

# Lexikos 18: 2008

## Opsommings / Abstracts

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### Artikels / Articles

- The Ideology of the Perfect Dictionary: How Efficient Can a Dictionary Be? 1-14  
*Michaël Abecassis*

**Abstract:** Dictionaries have become essential tools of the modern world. Not only have dictionary sales dramatically increased, but the variety of dictionaries and the competition between editors are also very much on the rise. Monolingual dictionaries attract native speakers for several reasons. Some wish to capture the subtleties of their own language, others to speak the 'standard' language, and an 'ideologically' politically correct variety devoid of colloquialisms, hence the crucial role played by style labels. Furthermore, a large number of word enthusiasts enjoy linguistic curiosities, archaisms and other vestiges from the past conserved in dictionaries. Is the concept of a perfect dictionary a reality or an ideal? There is no perfect student. Language learners, for whom dictionaries are of great importance, seek user-friendly material which will improve both their fluency in and understanding of the target language, and embed acquired lexis in their long-term memory. Lexicographers, in their search for perfection and in compliance with users' wishes, are constantly innovating, and every dictionary hopes to become a landmark in lexicography and in second language acquisition. This article aims to look at the way dictionaries have evolved and assess the latest generation of computer-based dictionaries, as well as consider possible developments which will contribute to the compilation of future dictionaries.

- The Effectiveness of Dictionary Examples in Decoding: The Case of 15-26  
Kuwaiti Learners of English  
*Hashan Al-Ajmi*

**Abstract:** This study tries to shed light on the role of dictionary examples in the comprehension of word meanings. An experimental procedure has been devised whereby two groups of students with English as major subject at Kuwait University were asked to provide the Arabic equivalents for ten English headwords. The first group was given a list of entries for these words copied from the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (OALD) while the second group had to read the same list but without illustrative examples. Results indicate that the students' decoding performance was negatively affected by the presence of illustrative examples in the dictionary entry.

- The Dilemma of Grammatical Data in Travel Dictionaries 27-45  
*Birger Andersen and Patrick Leroyer*

**Abstract:** Travel dictionaries are edited with a view to helping international tourists with no or very little previous knowledge of the foreign language. They aim to solve communicative problems in a number of specific situations in which tourists wish to engage in conversation. However, they also have to deal with the absence of the necessary listening and speaking skills of their users. The lexicographic information is normally twofold, as it includes a selection of relevant words and sentences as well as a selection of the grammatical rules that govern the integration of these words and sentences into tourist conversation — from words to utterances so to speak. In this article, we will focus on the selection and presentation of the grammatical data in order to investigate how they contribute to the fulfilment of their primary functions. Our thesis is that the grammatical data have to deal with a dilemma: helping tourists understand and be understood during a conversation while also helping them acquire some basic knowledge of the grammatical system of the foreign language.

Voorstelle vir die produksie van 'n vertaalwoordeboek vir professionele vertalers 46-62

*M.F. Crafford en Ilse Feinauer*

**Opsomming:** Die profiel van die potensiele gebruiker moet die riglyn wees by alle leksikografiese besluite telkens wanneer woordeboeke beplan, hersien of saamgestel word. Die formaat, struktuur en ordening van 'n vertaalwoordeboek gerig op professionele vertalers behoort gevolglik dus op die spesifieke behoeftes van hierdie bepaalde gebruikersgroep gebaseer te wees. Hierdie artikel bevat algemene riglyne vir die hantering van altwee die buitetekste en die sentrale lys van 'n vertaalwoordeboek gerig op die behoeftes van beroepsvertalers wat hoofsaaklik uit Engels (T2) in Afrikaans (T1) vertaal. 'n Moontlike formaat vir die mikrostruktuur van so 'n woordeboek (Engels > Afrikaans) word gegee en die moontlike leksikografiese bewerking van 'n aantal voorbeeldlemmas word in besonderhede bespreek. Die moontlikheid van formatiewe evaluering met behulp van die beginsel van gelyktydige terugvoer word kortliks aangeraak.

