos: ‘as with *cable* of *carpet*’ (p. 80; ‘of’ should be ‘or’), ‘such as thing as’ (p. 130), ‘there are now genuine synonyms’ (p. 352; ‘now’ should be ‘no’), etc.; grammatical errors: ‘in a disk drives’ (p. 242), ‘search a Chinese lexicon for words which belonging to’ (p. 244), ‘to marked the spoken usage’ (p. 311), etc. Still other problems result in just funny to simply incomprehensible claims: ‘the few Italian dictionaries enlisted’ (p. 366), ‘the dictionary is worked out in detail’ (p. 313), or ‘The second kind is of important and regular variables which experience suggests are worth recording if the information is readily available, like the date and place of publication of a document. These aspects ...’ (p. 185).

Counted together, all the problems in the main text amount to another 488 errors. In the graph below, these errors, to which the reference errors in the main text have been added, are shown as an average per page, per contribution. Sadly, it is evident that only very few contributions have an acceptable error level.



7. Contents of the various contributions

So far this review has been atypical in that the foregoing is normally appended as a final paragraph listing a few unfortunate typographical problems and miscellaneous infelicities. The order was deliberately reversed here, mainly due to the severity and extreme density of the errors and inconsistencies. Another option would have been to discuss these aspects together with the contents of each contribution anew, yet then one would have risked not seeing the wood for the trees anymore. In what follows it is now possible to present a critical overview of the various contributions, making abstraction of the sloppy wording, and to focus on the contents. For want of a true logical structure, the various contributions

will be reviewed in the order in which they appear in the book, disregarding any groupings.

In “‘The’ dictionary: Definition and history’ (1.1), Piet van Sterkenburg first answers the question ‘What requirements must a dictionary meet in order to be called a dictionary?’ (p. 5). In order to study this he uses both formal and functional criteria, as well as criteria revolving around dictionary contents. His ensuing definition of ‘the prototypical dictionary’, however, turns out to be not that revealing. In a second section a brief overview is given of the history of dictionaries. This part comes across as a patchwork made up of snippets that focus much too much on the products from the Low Countries and surrounding regions. This limitation is only hinted at in the last paragraph, where the author admits that it was an ‘exemplary overview’ (p. 17). It is also surprising to find this concluding remark, as well as the discussion of electronic dictionaries preceding it, in a section entitled ‘Vocabularies: *Conflatus, Vocabularius Ex quo, Gemmula and Gemma*’. This contribution appears to be unfinished.

In ‘Source materials for dictionaries’ (1.2), František Čermák gives a succinct overview of the main resources used in producing dictionaries. He distinguishes between primary resources (archive, corpus) and secondary resources (fieldwork, existing reference works, WWW). This distinction is not used to structure the text, however, which is positive, as the dichotomy would most probably not hold. Instead, a first section treats citation files and excerption (often through a reading programme), interviews and questionnaires (still the standard for eliciting dialectological information), trawling the WWW, and usage panels. A second section then deals with (electronic) corpora as resources (with some unnecessary repetition, such as mentioning MI-score and t-score on p. 21 and again on p. 24), while the last section briefly examines two types of databases as resources, viz. machine-readable dictionaries and lexical databases. On the whole, key concepts are explained in an easy way. There could have been more structure and especially the last section misses some body.

In ‘Uses and users of dictionaries’ (1.3), Paul Bogaards points out that although the need for knowledge on dictionary use and dictionary users was already voiced in the 1960s, research on those aspects only started in the 1980s. Over the past two decades, four research paradigms developed, and these are also the main topics of this contribution. Each of these four paradigms is listed now, together with a citation giving glimpses of the research outcomes: (1) Surveys: ‘what people really do may be a far cry from what they say they do when interviewed’ (p. 26), (2) Metalexigraphy: ‘dictionaries have been improving considerably ... but ... instruction in dictionary use remains essential’ (p. 28), (3) Towards a model of dictionary use: ‘the description aims at finding the important steps that need to be taken, automatically or by explicit choice, if one wishes to profit from the information that is recorded in the dictionary’ (p. 31), and (4) Experimental research: ‘the longer one searches in the dictionary the less one finds what was needed’ (p. 33). Slightly more information on e-tracking would have been welcome.

