Yesterday's Words

Yesterday's Words:
Contemporary, Current and Future Lexicography

Edited by

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CHAPTER ONE

YESTERDAY'S WORDS

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MARIJKE MOOIJAART
AND MARIJKE VAN DER WAL

1. Researching Yesterday's Vocabulary

In the last decades of the 20th-century metalexicography, also called "theoretical lexicography" or "dictionary research", became a recognized branch within applied linguistics. Since then historical lexicographers and researchers of other historical disciplines have met to reflect on "yesterday's words", starting in the seventies with e.g. the Round Table Conferences on Historical Lexicography in Florence (1971) and Leiden (1977).[1] It is no coincidence that this was also the period of the first computer applications in this field: there was a need in particular to explore the possibilities of the new techniques for lexicographers. Many other initiatives specifically focusing on historical lexicography followed, of which the *Colloquium on the Future of Historical Lexicography*, held in 2001 in Heidelberg and resulting in *the Heidelberg Declaration* on "The European Cultural Heritage and Lexicology in the 21th century", is only one example.[2]

In the beginning of the 21st century the International Conferences of Historical Lexicography and Lexicology were launched with the first conference in Leicester, U.K. (2002), followed by the second one in Gargnano, Italy (2004).[3] The third ICHLL took place in 2006, in Leiden, the Netherlands. The present book reflects the issues discussed on that occasion.[4]

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[1] Pijnenburg en De Tollenaere, *The Second Round Table Conference.*
[2] See <www.deaf-page.de/decl>.
[3] Papers of the Leicester conference are published in Coleman and McDermott (eds.), *Historical Dictionaries and Historical Dictionary Research*; the Gargnano papers concerning English lexicography are collected in Considine and Iamartino (eds.), *Words and Dictionaries from the British Isles in Historical Perspective.*
[4] It should be emphasized that the ICHLL conferences are not an exclusively European affair. The fourth ICHLL will be in Edmonton, Canada, June 2008. See

At the ICHLL conferences three disciplines dealing with historical vocabulary are represented: the lexicography of older language stages (the practice of historical lexicography), the historiography of lexicography (or dictionary history), and historical lexicology (historical morphology and lexical semantics; etymology). Each of these subjects is closely related to other linguistic disciplines: historical lexicography is part of the general "dictionary-making"; the historiography of lexicography is a branch of the historiography of linguistics', and, finally, lexical semantics and morphology include diachronic as well as synchronic developments.

Reinhard Hartmann states that "we need to be prepared for a complex grid of relationships rather than a single correlation between lexicography and history" and distinguishes as many as six approaches to the topic "dictionary history" alone.[5] Undoubtedly more subdivisions are possible, depending on the occasion. Considine for example, remarks on four "particularly striking" features in the papers in *Words and Dictionaries*.[6]

The articles in this volume all illustrate these relationships in some way or another. The fact that many of the contributions could have been classified into more than one category is significant in this respect. At the same time past, present and future lexicography are all represented in the authors' studies, as will be shown in the overview below and from the abstracts at the end of this chapter.

2. Dictionaries and Dictionary-Makers of Former Ages

The past is fully served in research on the history of our dictionaries, whether these follow synchronical or diachronical principles. Monuments of lexicography are the comprehensive 19th-century historical dictionaries such as the DWB, WNT and the OED. These works, completed recently or some time ago, have become objects of research themselves, and are never missing on the lists of contributions to conferences on dictionary history, particularly OED and DWB.

The historiography of these dictionaries as projects or as enterprises places us in the reality of the 19th-century linguistic world. The role of publishers could be of considerable importance, as Kirkness argues for the

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<http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ishll.html> for more information, also on the International Society for Historical Lexicography and Lexicology.

[5] Hartmann, "European Lexicography", 8.

[6] Considine, "Introduction", xv-xvi; these features are: "a high level of attention to the dictionary-making process", "a recourse to manuscript materials", "an increasing demand for statistical accuracy, associated with an increasing use of online material" and "clear awareness of the biographical".

German situation. While the Grimm brothers proved to be successful as editors of the DWB, Furnivall was not a successful editor of the OED (see Gilliver's paper). Gilliver reports of the traces of editorial work by Furnivall's subeditors, the OED-editors' predecessors.