A New Way to Lemmatize Adjectives in a User-friendly Zulu-English Dictionary 63-91

*Gilles-Maurice de Schryver*

**Abstract:** Traditionally, Zulu adjectives have been lemmatized under their stems only. In this research article, an in-depth analysis is undertaken to make a case for the lemmatization of all frequent adjectival forms *with their adjective concords* rather. It is shown that the supposed explosion in size of the dictionary may be contained within a corpus-driven Sinclairian framework. The advantages of such a word-like treatment far outnumber the generalizations that have hitherto characterized the lexicographic treatment of adjectives in Zulu. The study is supported by ample dictionary extracts from a Zulu-English dictionary project aimed at junior users. Comparisons with existing dictionaries and textbook data are also made.

The Lexicographic Treatment of Quantitative Pronouns in Zulu 92-105

*Gilles-Maurice de Schryver*

**Abstract:** In Zulu, there are three kinds of quantitatives: inclusive, exclusive and numeral. For the lemmatization of these, even existing traditional dictionaries felt the need to move away from a pure 'stem' approach towards a 'word' approach. In a new Zulu-English dictionary project, this is not only confirmed, but is taken one step further with particular attention to the microstructure.

Bilingual Dictionaries, the Lexicographer and the Translator 106-118

*Rachélle Gauton*

**Abstract:** This article focuses on the problems, and advantages and disadvantages of the bilingual dictionary from both the lexicographer's and the translator's point of view, with specific reference to bilingual Zulu dictionaries. It is shown that there are many and varying problems the lexicographer has to deal with and take cognisance of when compiling a translation dictionary. Of these, the main problem is the basic lack of equivalence or anisomorphism which exists between languages. This non-equivalence between languages is also the root cause of the difficulties with which the translator or user of the bilingual dictionary has to contend. The problems experienced by translators therefore overlap to a great extent with those which the lexicographer experiences in compiling a bilingual dictionary. It is concluded that the user of a bilingual dictionary should not only know what to expect to find in a translation dictionary, but must also treat such a dictionary with caution and discernment. It is also shown that there are clear criteria which the lexicographer can follow in compiling a bilingual dictionary, which would then enable the user (and in particular the translator as user) to disambiguate the recorded information successfully.

Standardization or Stigmatization? Challenges Confronting Lexicography and Terminography in Sesotho sa Leboa 119-130

*V.M. Mojela*

**Abstract:** The article investigates the effects of the underutilization of the abundant vocabulary of Sesotho sa Leboa, which results from a one-sided standardization approach owing to the disregard and stigmatization of most dialects. Sesotho sa Leboa has several dialects differing greatly concerning terminology, pronunciation and vocabulary. The situation is complicated and aggravated by

a standardization which has sidelined more than half of the dialects because of factors such as the influence of colonialism and lack of government co-ordination, the missionary activities, and the influence of early writers and publications. The strict and narrow standardization of Sesotho sa Leboa resulted in the exclusion of large parts of the dialectal vocabulary, the forcing of dialect speakers to accept a foreign standard language, the creation of 'prestige' and 'inferior' dialects, the separation of the standard language from its own dialects and the awakening of a nationalistic spirit among some dialect-speaking communities. Finally solutions for the challenges caused by these developments are afforded.

## Lexicography and Linguistic Creativity

131-153

*Rosamund Moon*

**Abstract:** Conventionally, dictionaries present information about institutionalized words, phrases, and senses of words; more creative formations and usages are generally ignored. Yet text and corpus data provide ample evidence of creativity in language, showing that it is part of ordinary linguistic behaviour and indeed often systematic.