In ‘Types of articles, their structure and different types of lemmata’ (1.4), Rufus Gouws guides the reader through a few selected paths of Wiegand’s metalexigraphic garden. In this case the focus is first on a concise description of the structure of dictionaries, then on the nature and composition of dictionary articles and the different types of lemmata, and finally on macrostructural diversity. The textual condensation is extremely high, which makes it infeasible for summarisation. Suffice to observe here that this brand of metalexigraphy endows dictionary makers with the means to name even the tiniest features of reference works one may wish to refer to. In this contribution 93

lexicographic terms are introduced. A random sample as flavour: article niche, condensed lemma, cross-reference entry, data distribution structure, lemma cluster, lemma nest, lemma sign, lemma sign entry, niched subarticle, niche entrance article, niche entrance lemma, non-lemmatic addressing, primary subcluster, primary treatment unit, second level nesting, sublexical lemma, synopsis structure, etc. Far too little use is made of such meticulously defined terms in the scholarly literature.

In ‘Dictionary typologies: A pragmatic approach’ (1.5), Piet Swanepoel presents a windy discussion of many different types of dictionaries: encyclopaedias, historical and etymological dictionaries, comprehensive and standard synchronic dictionaries, pedagogical dictionaries, dialect and regional dictionaries, collocation, idiom, and proverb dictionaries, etc. Although this contribution reads easily, the topic is rather uninspiring, far from covered exhaustively (even the thesaurus is missing), and the presentation not always as clear as it should/could be. Although the title explicitly specifies that this is a ‘pragmatic approach’, one will find no mention of this aspect on any of the 26 pages of text. One actually wonders what is so different about the typology offered compared to the many existing ones. Is there a *need* for a pragmatic approach, and if yes, what is it? Reference is also made to ‘second and third generation electronic dictionaries’ (p. 48). The reader will probably want to know what these are.

In ‘Phonological, morphological and syntactic specifications in monolingual dictionaries’ (2.1), Johan de Caluwe and Ariane van Santen describe phonological, morphological, and syntactic aspects of (indeterminate) English dictionaries, and this for nouns, adjectives, and verbs. There is no evaluation whatsoever and the descriptions are written in poor to appallingly childish language, full of Dutchisms. Mention is also too often made of what is not being described: ‘We will not be discussing ...’ (p. 71), ‘We will not go into this ...’ (p. 73), ‘we will not go into the structure of ...’ (p. 73), ‘... is beyond the scope of this article’ (p. 79). Although the contents are, deep down, worthwhile, this is a sub-standard contribution.

In ‘Meaning and definition’ (2.2), Dirk Geeraerts brilliantly responds to five successive questions, somehow funnelling the main answer of each preceding question into the initial horizon of the following one. It is a jewel both with respect to content and stylistically. The five questions are: (1) ‘Do I focus on the senses of individual words?’, (2) ‘Which readings of a word do I consider relevant?’, (3) ‘Which type of meaning do I have to define?’, (4) ‘Which linguistic perspective do I take?’, and (5) ‘Which definitional format do I use?’. In the process all central concepts related to meaning and definition are clarified in a most intelligible way. All data are presented in a crystal-clear, logical sequence, and summarised in a handy table at the end. This is an excellent contribution.

In ‘Dictionaries of proverbs’ (2.3), Stanisław Prędoła works through a selection of some English proverb dictionaries, covering typology, macrostructure, and microstructure. This effort can, at best, only be seen as a poor review of those reference works. None of the core terms needed by the uninitiated reader is explained; these include: paroemiology, paroemiography, and paroemiologist, autosemantics, ordinary sayings vs. proverbial sayings vs. proverbial expressions, and even idioms vs. proverbs. One of the mechanisms to fill space seems to have been to repeat surnames over and over, e.g. ‘Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Wander’ (p. 95 and p. 99) or ‘Wolfgang Mieder’ (p. 97 and throughout pp. 100–101). With no theoretical framework either and written in an abominable English, this is a sub-standard contribution.