Considine's and Leonardi's contributions are even more closely related to the historiography of linguistics in general, or even more broadly, to cultural history. In his contribution, Considine discusses Leibniz's interest in lexicography, not only as a practical tool, but even as a means for better understanding of the history of nations, while Leonardi examines Wilkins' use of linguistic and other scientific terms. These 17th-century authors reveal a vivid relationship with the scholarly world of their time.

The investigation of specialized historical dictionaries and of the development of the structure and content in succeeding general dictionaries is undertaken on a large scale in English dictionary research in particular. Coleman deals with a 19th-century slang dictionary and concludes that dictionary history can be fair: the less adequate slang dictionary by Barrère and Leland (1889-1890) was deservedly unsuccessful. Osselton on the other hand examines a thus far less known dictionary, the *Glossographia Anglicana Nova* (1707), that deserves more attention than it has received.

Bilingual lexicography was particularly important in the early centuries of lexicographical activities. Podhajecka explores an anonymous and less known English-Polish dictionary, printed in the 19th century, in which, apart from the Polish equivalents of the English headwords, she found lexical items in more than 50 languages.

For minority languages the compilation, and furthermore the computerization, of a general monolingual dictionary is of crucial importance. The relationship with the majority language with which they have to compete, has often influenced lexicographical activities. It is striking and satisfying to see that after all the work and attention for the large, national dictionaries, languages such as Frisian, Irish, Scots and Welsh have become objects of various kinds of research. Cf. the articles by Duijff, Popkema (Frisian), Hawke (Welsh), Nyhan (Irish), Rennie and Scott (Scots). Popkema announces a dictionary of Old Frisian that, unlike its predecessors, covers the complete collection of Old Frisian sources.

External factors, in particular language politics, have often influenced the way in which dictionaries for minority languages have been compiled. This also influenced the initiation of some national dictionaries by Language Academies, which were not always successfully realized, as in the case of the Portuguese dictionary discussed by Casanova. Another external factor, the gradual developing of a Frisian standard language, is

reflected in the choice of various words and word-forms in a Frisian dictionary (1900-1911), as shown by Duijff. Pellin argues for the Chinese vocabulary that an open mind towards loanwords and their codification in dictionaries could exist only as a result of the "open door" policies.

3. The Vocabulary of the Past

Research on words is not only carried out for the purpose of compiling dictionary entries; their lexical content itself can be object of investigation as well. Often both approaches are combined. Pinnavaia's paper on food and drink idioms focuses not only on the lexemes for food and drink and the idiomatic expressions themselves, but also examines their treatment in a series of dictionaries of English. The number of idioms registered in the dictionaries from Johnson's works onwards, appears to have increased, mainly due to a more comprehensive use of source material.

Scott's and Farquharson's studies both examine the reliability of certain dictionaries as documentations of the history of a certain language. Scott argues that the OED often does not mark as "originally Scottish" words which are first recorded in Scottish sources, and thus misrepresents the influence of Scots on the English standard language. In a slightly different way, the treatment of Àkán loanwords in a dictionary of Jamaican Creole can easily lead to wrong conclusions about the presence of the African language and its speakers in Jamaica, as Farquharson argues.

In a number of contributions in this chapter, not a dictionary but "yesterday's words" in their own right are in the focus of attention. Van Bree and De Vaan consider the lexical results of language contact in early language stages. The mechanisms of lexical borrowing are not always clear and the terms to describe the various forms are under discussion. An adequate terminology is necessary and for that reason De Vaan proposes to add *adstrate* as a neutral term for the cases in which the direction of borrowing is uncertain. Needless to say that historical lexicographers could take advantage of those classifications, even more since (etymological) dictionaries have started to add information on the supposed substrate character of part of the entry words, as Van Bree notices.

Even for periods in which more sources are available, the status of loanwords in relationship to their corresponding source terms can be complicated. Benati considers the 15th-century surgical handbook by Brunschwig, in which the author glosses the classical terms with German, and the other way round. In this case the contrast between the learned

physicians who were familiar with Latin and the surgeons who as craftsmen used the vernacular could have played a role.

Academic terminology and the use of neo-classical terms are often two sides of one coin. In Wilkins' *Essays* however, the author seems to have drawn his material from both classical and English sources. Leonardi's inventory of Wilkins' linguistic terms is interesting in more than one respect: it reveals not only his personal ideas, but also the state of the contemporary linguistics.

