

Host Report Short Term Scientific Mission IS1305- 27039

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COST Action: IS1305

STSM type: Regular (from Germany to Poland)

Guest/STSM applicant: Dr. Nathalie Mederake, Deutsches Wörterbuch von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm, Arbeitsstelle Göttingen (Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, DE)

Host: Dr. Krzysztof Nowak, Dictionary of Polish Medieval Latin, Institute of Polish Language, Kraków (Polish Academy of Sciences, PL)

Duration: 10 working days.

Report

During her 10-days STSM in Kraków at the Institute of Polish Language (Polish Academy of Sciences) Dr. Nathalie Mederake was working on the use of the wiki interface in representing diachronic lexicographical data. The point of departure was the practical task of publishing a small set of entries from academic historical dictionaries within the framework of the WikiLexicographica project (Bon & Nowak 2013). While working within a specific software environment (MediaWiki and Semantic MediaWiki), our goal was to concentrate on platform-independent issues and, thus, get a better insight into how the web interface may help us to better understand the common dimension of the European lexis.

After being introduced to the concept of the WikiLexicographica, Nathalie started to feed the web application with the data collected from historical dictionaries. As she was continuing, she quickly learnt to use the wiki syntax and started to familiarise herself with more advanced features, such as in-line queries, concept pages, search results formatting etc. As a result, not only did she adapt the original concept to her material and needs, but she also succeeded in enriching it with visualisations of language borrowing process.

A valuable outcome of Nathalie's STSM, however, is also the diagnosis of a number of theoretical questions and practical issues that need further research which, in turn, might ameliorate the dictionary portal design. Leaving aside problems related to tailoring an existing software to lexicographer's needs, such questions arose as: what is the quantum of information and the required format of data to be used in the dictionary portal? What may be the role of academic dictionary APIs in contributing to the dictionary portal? How can one optimise the user's experience in multilingual environment? How can one compensate for

lacking and insufficient data? How can visualisation help in exploring the common background of European dictionaries?

During the STSM, some perspectives for follow-up actions have been discussed as well. Firstly, Dr. Bruno Bon (IRHT CNRS), who had come to work with us for two days, invited Nathalie to participate in the joint meeting of the French-German research project regarding alignment of academic Latin dictionaries which will be held in Paris in the October 2015. Secondly, as the output of the STSM is highly relevant to the dictionary portal design, it was agreed that an extended report should be presented during the next WG 4 and/or WG 1 meeting. Thirdly, the STSM allowed to define more precisely the desirable paths of collaboration between the Task Group „Meta-Lexicography” and other WG4’s task groups. It was suggested that in the first stage the „Vocabulary of Emotion” Task Group might provide a relevant material for further work.

To conclude, Nathalie’s STSM was a success considering both its scientific outcome and perspectives. Apart from her research capabilities, though, Nathalie proved to be a flexible collaborator and an excellent colleague as she smoothly integrated with the research team, expressed her interest in Latin, Polish and Slavic lexicography in general and easily adapted to thinking in terms of language-independent dictionary interface. I would be pleased if given an opportunity to work with her in the future.

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