In ‘Pragmatic specifications: Usage indications, labels, examples; dictionaries of style, dictionaries of collocations’ (2.4), Igor Burkhanov uses such a broad definition for

pragmatics that the text seemingly tries to cover all conceivable linguistic phenomena. The author finds pragmatics in usage labels, in usage notes, in paraphrastic and explanatory definitions, and in exemplifications. What is left? Usage dictionaries and even collocation dictionaries! This contribution, then, lacks structure (there are also no subdivisions, as if to emphasise this) and one has the impression that, even with the same contents, a better product could have been moulded.

In ‘Morphology in dictionaries’ (2.5), Johan de Caluwe and Johan Taeldeman examine how derivations and compounds are handled in English (and Dutch) monolingual dictionaries. Two dichotomies recur throughout and structure the text, viz. ‘Do we opt for a reception or production perspective?’ and ‘Are the derivations/compounds concerned transparent or opaque with respect to their relation of form and content?’ (pp. 114–115). A third dichotomy, viz. ‘Are we dealing with a paper-based or an electronic dictionary?’ (p. 115), is exploited as well, albeit unevenly. Especially near the end of the text electronic dictionaries, as well as Dutch examples, ‘surface’ rather aggressively and weaken what had been a very strong foundation. The latter is obvious in the conclusion, where only Dutch is mentioned, as if the entire reasoning had been about this language and about solving morphological issues in Dutch dictionaries. This contribution, which is also dotted with pinches of new research aspects, is nonetheless solid.

In ‘Onomasiological specifications and a concise history of onomasiological dictionaries’ (2.6), Piet van Sterkenburg proffers another patchwork, in that the first part mainly deals with various types of onomasiological dictionaries, whereas the second consists of a historical perspective on such dictionaries. Several paragraphs of the second part are alas plain reiterations of sections from the first part. In the second part it is claimed that the field has ‘seen few innovations in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries’ (p. 143). Makes one wonder: is *WordNet* not innovative enough? In the first part it is shown that onomasiological specifications are found in systematic/thematic dictionaries (i.e. thesauri), synonym dictionaries (presented as a running text or taxonomy-based), reverse and pictorial dictionaries, but also in (the definitional slot of) semasiological dictionaries. In a highly interesting section on electronic onomasiology that concludes the first part both existing and new perspectives are analysed.

In ‘Types of bilingual dictionaries’ (3.1), Mike Hannay looks at the organisational features of the main types of bilingual dictionaries, factoring in production vs. reception, unidirectional vs. bi-directional, and the user’s linguistic knowledge. The discussion of ‘meaning résumés’ is most remarkable and the author eloquently shows that this kind of meaning discrimination is highly welcome in dictionaries for production but mostly irrelevant in those for reception. The discussion and definition of bi-directionality is less convincing though. In the section on the status of the user, the prediction that a production-oriented bilingual dictionary and a learner’s dictionary will be integrated in future electronic dictionaries convinces again. Bilingualised learner’s dictionaries are only briefly treated and perhaps a discussion of more original types, such as those with a single macrostructure for both source and target language, would have been welcome. This is a strong contribution.

In ‘Specialized lexicography and specialized dictionaries’ (3.2), Lynne Bowker covers all the main aspects of specialised dictionaries (also known as special-field dictionaries, special-domain dictionaries, terminological dictionaries/glossaries, etc.). She does so in simple language, sometimes too simple though, and definitely in too repetitious a manner. The latter is also obvious from the overuse of a phrase like ‘As previously mentioned’ (cf. pp. 155, 158, and 160). This simplicity also resulted in a situation whereby the central

term of this field, i.e. *terminography*, is not even mentioned once. On the positive side, a good attempt is made at presenting a true stepwise guide to the compilation of specialised dictionaries.

In ‘Corpora for lexicography’ (4.1), John Sinclair – lest one forgets, the father of the COBUILD# series – bases his account on a rare and envied insider’s perspective. The design of corpora and the acquisition and classification of the material in them are attended to authoritatively. Any reader will find manifold insightful hints to take heed of. Even though the presentation and discussion of the suggested corpus typology is somewhat boring reading material, it is important. Sinclair maintains that the ‘largest *Cobuild* Dictionary’ (p. 178) is the only dictionary that ‘claims to be faithful to corpus evidence’, whereas others would only be ‘based on’ corpora (p. 167). At least one dictionary, the *Yonsei hankuko sajon* [Yonsei Dictionary of Contemporary Korean], edited by S. Lee in 1998, is another example. For one, that dictionary is a calque of that ‘largest *Cobuild* Dictionary’, yet for Korean.