Waszinks examines morphological and semantic changes in neo-classical compounds. Once adopted in a language, these loans may develop new senses and values, either as a compound or as a single element. This article, and also Van Bree's and De Vaan's studies, reflect the increasing attention paid to the results of language contact and the way they are to be described in dictionaries, as we also saw for example in Benati's and Farquharson's contributions.

4. Current and Future Lexicography and Lexicology

Historical dictionary research is not seldom carried out by those familiar with historical dictionary practice. Today there still are projects under construction, although not enough in the eyes of many -- the aforementioned *Heidelberg Declaration* reflects the necessity to continue investing in historical dictionaries to keep our cultural heritage alive. Today, the large historical dictionaries have been realized and many projects on "minor" language periods (Middle Ages, Renaissance) and non-standard languages have also been successfully completed. Nowadays the emphasis in the lexicographical world often primarily lies on corpus building and text encoding. Therefore it is urgent to keep interest in practical lexicography alive, the more because part of our historical vocabulary is not yet described sufficiently.

In her contribution devoted to Old French charters, Peersman explores the possibilities of the compilation of a basic glossary to these texts. Traditionally literary texts were the main source of historical lexicography and it is gratifying to see that other text types are being researched, often thanks to the availability of electronic text corpora.

Reanalysis of texts written in the transitional area between Germany and the Netherlands has confirmed that Old Dutch is more than the famous 11th-century phrase *Hebban olla uogala nestas hagunnan* ... . That finally the *Dictionary of Old Dutch* (ONW) is compiled, is nothing more than a matter of justice and responsibility. Louwen and Schoonheim both report on the methods and principles and on various details of the project,

including sources, data base, entry form, entry structure and the lexicographical work-station used for processing the entries. The ONW is scheduled for publication in the year 2008. Examples of work in progress can also be found in for instance Pinnavaia's and Leonardi's contributions, whose research forms parts of larger projects, and in the various computerization projects of existing dictionaries.

Due to the logographic writing system, Chinese shows a more varied result of lexical interference than the Western languages. Pellin discusses the classification and treatment of the *wailaici* (loans and calques) in Chinese dictionaries of the 20th and 21st century. Since the loanwords are being included more and more in general dictionaries of neologisms, future lexicographical practice will also be confronted with both the linguistic and the political problems of this type of lexeme.

Defective traditional dictionaries create a need for new ones. Pointing out the gaps in older works is often how new dictionary projects start. Mooijaart argues that information available in various kinds of historical dictionaries of Dutch can be used as a basis for new products. The reusability of that data is favoured by modern techniques.

5. Technology of Today for Yesterday's Words

The technology of today is to a large extent decisive for the future of our dictionaries. Many of the aforementioned dictionaries or dictionary research projects have been carried out in a digital environment, and some of them would not have been launched in paper-form. Another important application, the computerization of existing hard-copy dictionaries, is not only a way to save important cultural heritage for future generations, it also provides unique information about the dictionary's lexical content and the entry design. Unfortunately, the less systematic or even somewhat chaotical structure of the older dictionaries does not allow a smooth and quick enrichment with linguistic information and formal mark up. Caron explains the various solutions of these problems with respect to the computerization of the 18th- century *Dictionaire* by Féraud. Nyhan too offers an exhaustive illustration of the mismatch often seen between the information categories of a hard-copy text and their significance when migrated into a digital environment. She focuses on the theoretical aspects and practical problems of the encoding language XML, used for the compilation of a *Lexicon* of medieval Irish.

Computerization halfway through a project has the advantage of forcing the editors into a more simple, systematic way of working and offering greater control over the bibliographical aspect of the work, as

Hawke shows in his contribution on the dictionary of Welsh. The first
(hard-copy) fascicle was published in 1950; the first electronic edition was
completed in 2002. This dictionary will eventually have to adopt XML in
order to gain full profit from the electronic data. Another example of
working according to a modular system is given by Rennie. She first
published an electronic edition of Jamieson's dictionary (1808) on the
internet and is now preparing an expanded edition, including both
linguistic and extra-linguistic information.

Statistical research such as the analysis carried out by Van Dalen and
Van Zundert is an outstanding example of methods and techniques made
possible by the computer. In the case of this project, the result is
information on the relative frequency of certain lexical items in a specific
author's vocabulary, used to distinguish between authors and even
between copyists.