This article looks at four specific types of lexical creativity in English: figurative meaning, word formation, idioms, and spelling. Focusing on selected examples, it discusses corpus evidence and then treatment in (principally) three recent monolingual dictionaries for learners of English. It argues that, even taking into account the pedagogical function and limited scope of these dictionaries, more could be said about creative aspects of lexis, and the systematicity of creative usage. This would be of benefit and interest to dictionary users, and empower them.

## Traduire les énoncés religieux indigénisés: cas de la traduction du cilubà en français et en anglais

154-169

*Germain Mulamba Nshindi*

**Résumé:** Cet article s'efforce à examiner les difficultés inhérentes à la traduction du cilubà en français et en anglais de certains énoncés, à savoir, les expressions religieuses, les devises et les proverbes. Il a essayé de démontrer qu'une fois que le message biblique a été indigénisé en cilubà, il devient très difficile de le traduire à nouveau dans les langues européennes, en l'occurrence en français et en anglais. En effet, il contient des «africanismes» ou des réalités locales qui sont puisées dans la cosmologie africaine, laquelle n'est pas toujours conforme à la foi chrétienne. Enfin, l'emploi de l'ethnographie de communication du cilubà pendant les cérémonies religieuses incite à l'emploi des métaphores, des proverbes et autres aspects du langage imagé. À moins de recourir à la traduction fonctionnelle, l'interprète ne peut pas aider les locuteurs français et anglais à participer à ces pratiques langagières.

## The Effect of Lexicographical Information Costs on Dictionary Making and Use

170-189

*Sandro Nielsen*

**Abstract:** An important aspect for any lexicographer to consider is the ease with which users will be able to acquire the necessary information from the data presented in the dictionary, whether electronic or printed. Furthermore, this aspect has high priority with users and reviewers. A distinction is proposed between two general types of lexicographical information costs. Firstly, search-related costs are the effort required by the look-up activities users have to perform when consulting a dictionary to find access to the data they are searching for. It is argued that the access route, article structure, data distribution and cross-references may influence search-related information costs positively as well as negatively. Secondly, comprehension-related costs are the effort connected to the user's ability to understand and interpret the data presented in a dictionary. In other words: How easy or difficult is it for users to understand the data presented? Examples show how textual condensation, dictionary functions and use-situations may impact on the level of comprehension-related information costs. It is thus possible to establish a framework for evaluating lexicographical information costs for the purpose of dictionary making, use, analysis and research.

*Liezl Potgieter*

**Opsomming:** Woordeboeke is belangrike en noodsaaklike hulpmiddels vir vertalers, maar tog het baie vertalers gemengde gevoelens veral oor tweektalige woordeboeke. Terwyl hulle aan die een kant nie werklik daarsonder kan werk nie, bied tweektalige woordeboeke aan die ander kant dikwels vir vertalers min of geen leiding nie. Dit blyk ook dat tweektalige woordeboeke 'n onvoldoende hulpmiddel vir professionele vertalers by die vertaling van idioeme is. Die vertaling van idioeme behels meer as net die vertaling van enkelwoorde. In hierdie artikel word 'n moontlike model aangebied om die bewerking van idioeme in tweektalige woordeboeke te help verbeter.

*Piet Swanepoel*

**Abstract:** The reviewing of dictionaries is a time-honoured praxis, but reviewers have often been criticized for only describing the design features of the dictionaries under review and not evaluating these features, for narrowing their reviews down to one or two subjectively chosen design features, and for not explicating their evaluation criteria or indicating their validity.

Improving the quality of dictionary reviews is a task that has been delegated to dictionary criticism as a component of metalexigraphy. In this article, it is proposed that a first step in this direction would be to devise for each dictionary type a set of comprehensive, objective, valid, generally accepted, and operationalizable evaluation criteria. To this end, a general framework for the description and evaluation of dictionary evaluation criteria is developed in this article, using parameters from research on dictionary criticism and the usability of websites.