In ‘Corpus processing’ (4.2), John Sinclair imparts his very personal view of especially what *not* to do in corpus building and processing. He argues convincingly – and not without the incidental sniping – that corpora are best left free of any mark-up and annotation, and if done, to do so in separate (i.e. parallel) data streams. For mark-up this implies having a co-ordinated facsimile of the original document or a recording of the sound wave available. As to annotation, for each of the following issues: (1) manual vs. automatic analysis, (2) carried out off-line vs. online, and (3) held as a single data stream vs. multiple streams, the past is each of the former while the future is each of the latter options. The text might be too abstract at times; for instance to those who do not yet know what (linguistic) annotation implies, it might not be clear what it actually is/does. This contribution contains good hints for any prospective corpus builder and/or annotator, particularly for those who start from scratch.

In ‘Multifunctional linguistic databases: Their multiple use’ (4.3), Truus Kruyt’s point of departure is only mentioned on the second last page, i.e. ‘lexicographic data are no longer relevant to lexicography only’ (p. 202). From this follows that these data ‘belong to the so-called language resources (henceforth LRs) that are needed for natural language processing (henceforth NLP), i.e. the processing of natural, human language by a computer’ (p. 194). The contribution thus primarily deals with NLP, not with lexicography. Compared to Sinclair’s sound advice in the preceding contributions, it is furthermore sad to see the near opposite discussed uncritically. As such, the text largely fails in being of any real assistance to today’s dictionary making, both traditional and NLP-initiated alike.

In ‘Lexicographic workbench: A case history’ (4.4), Daniel Ridings discloses some ins and outs of Onoma, a software application for the compilation of dictionaries. One would have a hard time finding any comparable descriptions of a dictionary-writing system (DWS), given that most existing DWSs are developed for large publishing houses and are cautiously protected in-house, with information about them rarely surfacing in the scientific literature. As such, this is a very welcome and fresh contribution. Onoma, which is not commercially available, is being used by the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (WAT) in Stellenbosch (South Africa) and has been heavily customised for them. The latter was no easy matter, as communication between software developers and lexicographers was not always evident. The author does not seem to believe in off-the-shelf dictionary compilation software. Such applications are indeed few and far apart, although exceptions exist, such as *TshwaneLex* (cf. <http://tshwanedje.com/tshwanelex/>).

In ‘Developments in electronic dictionary design’ (5.1), Lineke Oppentocht and Rik Schutz primarily talk about the advantages of electronic dictionaries over paper ones, and not about design issues as claimed in the title. Such issues are actually brushed aside: ‘we assume that dictionaries have a data structure in which various types of information are discriminated and that facilities for guarding the data structure are available. Whether these are computer programmes [sic] that check the files after the editing, an editing programme [sic] that steers the editing process, or a relational database is not relevant here’ (p. 220). Astonishing. It is also not always clear which of the discussed electronic-dictionary features already exist, such as in the examples dealing with the ‘Adjustable selection of data’ (pp. 220–221). Unlike what is ambiguously implied for the ‘*Van Dale Dutch-English on CD-ROM (1997)*’, this CD-ROM is as static as the paper version in that there is no way to customise the data depending on whether one is a native Dutch or a native English speaker. The contribution nonetheless lists one or two interesting predictions regarding the electronic dictionary of the future.

In ‘Linguistic corpora (databases) and the compilation of dictionaries’ (5.2), Krista Varantola does not deal with what the title claims, or with what is announced in her first sentence, i.e. ‘the structure of dictionaries from the user’s angle’ (p. 228). This contribution is about users and their relationship – in an electronic medium ‘the interface’ – with reference works. Current dictionaries are then looked at as an artefact from the *user’s* point of view and suggestions are made to improve these artefacts. In most instances the suggestions concern electronic dictionaries. What is highly interesting in this discussion is that the dictionary users are not those prototypical yet hackneyed ‘learners’, but rather the much more realistic ‘language professionals’, i.e. those users for whom English is ‘a foreign language that has become their professional lingua franca’ (p. 232). A strong case is made for the use of corpora in native-speaker monolingual dictionaries. This contribution teems with common sense and challenging ideas for future electronic dictionaries.

