Lexicography in the 21st Century. In honour of Henning Bergenholtz

Sandro Nielsen & Sven Tarp (eds).
Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2009. 343 pages. ISBN: 978-90-272-2336-4.

Lexicography in the 21st century is a collection of papers published in recognition of the work of Professor Henning Bergenholtz. The book aims to describe the state-of-the-art in recent lexicography and puts forward new theoretical and practical proposals in this field. It contains fourteen contributions authored by highly regarded international scholars from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway, South Africa, Spain and Sweden, and who have published both dictionaries and authoritative works on metalexicography. The papers are relevant contributions to the field of lexicography and contribute to the comprehensive scope of topics contained in this book, which addresses mainly lexicographers, but also anyone interested in lexicography.

The volume opens with a biographic introduction by the editors on Professor Henning Bergenholtz, and ends with a list of his most important published works, presented in chronological order. Notes on the contributors and a subject index are also provided at the end of the book.

The contributions examine a wide range of aspects concerning lexicography. The book is divided into five parts, each consisting of multiple chapters dealing with the specific topic devoted to the part in question.

Part I, entitled "The dictionary, dictionary structures and access routes", addresses in-depth several aspects of a metalexicographic nature, i.e., data access, functions, article structures and dictionary reviewing. This part starts with the contribution by RUFUS H. GOUWS in which horizontal macrostructure ordering – niching and nesting – is evaluated with the focus on dictionary access and lexicographic functions. In the next paper, SANDRO NIELSEN proposes a theoretical and applied framework developed by the author to be used as a benchmark for writing reliable reviews both for printed and electronic dictionaries. The following paper is authored by SVEN TARP where he explores some of the new and endless possibilities –

expressed in the form of new article structures – offered by information technologies to retrieve noise-free lexicographic data. In the fourth chapter, HERBERT ERNST WIEGAND distinguishes the different types of hybrid textual structures of dictionaries by means of tree diagrams and presents a comprehensive typological excerpt of hybrid text constituent structures.

Part II, "Dictionary functions and users", deals with particular aspects concerning, as the title suggests, the functions and users in the specific dictionaries under study. The first paper, authored by SVEN-GÖRAN MALMGREN, discusses different information categories in Swedish monolingual dictionaries from the point of view of text production. In the following paper, PATRICK LEROYER deals with a functional transformation of existing lexicographic tools for tourists so that their communicative, cognitive, operative and interpretative information needs can be fully satisfied in various specific tourist situations. In the third chapter, LARS S. VIKØR first analyzes and evaluates the terminology of language planning proposed by Bergenholtz and Gouws (2006), after which the author deals with the role that the major official spelling dictionaries play in Scandinavia and the Netherlands.

Part III, "Subject-field classification and introductions", comprises two chapters dealing with the topic of subject in dictionaries from two different perspectives. In the first one, BO SVENSÉN reviews the subject-field classification scheme in the Nordic Dictionary of Lexicography and offers a reorganized subject-field classification model for metalexicography, along with a compilation of metalexicographic terms in English. In the second chapter, PEDRO A. FUERTES-OLIVERA analyzes the encyclopaedic information in systematic introductions contained in various business dictionaries, proposing consequentially a systematic introduction model for Accounting Dictionaries.

Part IV, entitled "Data retrieval and corpus lexicography", also has two chapters exploring the role of corpus in lexicography and presenting new applications for consulting electronic lexicographic resources. The opening paper, authored by D. J. PRINSLOO, can be divided into two main parts: the first one presents a general scenario describing briefly corpus compilation, annotation and exploitation, and the second provides a commented list of different resources that can be used for lexicographic purposes. FRANZISKUS GEEB opens his paper entitled "Lexicographical data in natural-language

systems" with a state-of-the-art section concerning human-machine communication, focusing on the relation between chatbots and lexicography. Then, the author presents the electronic dictionary platform called *looked4you*, which includes a chatbot that can be interrogated for lexical information, explaining in detail how information is structured and formalized in chatbots.

Part V, "Collocations and phraseology", contains three chapters that provide descriptions of dictionaries in respect to the way information is represented and formalized at a syntactical level. In the first paper, MARIE-CLAUDE L'HOMME begins with an introduction on how collocations have been treated in several specialized dictionaries, and proceeds to give an account of the methodology used for encoding and organizing collocations in *Dictionnaire de l'informatique et de l'Internet* (DiCoInfo), an online database which contains computing and Internet terminology. The following paper by JÓN HIMAR JÓNSSON presents the main characteristics of an ongoing electronic lexical semantic wordnet project for the Icelandic language, which serve the author as a basis for exploring the value of an independent phraseological description, for describing the phraseological dictionaries feeding the project with lexicographic information, and for analyzing how this information is structured and presented. Finally, the paper by THOMAS HERBST analyzes how several English learner dictionaries apply word class labels to express syntagmatic relations, to conclude that there are differences in terminology, and thus arguing in favour of a dictionary grammar to standardize this matter. The author also considers the different models employed to represent collocational information in both English collocations dictionaries and learner dictionaries, highlighting the fact that the wide range of devices used to present this combinatorial information proves the importance of collocations for learner dictionaries.

This volume is a collection of interesting papers that sheds light on the research that is currently carried out in the field of lexicography. It brings together the expertise and in-depth knowledge of a number of highly regarded international scholars – thus, scientific interest is guaranteed. One of its other strengths is its wide subject scope, since each contribution is devoted to a specific topic – all unique. Even though the articles deal with a different topic, they are integrated and inter-linked to form a coherent whole. The structure of the book is highly appropriate and the editors have done a magnificent job in its distribution. However, I have personally missed in the introduction an explanation of the contents of each part constituting the

book, so that readers have a global idea of what they are going to find in the volume beforehand.

In spite of the in-depth studies and specificity of the topics dealt with in the contributions, one notes the effort put into the authors' papers to produce a pedagogic and easy-to-read article. For example, wherever possible, every quotation, example or lexical unit appearing in a language other than English has been translated into this *lingua franca*. Moreover, most of the contributions begin with an illustrative introduction that gives the reader a point of departure, although some articles lack a conclusion or discussion section that could have helped the reader to sum up and arrive at an understanding of what has been discussed, as well as new lines of research arising from the study.

In conclusion, *Lexicography in the 21st century. In honour of Henning Bergenholtz* is a highly recommended book for lexicographers or linguists interested in lexicography who want to broad and deepen their knowledge in the current research carried out by leading scholars in this field.

[Review received May 2010]

Reviewed by **Chelo Vargas**
Universidad de Alicante (Spain)
chelo.vargas@ua.es

REFERENCES

Bergenholtz, H. & R.H. Gouws (2006). "How to do language policy with dictionaries?" *Lexicos* 16: 13-45.