*Sven Tarp and Rufus H. Gouws*

**Abstract:** Language policy prevails at different levels and its formulation typically results in a prescriptive presentation of data. In their dictionaries, lexicographers have to respond to the decisions of language policy makers. In this regard dictionaries can adhere to a strict prescriptive policy by including only the prescribed forms. Dictionaries can also give a descriptive account of language use without making any recommendations or claims of correctness. Thirdly, dictionaries can be prescriptive by recommending certain forms, even if such a recommendation goes against the prescribed forms. This article offers an overview of different levels of language policy and the principles of prescription, description and proscription. Examples are given to illustrate certain lexicographic applications of prescription. It is emphasised that access to relevant data is important to dictionary users. Consequently the lexicographic application of proscription is discussed as a viable alternative to prescription. It is suggested that proscription, in its different possible applications, can lead to a lexicographic presentation that benefits the user and that contributes to the satisfaction of the functions of a given dictionary.

*Herbert Ernst Wiegand*

**Zusammenfassung:** In diesem Beitrag werden die Begriffe bereitgestellt, die benötigt werden, um jedes bereits gegebene oder noch zu planende gedruckte Wörterbuchregister in einer einheitlichen theoretischen Perspektive analysieren und entwickeln zu können, und zwar hinsichtlich seiner Strukturen, seiner Funktionen und seiner Typzugehörigkeit. Dazu werden zunächst die akzessiven Registerinträge untersucht: Zahlreiche Typen von Registerinträgen werden unterschieden, wie z.B. nach der Anzahl und nach den Typen der Registerangaben, die reduzierten, die vollständigen, die einfachen, die erweiterten und die angereicherten Registerinträge sowie nach der mediostrukturellen Orientierung u. a. die einfache und die mehrfach außenorientierten Registerinträge. Bei den Registerintragstrukturen werden hierarchische registerinterne Konstituentenstrukturen, hierarchische registerinterne Mikrostrukturen, registerinterne Adressierungsstrukturen sowie hierarchische registerinterne Angabenstrukturen dargestellt. Weiterhin wird eine Typologie von Registerzugriffsstrukturen präsentiert, in der u. a. die mediostrukturellen von den nichtmediostrukturellen Registerzugriffsstrukturen unterschieden und beide Typen weitgehend subtypologisiert werden.

Auf der Basis der unterschiedenen Eigenschaften und Teilen von Registern wird schließlich eine Typologie von Registern entworfen. Abschließend werden die Registerfunktionen betrachtet und exemplarisch gezeigt, was an Registern kritikwürdig ist.

### Lexikoprogrammatuur / Lexicosoftware

- Improving the Computational Morphological Analysis of a Swahili Corpus for Lexicographic Purposes 303-318  
*Guy De Pauw and Gilles-Maurice de Schryver*

**Abstract:** Computational morphological analysis is an important first step in the automatic treatment of natural language and a useful lexicographic tool. This article describes a corpus-based approach to the morphological analysis of Swahili. We particularly focus our discussion on its ability to retrieve lemmas for word forms and evaluate it as a tool for corpus-based dictionary compilation.

### Projekte / Projects

- Two Recent Major Afrikaans–English/English–Afrikaans Dictionaries from Pharos 319-336  
*Fred Pheiffer*

**Abstract:** When Pharos Dictionaries was established in 1996, its first order of business was to develop a comprehensive Afrikaans–English/English–Afrikaans dictionary that could succeed the standard-bearing but ageing TW (*Tweetalige Woordeboek/Bilingual Dictionary* by Bosman, Van der Merwe and Hiemstra). The article explains in detail and with examples how this new dictionary, *Pharos One* for short, was developed from the TW. Information about syllabification, grammar and usage were greatly enhanced, the lemma structure was made more accessible and thousands of new words and expressions were added. The most difficult aspect of the development process was the incorporation of older material from the TW. For the sake of comprehensiveness much of this material was retained, but because of the sensitive nature of many words and expressions from the old South Africa, usage instructions had to be added with great care. For the editing of the English–Afrikaans half the Pharos editors could draw on a plethora of quality British and American and bilingual European dictionaries, but for the Afrikaans–English half the editors had to rely on their own language knowledge. The article explains how with reference to electronic archives and the help of outside consultants the Pharos team could verify their judgment. In response to lagging sales, Pharos embarks on the development of a scaled-down version of *Pharos One* that would retain its best characteristics, but would have a more manageable size and affordable price. The article explains how a one-third reduction of *Pharos One* was achieved to produce this new dictionary, called the *Concise* for short.