6. Final remark

In 1961 WNT-editor Felicien De Tollenaere asked the Mathematic
Centre in Amsterdam to produce a computer aided index to Apherdianus'
Tyrocinium (1552), a Latin-Dutch learners dictionary. It was the first
electronic index in the area of Dutch language and the first time that full
access was offered to both languages of a bilingual dictionary. Since then,
computer techniques have expanded and refined the lexicographical
applications, and the *Tyrocinium* definitions form now part of the large
network of lexical information categories provided by the INL *Integrated
Language Database of the Dutch Language from the 5th until the 21st
Century*. Likewise we expect that the historical lexical and lexicographical
information in the present volume, which is valuable in its own right, will
function fruitfully in the network of studies on "yesterday's words" as
well.

7. Acknowledgements

Many articles in this volume greatly benefited from comments and
suggestions made by our colleages in English speaking countries.

Acknowledgements are due to Charlotte Brewer (OED), Sylvia Brown
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We thank Julie Coleman (University of Leicester) for her useful comments on an earlier draft of this Introduction.

Thanks should also go to Marion Korevaar (BA-student Dutch Language and Literature, Leiden University), who was of great help in getting the 27 contributions into one uniform text and file format.

8. Abstracts

Chiara Benati, Bilingual Glosses in Hieronymus Brunschwig's *Buch der Cirurgia*: A Handbook as Source for Historical Surgical Terminology
Chiara Benati discusses the vocabulary of the *Buch der Cirurgia* (1487), and in particular the relationship between Latin and Greek medical terms and their German counterparts. From the occurrence either as a part of a combination or in isolation, she concludes that some terms were well known and others not, and that didactic goals made Brunschwig gloss even the apparently familiar words.

Cor van Bree, Substrate Words
In Cor van Bree's contribution, substrate words and their place in the lexicon are explored. The author proposes three instead of two areas in the lexicon to explain the occurrence of certain substrate words. Evidence both in Town Frisian and Indo-European show that substrate words are likely to be found in the restricted sphere of use such as nature or children's games as well.

Philippe Caron, Computerizing Féraud's *Dictionaire critique de la langue française* from a Full-text Electronic Version to a Softly Tagged Release
Philippe Caron pleads for a special approach to old dictionaries in order to cope with their specific characteristics. Féraud's dictionary was at the beginning a mere collection of "remarques" on the French language presented in alphabetical order which accounts for its rather informal style. He shows how the various problems that arose from that characteristic were solved in a softly tagged release.

Isabel Casanova, Dictionary Making with or without the Help of Language Academies? The 2001 Portuguese Dictionary
Isabel Casanova focuses on dictionary policy in Portugal between 1779, when the Lisbon Academy of Sciences was established, and 2001, the year of publication of the *Dicionário da Língua Portuguesa Contemporânea*. She examines the theoretical assumptions underlying the only volume of the 18th-century Academy Dictionary (1783) and compares them with the modern principles followed in the *Dicionário da Língua Portuguesa Contemporânea*, the recent complete edition of the Academy Dictionary.

Julie Coleman, Lost between Hotten and Henley: Barrère and Leland's *Dictionary of Slang, Jargon & Cant*
Julie Coleman explores the differences between three nineteenth-century dictionaries of slang and seeks to explain the relatively low profile of Barrère and Leland's *Dictionary of Slang, Jargon & Cant*. After having assessed the three dictionaries in various respects she can only conclude that the relative obscurity of Barrère and Leland's dictionary is fully deserved.

John Considine, Leibniz and Lexicography
John Considines focuses on the philosopher Leibniz as a reader and promoter of dictionaries. He examines Leibniz' lexicographical ideas, in particular his identification of diachronic lexicography as a potential means to the unified understanding of the human past. Leibniz saw synchronic lexicography, especially in the form of his project for a universal illustrated dictionary, as a means to the understanding of the knowable contemporaneous world.

Karina van Dalen-Oskam & Joris van Zundert, The Quest for Uniqueness: Author and Copyist Distinction in Middle Dutch Arthurian Romances based on Computer-assisted Lexicon Analysis
The digital format of texts allows many kinds of quantitative analysis of vocabulary. The authors apply a specific statistical technic (the Delta procedure) for authorship attribution. They present their research into some Middle Dutch Arthurian romances known to be written by more than one author, showing how their results to date may lead to the development of a method of distinguishing not only between authors, but also between copyists.