In ‘The design of online dictionaries’ (5.3), Sean Michael Burke does not know what he is talking about. He redefines a series of well-established terms, among them ‘macrostructure’, which proves he does not have the faintest idea of what these terms actually mean in metalexigraphy. His characterisation of online dictionaries seems stuck in the Stone Age; no wonder, the text is an abridged version of his MA dating back to 1998. Compare this with the following statement by Oppentocht and Schutz a few pages earlier: ‘It is hard to keep up with the latest developments in dictionaries. ... What was revolutionary in 1997, is now, in 2003, quite common or even obsolete’ (p. 215). The register used is also horrendous. Very much sub-standard on all levels thus.

In ‘The codification of phonological, morphological, and syntactic information’ (6.1), Geert Booij shows that much more than what one could naively suspect ought to be included in a (Dutch) dictionary, and this concerning phonology, morphology, and syntax. Examples include respectively: details of the phonetic realisation of words, syllabification, allomorphy, etc.; existing complex lexemes, each individual existing plural form, productive affixoids, etc.; grammaticalised multi-word sequences, constructional idioms, productive syntactic patterns that create analytic units, etc. Including all of this will of course only be feasible in larger dictionaries or in electronic products. There is no question that this is a brilliant contribution, with only one really annoying error. After having pointed out that Dutch hyphenation reflects phonological rather than (as in English) morphological structure, the Dutch non-word **steenkoudst* is unfortunately hyphenated as **steenk-oudst* (p. 255) whereas it should be **steen-koudst*.

In ‘The production and use of occurrence examples’ (6.2), John Simpson clearly writes for the uninitiated. He works through a basic tripartite structure subsequently dealing with: (1) collecting evidence, (2) processing evidence (by hand and with the help of computers), and (3) citing evidence. For those who have never seen it before, the reproduction of the original (1879) ‘Directions to Readers’ issued by James Murray, editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, will prove a great read. As far as step (2) above is concerned, he observes: ‘Often data that is uncovered by a reading programme can be followed up and fleshed out using computers’ (p. 267). A consistent attempt is made at involving the novice at dictionary-making processes.

In ‘The codification of semantic information’ (6.3), Fons Moerdijk drives a Rolls-Royce on a glorious Sunday afternoon, taking the reader along on an in-depth analysis of how one professionally deals with semantics in dictionaries. An exquisite step-by-step walkthrough for one particular case study (the semantic networks of ‘school’) gives a fascinating idea of what is involved in *real* lexicography. One gently proceeds through the various steps, takes in an excellent overview of semantic theories on the way, sees the obtained outcome contrasted to existing dictionary treatments, and to top it all, is offered a glimpse of the ‘semagram’, a novel addition to the semantic dimension of electronic dictionaries that is currently being developed.

In ‘The codification of usage by labels’ (6.4), Henk Verkuyl, Maarten Janssen, and Frank Jansen continuously oscillate between a poor and a sub-standard treatment of (usage) labels. The overpowering carelessness on all levels impedes any enjoyable reading. Quite incredible aspects have been left unfinished throughout the text, such as the following two sentences, only separated by two other sentences: ‘The literal use of the word may be given a zero, and the figurative use a –1’ and ‘The literal use of a word may be given a zero, and the figurative use a minus one’ (p. 304) – recalls two children drawings for which one is expected to spot the differences. A few lines down one even finds ‘(nog *natrekken*)’ [(‘to be confirmed’)] in the middle of a sentence. All this is unfortunate, since the core of the argument, i.e. the poor state labels and their non-use are in, is quite valid.

In ‘The codification of etymological information’ (6.5), Nicoline van der Sijs brings together a well-written piece on the treatment of etymological information in a few selected dictionaries. Strangely, nothing is said about the kind of relationship that exists between the etymological and historical dictionary. The author might further be interested in knowing that there has been a second edition of Landau’s textbook since 2001 (p. 320), that even though the Afrikaans equivalent for *dictionary* has the same etymology as that of Dutch the spelling is different (p. 313), and that four out of fourteen is not ‘more than a third’ (p. 313; throughout the text mathematics does not seem to be her strongest point). This contribution concludes with a string of realistic ideas for future electronic dictionaries in which the focus is not on just ‘more’ data as a result of ‘more’ space.

