Widening the scope and going into action: using and expanding the Portal to explore language variation

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The LandLex Group

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Working Group 4: objectives

- investigate how the pan-European nature of the vocabularies of the languages of Europe can be represented in single-language dictionaries and within the European dictionary portal.
- study the multiple dimensions of borrowing, i.e. the migration and re-migration of words and meanings across the languages of Europe.
- develop ways in which already existing information from single language dictionaries can be displayed and interlinked to represent more adequately their common European heritage.
- develop editorial guidelines for the integration of European information into more traditional and into innovative dictionaries.
- find new applications for the very large amount of interconnected dictionary information from the European dictionary portal in the field of digital humanities.
Action theory: the LandLex concept

• brings together lexicography researchers from 11 countries to look at 14 languages
• carries out pan-European diachronic and synchronic dictionary content analysis
• diverse and complementary approaches – theoretical, methodological and technological
• in-depth case study analyses
  – ‘daisy’ – botany
  – ‘hill’ – (structure of the) landscape
  – ‘red’ – colours in the landscape

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Action prerequisites: the LandLex languages

Breton  English  Estonian
French   German   Greek
Irish    Italian  Polish
Portuguese   Spanish (Castilian, Catalan, Galician)
Romanian  Russian

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Semantic travel reports:
Buda – the hill, Pest – the plain
Going into action I: sharing sources, localising sources

- one monolingual dictionary per century from the 17th to 21st century
  - different histories of lexicography: monolinguals do not exist for all languages
- supplemented by bilinguals
- aim is comparability, so open access to data is preferred
- not all data will be available in digital format
  - use of CAQDAS for image data
  - marking up of entries in TEI for analytical purposes

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Going into action I: sharing sources, localising sources

- Zotero data base
  – one dictionary, at least, per century for each language when possible
  – for legacy works, we emphasize scholarly works
- every entry should:
  • include sufficient bibliographical information (title, author, place and date of publication, publisher, number of pages)
  • give a reliable permanent digital source, if possible (URL, permanent link), and indicate source name (e.g. Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München)
Going into action I: sharing sources, localising sources

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Going into action I: sharing sources, localising sources

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Action prerequisites revisited: What is a scholarly dictionary?

• knowledge-oriented dictionary compiled by academics to provide detailed word descriptions for the pursuit of lexical insight and research support according to the linguistic and lexicographic standards of their time, and traditionally designed with such main features as the pursuit of completeness with regard to the entries that apply to subject matters, a preference for analytic definitions, the use of an extensive corpus of observed discourse, the inclusion of documenting example sentences with bibliographic references, the availability of a scholarly apparatus like descriptions of method and project plan, a bibliography of sources, and, in digital specimens, the implementation of advanced search tools

Dirk Kinable, WG 1
Action prerequisites revisited: What is a scholarly dictionary?

- Contributing to the debate: what is a scholarly dictionary to us?
  - written or edited by a single scholar (or the many halves of one mind)
  - academies grouping scholars with lexicographical knowledge
  - universal with emphasis on scholarly input – etymology, history...
  - scientific methodology
  - not commercial
Going into action II: European Portal – first port of call

- test quality of existing data
- propose more dictionaries
- difficulties for LandLex:
  - poor coverage of legacy dictionaries
  - missing languages
    - e.g. Breton, Galician
  - variable quality
- expand by adding reliable data
Going into action III: participation

• LandLex identifies and provides alternative solutions, such as the open access full version of Littré online
• LandLex seeks to go beyond what exists and bring in more legacy data
• LandLex is about collaboration
  – LandLex Zotero data base
  – European Dictionary Portal
Running up that hill: test cases

- **Breton**
  - poor in language resources, only bilinguals
- **French**
  - only a commercial contemporary dictionary
  - Littré is a false commercial version with the etymological data missing
- **German**
  - lexicographic tradition since 17th cent.
  - many monolingual dictionaries, but different concepts
Running up that *Berg*: test case German

- lexicographic tradition (post-glosses) starting from Henisch into different directions
  - didactic approaches: Adelung, Campe, Sanders
  - pan-historical approach: Grimm (¹DWB, ²DWB)
  - “general definitions” approach: Heyne, Paul
- in the beginning: Latin equivalents providing semantics; then development towards (more or less concise) definitions in a modern sense
Running up that *Berg*: test case German

- historically speaking, Grimm was a new approach (pan-chronic concept, metaphysical etymologies, nation-building intention)
- *daisy*: not covered by most dictionaries as many conceptions do not allow (plant) names (of common language dict. only ¹DWB has it)
- *hill*: challenging in terms of pan-European approach: more than one equivalent (*Berg m.*, *Hügel m.*)
Running up that *Berg*:

test case German
Running up that Berg: test case German
Running up that Berg: test case German
Thank you!

https://www.facebook.com/LandscapeLexicography/

Sources