Pieter Duijff, Towards Standard Frisian in the *Friesch Woordenboek*
Pieter Duijff examines how the compilers of the *Friesch Woordenboek* dealt with the standardization of the Frisian language in the dictionary. He discusses various questions, such as whether there was an intention to choose a standard and which dialects would be the basis for that standard.

Joseph T. Farquharson, Using Historical Dictionaries to Reconstruct Language History: The Case of Jamaican Creole
Joseph Farquharson argues that the linguistic history of a particular group of people can not directly be derived from a historical dictionary. In the case of the Dictionary of Jamaican English, the many Àkán words do not necessarily indicate an early presence of Àkán slaves in Jamaica. Further research on the complicated linguistic and demographic facts is necessary.

Peter Gilliver, The Philological Society's First *New English Dictionary*: Frederick Furnivall's Sub-editors and their Work
Peter Gilliver analyses lexicographical work preceding the OED and carried out by volunteer sub-editors working under the guidance of Frederick Furnivall. From examination of recently discovered material, we gain some indication of how the Dictionary was conceived by Furnivall and his sub-editors, and how it would have compared to the OED if their labours had come to fruition.

Andrew Hawke, Computerization on a Shoestring: *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* and the Computer
Andrew Hawke discusses the computerization of *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* (The University of Wales Dictionary of the Welsh Language), a historical dictionary of Welsh. Because money and manpower have always been severely limited, relatively inexpensive technology was adopted. So successful has this approach been that the original software is still used in the production of part of the second edition of the Dictionary, although a new data structure in TEI-compliant XML is now being prepared to enable a much more flexible approach to the complete revision of the Dictionary in the 21st century.

Alan Kirkness, What's in a Name? The Publishers of Grimm's *German Dictionary* 1830-1863 / 77
Alan Kirkness deals with Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm as lexicographers and their *German Dictionary*, known as *Grimm*. He focuses in particular on the role of the founding publishers of Grimm, Karl Reimer (1801-1858)

and Salomon Hirzel (1804–1877) and stresses the importance of the role played by publishers in relation to authors-cum-lexicographers.

Natascia Leonardi, John Wilkins' Metalinguistic Lexicon in the Panorama of Linguistic Terminology

John Wilkins' metalanguage includes linguistic terms which provide information both on Wilkins' linguistic principles and on the scholarship of 17th-century England. Leonardi concludes that the terminology related to historical linguistics is particularly revealing for the development of that branch.

Kenny Louwen, A Glimpse Behind the Scenes of the *Oudnederlands Woordenboek* (*Old Dutch Dictionary*)

The *Dictionary of Old Dutch* (ONW) is the subject of two articles. Kenny Louwen discusses some general aspects of the project under construction. He explains for instance some principles of reconstructing the standard Old Dutch word forms from the (often translated) source texts. He also discusses the information to be included in the ONW-entry.

Marijke Mooijaart, Dictionary of the Golden Age

Sometimes even very complete and comprehensive dictionaries do not meet all the user's needs. Marijke Mooijaart argues that a dictionary that focuses on the Dutch Golden Age (17th century) would help foreign and Dutch students and researchers to understand this culturally interesting period.

Julianne Nyhan, The Problem of Date and Context: Migrating an Irish Language Dictionary from Hard Copy to Digital Format

Julianne Nyhan deals with the problem of migrating a hard copy dictionary to digital format, i.e. compiling an electronic Lexicon of medieval Irish on the basis of *the Dictionary of the Irish Language*. It appears that inadequate cross-referencing and relative information labels for chronology are among the factors making an automatic migration impossible.

Noel Osselton, The *Glossographia Anglicana Nova* (1707, 1719) and the Royal Society

Noel Osselton draws the attention to the *Glossographia Anglicana Nova* (GAN, 1707), a small and anonymous dictionary, that has commonly been dismissed as a highly derivative work. He shows that the GAN is a work of considerable methodological interest, and that the additions in the 1719

edition share the concern for scientific vocabulary and the language of scholarship which is known to have preoccupied members of Royal Society in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

Catharina Peersman, Old French Charters: a Lexicographic Case Study
The description of the vocabulary of Old French charters in charter glossaries is the subject of Catharina Peersman's contribution. She explains the methodological and practical problems involved, such as polysemy and orthographical variation.