In ‘Examples of design and production criteria for bilingual dictionaries’ (7.1), Wim Honselaar does what the title claims yet the suggested methodology seems to be the *reverse* of modern practice. Indeed, throughout the text one wonders where and when the corpus will surface. Instead, the author apparently argues that the main resources for the compilation of bilingual dictionaries are other (bilingual) dictionaries, whereupon the result of this consultation is only *checked* in corpora. Also note that the following is particularly confusing. In a discussion on singular vs. plural forms, one finds ‘nobody would have thought of translating the plural *болельщик* as *aanhang*’ (p. 328). This, just as the suggested methodology, is the reverse of what it should be since *болельщик*

[supporter] is the singular form, while the normal plural form is *болельщики*. On the whole, this contribution strikes as being fairly superficial, in particular when it comes to the section on the business plan.

In ‘Design and production of terminological dictionaries’ (7.2), Willy Martin and Hennie van der Vliet collate bits and pieces sampled from earlier work in an authoritative way. The too numerous references to their own work verges on arrogance though, and the reader is spoon-fed the only worthwhile and correct approach, which happens to be the authors’. The description, which revolves around the fact that ‘more attention should be devoted to *cognitive modelling*, implying domain modelling, data modelling and concept modelling’ (p. 349), although presented step by step and packed with internal cross-references, might be too generic and too theoretical for most readers. Can prospective terminographers now successfully plan and begin a terminology project? Will they know which software to choose? Are they going to find practical pointers in the text to guide them through the process? Most likely not.

In ‘Design and production of monolingual dictionaries’ (7.3), Ferenc Kiefer and Piet van Sterkenburg sum up all the various components found in a monolingual dictionary. The text is long, patchy, and tedious to read. Although the description is clearly aimed at (very) large dictionary projects, *the* crucial modern backbone, i.e. the dictionary compilation software, is (once more) ignored: ‘without further ado we assume here that modern-day lexicography is unimaginable without corpora and the computer – and thus too without using a word processor to edit articles’ (p. 351) and ‘we leave aside considerations of the format in which the XML database is stored – for example in Word, Access or Excel’ (p. 361). Are twenty-first century students of lexicography really supposed to believe that ordinary Office tools are used for the compilation of *real* (electronic) dictionaries? Exit dictionary compilation software.

In ‘Towards an “ideal” Dictionary of English Collocations’ (7.4), Stefania Nuccorini merely reviews seven existing English collocation dictionaries. This is preceded by a long, windy, and confusing introduction, and is *not* followed by an elaboration on an ‘ideal’ English collocation dictionary. One fascinating conundrum: ‘Interestingly enough, the oldest edition reported dates back, if it is not a misprint, to 1627 (cited as the first edition of Correas 1992)’ (p. 366) vs. in the bibliography ‘First published 1927’ (p. 425). Talk about a misprint!

8. Glossary

Following the 29 contributions, one finds a glossary with terms that ‘have been extracted from the various articles’ (p. 389). The inclusion of a glossary is definitely a good idea. A reader who is for example not familiar with the term *paroemiology* (2.3) or the abbreviation LSP dictionary (7.2) is offered guidance. That said, the selection of terms seems to have been rather arbitrary. For example, of the 93 terms introduced by Gouws (1.4), only 19 (20.4%) can be found in the glossary. Likewise, the term *prescriptive dictionary* has been included but *descriptive dictionary* has not, the same is true for *front matter* vs. *back matter*, and a basic term like *logico-semantic ordering* cannot be found either. Terminology revolving around corpora seems problematic too: there are no articles for *concordance line*, *frequency band*, *stopword*, etc. Even frequently used abbreviations, such as L2 (and L1) (e.g. 1.3, 3.1, and 5.2) or NP, PP, A+N, N+V, etc. (e.g. 6.1, 6.3, and 7.2) are missing. Given that this book is a *guide* to lexicography, the real question is of course whether or not the glossary is an example of first-class lexicographic practice. In

order to answer this question one can briefly study some macro-, medio-, and microstructural aspects of the glossary.