Tommaso Pellin, What is a *wailaici*? The Chinese Dictionaries of Lexical Interferences and their Theoretical Outlook
Tommaso Pellin discusses the state of the art in the Chinese lexicography of loan words (*wailaici*). He comments on the strong relationship between research into this lexical category and China's political and cultural history.

Laura Pinnavaia, Food and Drink Idioms in Two Hundred and Fifty Years of English Monolingual Lexicography
The treatment of idioms in the field of food and drink in British English monolingual dictionaries has changed through the course of time. Laura Pinnavaia's conclusions from her research are, that older dictionaries include fewer idioms, and that the citations are often taken from famous literary authors, while modern dictionaries are more comprehensive and representative in the coverage of idioms.

Mirosława Podhajecka, O zabytkach mowy ludu polskiego (1858): An Unknown Etymological Dictionary of English? Mirosława Podhajecka deals with an anonymous dictionary, discovered in the holdings of the British Library (London). She discusses the dictionary's macro- and microstructure, assesses sample entries and finally evaluates the dictionary as a work compiled by a polyglot amateur.

Anne Tjerk Popkema, A New Step in Old Frisian Lexicography: The *Altfriesisches Handwörterbuch*
Anne Tjerk Popkema describes the various efforts to supersede Von Richthofen's *Altfriesisches Wörterbuch* (1840) and Holthausen's *Altfriesisches Wörterbuch* (1925). These lexicographical tools fail to cover large parts of the Old Frisian text tradition. A new *Altfriesisches*

Handwörterbuch on the basis of Hofmann's work will shortly be available which offers full access to all Old Frisian sources.

Susan Rennie, The *Electronic Jamieson*: Towards a Bicentenary Celebration

Susan Rennie describes the scope and format of the *e-Jamieson*, the electronic version of John Jamieson's *Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language*, the first comprehensive dictionary of the Scots language. She discusses the reasons for retaining the separate formats of the 1808 and 1825 volumes, rather than choosing to digitise later, editorially combined editions of Jamieson. She also considers how the information in the *e-Jamieson* may be used by historical lexicographers, as well as by scholars of Scots language and literature.

Tanneke Schoonheim, Sources of the *Old Dutch Dictionary*

Tanneke Schoonheim gives insight into these sources. For some decades the Wachtendonck Psalter has been considered to be in Old Dutch, as have two other larger texts. Many glosses, toponyms and antroponyms also made the compilation of the ONW possible and necessary.

Maggie Scott, Unsung Etymologies: Lexical and Onomastic Evidence for the Influence of Scots on English

A considerable number of English words were first recorded in Scottish sources, but thus far this information has been insufficiently documented in dictionaries. This and other problems concerning the status of Scots and Scottish English in the light of current methodologies employed in the historical lexicography of Scots and English are discussed by Maggie Scott.

Michiel de Vaan, On Wanderwörter and Substrate Words in Etymological Research

Michiel de Vaan's contribution on Wanderwörter concludes with a proposal for the terminology of loanwords, taking into account the direction of borrowing. It appears that the traditional terms (*substrate* and *superstrate*) do not cover the many cases in which the direction of borrowing is uncertain.

Vivien Waszink, On *retrograde* and *retrojeans*: the Classical Element *retro*(-) in the Dutch Dictionaries WNT and Van Dale and in the English OED

Vivien Waszink describes the classical element *retro-* in the vocabulary of Dutch and English. Originally part of neoclassical compounds, this element has recently been combined with non-classical morphemes as well, and has even started to appear as a free morpheme.

CHAPTER TWO

DICTIONARIES AND DICTONARY-MAKERS OF FORMER AGES

DICTIONARY MAKING WITH OR WITHOUT THE HELP OF LANGUAGE ACADEMIES? THE 2001 PORTUGUESE DICTIONARY

ISABEL CASANOVA

1. Introduction

Established at the end of 1779, the main aim of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences was to promote Science and Education. Unlike the *Fiorentina* and *Della Crusca* academies, or, indeed, the French academy, it was not created specifically to develop or elevate the language. The Portuguese academy managed to publish the first volume of its dictionary fourteen years after it was formed, but this work was later abandoned, and the *Dicionário da Língua Portuguesa Contemporânea* was only finally produced in 2001.

Between 1779 and 2001, linguistic ideals evolved: elevation of the language ceased to be a priority, the lexicographic perspective was no longer standard. English appears to have become indispensable within the Portuguese lexis, thus allowing the neologism to be accepted as natural and necessary, and the lexicographer seems to have lost his role as advisor in the art of speech. However, choices still had to be made, perhaps now guided more by what the language actually was than what it ought to be.

It has been very rare to see preparatory work for Portuguese dictionaries and, in general terms, discussion about, and even dissemination of, the problems encountered during the process of their production have been avoided. The authors have made decisions on how to explain the "difficult" words, without ever specifying where these difficulties lie and on what basis these decisions are made. And the general public calmly accepts that if the Academy says that is the way it is, then that is the way it should be.

The main aims of this study are to follow Portuguese lexicographic thinking and to try to understand the role that Language Academies play—or should play—in the production of a dictionary. A comparison of several European experiences is enlightening, and the fact that Portugal had a late start in this area may actually have been an advantage since it was able to join the race at a time when it could benefit from centuries of experience

in other countries. The first Portuguese monolingual dictionary dates from 1783. The history of Portuguese lexicography has never known such primitive stages as that of Cawdrey and his *Table Alphabetical....* The question rests upon knowing whether anything has been gained from the publication of the long-awaited *Dicionário da Língua Portuguesa Contemporânea,* and whether it was of as much benefit as it should have or could have been.

2. Language academies in western Europe

The first modern dictionaries were produced in the European Renaissance, with the 17th century marked by the monumental works of the *Accademia della Crusca* and the *Académie Française.* England and Portugal had been left trailing.

England had only bilingual dictionaries—generally Latin to English—designed to facilitate the reading and translation of classical texts. However, the English language was developing rapidly and speakers began to encounter problems in decodifying their own language. Travellers, traders and diplomats brought back from Europe reports of their experiences and contacts with many, thus far, unknown languages. There emerged a desire to "normalise" and "stabilise" the mother tongue generally with a view to keeping it free of contamination and other influences—generally considered pernicious—from foreign languages. High-profile complaints soon emerged, specifically related to a perceived rising foreign influence. The sense of insecurity that began to invade intellectual life was very much the result of the Renaissance expansion of cultures. The 16th century, in particular, was replete with an underlying patriotic current that regarded foreign influence as indicating a loss of dignity and patriotism.

3. The Portuguese Academy

Portugal was caught up in this current of patriotism and produced important grammars in the 16th century with the authors of the major works expressing their intention to glorify and render worthy the Portuguese language. Scholars were concerned primarily in purifying and fixing the language in order to ensure it would be preserved and protected from contamination derived from other languages. Oddly, as was also the case in England, foreign words were taken to be those rooted in French or Italian, rather than Greek or Latin which were deemed to be the springs from which the Portuguese language should drink.

The first monolingual Portuguese dictionary would only be published in 1783, by Melo Bacellar with another important dictionary appearing in 1789, by António Morais Silva. Each of these works was written by a single man working alone, and each was the product of immense courage, attention to detail and sheer perseverance in overcoming all the difficulties inherent in such an extensive evaluative process. There was no preparatory work. The complaints set out in the preface are both constant and profound, particularly targeting the difficulty, the immense scope and sheer loneliness of the task undertaken. Only in 1793, towards the close of the 18th century, would the first volume of the *Dicionário da Academia Real das Sciencias de Lisboa* (Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon Dictionary) go to press, a magnificent volume that however only stretched as far as the letter A. Founded in 1779, this Royal Academy was a late arrival in relation to its European peers. Only the British Academy was still to come, even though Britain would witness the Philological Society's important work carried out from at least 1842 onwards.

Set up in 1542, the *Accademia Fiorentina* was the first of all European academies, but would encounter competition from the *Accademia della Crusca*, which was founded forty years later by five dissidents and would become the first European academy to produce its own dictionary. These five dissidents adopted a rather pedantic position in relation to the Florentine academy known for its more burlesque discourse and dialogues, taking on for themselves the task of *purifying* the language. *Crusca* means "bran" and the role of the academic—the *brigata dei crusconi*—lay in separating the wheat from the chaff, that is, separating the impure language (the chaff) from the pure wheat of the language. These scholars attributed themselves with this role of Tuscan "language purification", in keeping with the traditions of Petrarch and Boccaccio. Hence, they adopted as their motto a quote from Petrarch—"she who is given the fairest flower"—and the image of the machine then used to sift the flour: the *frullone*.