On the macrostructural level one immediately notices that there are problems with the alphabetic sorting (e.g. **Peripheral synonym** > **Pejorative** > **Pejoration**). In all, 14 articles should be swapped around and another 9 are simply in the wrong place, which means that, on average, there is a problem on every second page (16 out of 31). Further, 3 lemma sign entries are misspelled: **Alphabeti(al) order**, **Authoritive dictionary**, **Hypernym**. (Note that one may also question the outdated practice to capitalise the first letter of each lemma sign entry.)

As far as the mediostructure is concerned one is informed that ‘Cross-references are given to synonyms or related terms treated in other entries by right-pointing arrows’ (p. 389). Nothing wrong with this practice, were it not that the text string ‘See also’ is used in addition, and that it is unclear what the difference between the two is (e.g. **Borrowing** See also **semantic borrowing** vs. **Semantic borrowing** → **borrowing**, with a full treatment for both). The comma also seems to fulfil the function of ‘right-pointing arrow’, such as in ‘**Multiword lexeme**, multiple-word lexical item’ or ‘**Semantic dictionary**, systematic dictionary’. No attempt was made at using a hub-and-spoke approach, so sometimes cross-references go from A to B *and* from B to A, at other times only one direction is present. If all directions were completed, another 231 cross-references would need to be added. Half of p. 396 is a list of cross-references, yet 3 reference positions contain a spelling error (**authorative dictionary**, **chlidren’s dictionary**, **learners dictionary**) and for another 2 the reference address does not exist (**hierarchical dictionary** and **synonymic dictionary**). These are not isolated cases since there are 19 instances of the former and as many as 30 of the latter. Users are thus sent to a non-existent lemma sign entry about 50 times. Yet even when both reference position and reference address are correct, the mediostructure is often questionable. The article for **Dictionary** includes a cross-reference to **ideological dictionary**; at **Ideological dictionary** a ‘right-pointing arrow’ directs the reader to **systematic dictionary**; at **Systematic dictionary** a ‘right-pointing arrow’ directs the reader to **onomasiological dictionary**; and only at **Onomasiological dictionary** does one find a definition for ... yes, for what? The article for **Onomasiological dictionary** further has a ‘right-pointing arrow’ to **thematic dictionary**, but at the latter one is only referred back to the former – whereupon one can start circling again. Combinations of these issues also exist. At **Relationship** one is referred to **synonymous relationship**, and at **Synonymous relationship** to **identity relationship**, but one searches in vain for **Identity relationship** as it is missing. It stands to reason that decent dictionary compilation software, unlike basic Office tools, will prevent and warn against such hilarious constructions.

On the microstructural level, the glossary shows the same symptoms as the rest of the book; a sample: ‘in according to’ (p. 390), ‘a dictionary which serve to’ (p. 393), ‘a dictionary which register the’ (p. 399), ‘the part of the language that not is’ (p. 400), ‘of a referring lexical items’ (p. 410), ‘relationship’ (p. 413), etc. The total count of typing errors, grammatical problems, and a string of inconsistencies in the glossary is 180. This leaves only the definitions themselves to consider. In general these are poor, which is not surprising, given that they are based on the information found in the contributions. In addition, some terms are (1) not defined at all (e.g. from **Shift** one is referred to **functional shift**, which is not included), (2) wrongly compared (e.g. from **Hard word** one is referred to **entry word**, and from **Entry word** to **head word** (sic) – upon which one is not only back on the same page, looking for **Head word** which turns out to be

spelled **Headword**, but also wondering why one was sent around in the first place), and (3) simply wrong (e.g. **Distinctive synonymy** is called a type of *dictionary*). At **Introspection** one *only* finds a ‘right-pointing arrow’, to **evidence**, which is defined as ‘the lexical data that are used to prove the existence of a lexical item or the authenticity of a particular usage’. Exit corpora.

9. General index

The book concludes with an inadequate general index. The 93 terms introduced by Gouws (1.4) once more serve as a sample. Although 27 (29.0%) of them are found in the general index, only 11 of these actually refer to pages in contribution 1.4 – a meagre coverage of 11.8%. Strangely, and still focussing on the 93 terms from 1.4, two terms that had been included in the glossary (i.e. orthography and treatment unit) are not found in the general index, while 10 terms from the general index are not included in the glossary (i.e. article stretch, comment on form, comment on semantics, illustrative example, item, main lemma, onomasiological, semasiological, single article, and synopsis article). Of the 93 terms, only 4 are both defined in the glossary and cross-referred from the general index to 1.4 (i.e. article, lemma, niched lemma, and sublemma). (Note that if one now considers the definitions in the glossary for those 4 remaining terms, not a single one reflects the meaning as used in 1.4. One is thus left with a *zero* coverage.)

Casual checks in other contributions point in the same direction. The following items used on p. 355 are for example all absent in the general index: ditransitive verb, ergative verb, intransitive verb, link verb, passive verb, reciprocal verb, transitive verb; one-place predicate, two-place predicate, three-place predicate – neither are verb nor predicate listed. Other random items include (with in brackets an instance of where they are used): adposition (p. 259), bi-directional entry (p. 150), cognate (p. 320), constructional idiom (p. 258), deadjectival noun (p. 358), ISV (p. 315), Signpost (p. 286), substitutability principle (p. 288), systematic polysemy (p. 282), word collocation (p. 378), etc. Even those items that are covered only refer to a selection of the occurrences. Examples include (with in brackets an instance of where they are also used): analytical definition (p. 288), citation (p. 267), copyright (p. 266), definiendum (p. 288), definiens (p. 288), phraseological unit (p. 374), polysemy (p. 281), semagram (p. 291–292), valency (p. 373), zero derivation (p. 385), etc.

10. Conclusion and epilogue

The overarching impression one has after reading through the work under review is that it falls short of expectations. With around one thousand seven hundred errors and inconsistencies throughout the book (disregarding the problems with the general index), the absence of a sound, logical, and non-repetitious structure, the too numerous sub-standard contributions, the omission of most features characteristic of a work for students and/or scholars studying a particular subject, a largely ineffective glossary, a labyrinthine bibliography, and an inadequate general index, the work is not worthy of being called a *textbook* nor ‘practical guide’.

Some of the above aspects could easily have been avoided. For example, enlisting the help of even a single proof-reader could have saved the editor considerable face. In spite of that, the main blame lies squarely with many contributors. Some of them definitely did not take this project seriously. Contributing to a textbook is not the same as dumping

one's leftovers into a festschrift. A textbook is *used* as a basis for study, and one shudders at the very thought of future lexicographers growing up with this work.

Avec la mer du Nord pour dernier terrain vague
Et des vagues de dunes pour arrêter les vagues
Et de vagues rochers que les marées dépassent
Et qui ont à jamais le cœur à marée basse
Avec infiniment de brumes à venir
Avec le vent de l'est écoutez-le tenir
Le plat pays qui est le mien

— *Le plat pays*, Jacques Brel, 1962

While reading, a log was kept of what is cited by whom. In a way, this allows one to draw up an internal Citation Index for this book. The main result is a well-known one, i.e. that authors tend to quote mainly themselves. Viewed from the bibliography angle, all entries for Booij, for instance, are only cited by Booij, all entries for Burkhanov are only cited by Burkhanov, all entries for Nuccorini are only cited by Nuccorini, etc. Likewise, most references to the various entries for Bogaards, Martin, Varantola, etc. are primarily by the authors themselves. This is however a 'textbook case' (pun intended).

More interesting are the top citations. Exactly ten works are referred to over five times. There is only one dictionary among them, namely COBUILD1, which clearly indicates that this reference work is currently still the most popular one to refer to. Of the other nine works, three are either referred to by the authors themselves or by a single author only, which do not make those representative from a citation perspective. Of the remaining six, only one is an article, viz. Atkins's *Building a Lexicon: The Contribution of Lexicography* (which appeared in *IJL* in 1991), while the other five are the well-known textbooks by Cabré for terminology, and by Geeraerts and Janssens, Landau, Svensén, and Zgusta for lexicography. If one also takes the source of all the articles in the bibliography into account, then the most widely cited work is, by far, Hausmann et al.'s metalexigraphic textbook *Dictionaries*. If one recalls that the book under review was apparently written to improve on existing textbooks then this outcome offers much food for thought indeed.

Gilles-Maurice de Schryver
Department of African Languages and Cultures, Ghent University
Department of African Languages, University of Pretoria
gillesmaurice.deschryver@UGent.be