The first edition of the dictionary came out in 1612, only eight years after the first English dictionary, which, as mentioned, represented a still rudimentary form of glossary of the more difficult words. The Italian academy was, in the meantime, concerned with the purity of language being imbued with a patriotic sense of great worth, dignity and a corresponding spirit of purification.

In January 1635, the then King of France, Louis XIII, signed the founding charter for the *Académie Française*. That charter is perfectly explicit regarding the academy's purpose to raise and dignify the

language, in order to boost the nation as a whole. And as to its objective, the academy was established to:

> make French not only elegant but apt for all the needs of the arts and all the sciences. *Lettres Patentes de l'Académie Française*[1]

And article 24 of the statutes states:

> The main function of the Academy is to work towards, with all possible effort and diligence, the provision of sound rules for our language to render it pure, eloquent and able to express both the arts and the sciences. *Statuts de l'Académie Française*

The *della Crusca* and French academies overlapped in their ideal of language purity and dignity as a means of raising the level of patriotism. The same ideal can also be found in the rationale underlying the *Real Academia Española*, which was founded in the 18th century and took as its image a crucible being fired accompanied by the motto *Clean, certain and showing splendour*. In keeping with the approach adopted by its French and Italian peers, the Spanish academy also defined its purpose as:

> fixing the voices and vocabulary of the Castilian language with the greatest propriety, elegance and purity. *Brief History of the Real Academia Española*

These academies reflect the patriotism that prevailed across Europe well into the 18th century. All strove for the glorification and purity of their respective language while simultaneously attempting to infuse the language with some prescriptive ideal of purity.

Portugal only founded its Royal Academy of Sciences in December 1779 with its primary objective being the promotion of science and teaching. This contrasted with the purposes of the *Fiorentina* and *della Crusca* academies, as well as those of France and Spain, in that raising the standard of the national language was not its primary aim. Instead, this academy was, in the words of its founders, to:

> consecrate glory and public happiness, foster progress in the advance of National Instruction, perfection in the Sciences and Arts and the expansion of popular industry. *Accademia della Crusca, Primordi e Fondazione*

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[1] Translation of this and other citations by the author.

Without any apparent major normative priority, the Portuguese academy would adopt as its motto a verse from a fable by Phaedrus: *Arbores in deorum tutela* (trees in the care of the gods). The adoption of this specific verse is highly significant. The story goes that one day the gods decided to choose which trees they would take into their care: Jupiter chose the oak, Venus the myrtle, Phoebe the laurel, Cibele the pine and Hercules the poplar. Minerva was surprised and asked for what reason had they all chosen trees that did not bear fruit, with Jupiter answering that it was not appropriate to choose a tree simply for its fruit. However, Minerva chose the olive tree simply because of its fruit. The god of the gods and creator of men then declared he well understood why she was known as the goddess of wisdom; for when whatever we do serves no purpose, vain is our glory. The fable conveys the moral: you should only do that which bears fruit.

Without a doubt, that was certainly the spirit present in the creation of the Portuguese academy: *nisi utile est quod facimus, stulta est gloria* (when whatever we do serves no purpose, vain is our glory). Following the line later taken by the British Academy, set up in the 20th century, the Portuguese academy was entrusted with serving the public good in the fields of arts and letters, rather than bringing about some kind of language development.

Unfortunately, the Portuguese academy would only publish that first magnificent volume of the letter A in 1793 and make no further progress due to generalised political instability and inertia down the centuries. The second edition of the first volume –again only with the letter A—would finally see the light of day in 1975 and it would take until 2001 for a complete dictionary to be published.

Similar to what came to happen with all the major dictionary projects undertaken, the Royal Academy of Sciences in Lisbon, which became the Lisbon Academy of Sciences following the founding of the republic, states in its prologue to the first edition (published in 1793), that such work involved "a necessary level of diligence and application beyond the ordinary". This was in total harmony with almost all complaints from dictionary makers, take for example the words of Trench who later stated that "our great English dictionaries could only have been reared by enormous labour, patience and skill" while the Portuguese academy expresses its "profound tiredness and weariness of reading".

The first Portuguese dictionary makers set about the task on their own and provided little insight into the assumptions upon which they based their work. A dictionary, they stated, should take up the struggle in defence of the dignity of the language as a form of national identity. The