- Wine and Words: A Trilingual Wine Dictionary for South Africa 337-348  
*Michele F. van der Merwe*

**Abstract:** The South African wine industry identified the need for a special-field on-line dictionary on viticulture and oenology in Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa. The dictionary provides information on wine terminology as well as linguistic information on the use of such terminology. The purpose of this article is to give a description of the project. The process of compiling the dictionary is described, from the co-operation between the wine industry and lexicographers to the intended target users and the choice of languages of the dictionary. Functions of the dictionary are discussed, with reference to specific user situations, namely text production, text reception and translation. A system of labels has been designed for the dictionary and its benefit for the user is explained. In assisting the user to make an informed choice of a term, the notion of proscriptiveness has been followed in the presentation of information in the wine dictionary.

### Leksiko-opname / Lexicosurvey

- A Survey of the Dictionary Use of Gabonese Students at Two South African Universities 349-365  
*Guy-Modeste Ekwa Ebanéga and Fatima Tomba Moussavou*

**Abstract:** This article presents a preliminary study on Gabonese users' knowledge, opinions, attitudes and habits of the use of dictionaries, and their dictionary culture. It is based on the principle that the lexicographer should know the target users and their needs (Householder and Saporta 1962: 279). The aim of the article is to present and discuss research findings of a lexicographic survey conducted among 100 Gabonese students at the University of Stellenbosch and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology with regard to dictionary use and culture. In this article, we discuss the objective of the research, the research subjects, the research methods, the research coverage, the research findings, the description and the critical analysis of the data.

### Leksikonota / Lexiconote

L.T. Marole: A Forgotten Pioneer in Tshivenda Lexicography 366-373  
*Munzhedzi James Mafela*

**Abstract:** L.T. Marole is a pioneer in Tshivenda lexicography. He is especially known for the compilation of word lists and phrase books. Through his production of these lexicographic works, Marole has preserved some Tshivenda terminology which is now regarded as obsolete; for example, terminology regarding names of animals, parts of the body, kinship relations and sicknesses. This type of terminology could be useful to the present younger generation. Readers may learn much about Tshivenda culture from Marole's works. However, his works have not received recognition from Vhenda dictionary users and compilers. The public is largely unaware of his works. This article aims at making the public aware of Marole's contribution to the development of Tshivenda lexicography, emphasising that this contribution should not be ignored as being insignificant.

### Leksikobibliografie / Lexicobibliography

Bibliographical Materials for Afrikaans Etymological Lexicography 374-409  
*Jeremy Bergerson*

**Abstract:** Afrikaans etymological lexicography has yet to see an analytic dictionary along the lines of Sigmund Feist's *Gotisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* or Anatoly Liberman's *An Analytic Dictionary of English Etymology*. Before an analytic dictionary of Afrikaans etymology can be written, a comprehensive bibliography of works and articles on the subject must first be brought together. This collection is a first step towards creating a resource for Afrikaans similar to Liberman's *A Bibliography of English Etymology*.

### Resensieartikel / Review Article

An Analysis of *The Oxford Guide to Practical Lexicography* (Atkins and Rundell 2008) 423-445  
*Gilles-Maurice de Schryver*

**Abstract:** Since at least a decade ago, the lexicographic community at large has been demanding that a modern textbook be designed — one that would place corpora at the centre of the lexicographic enterprise. Written by two of the most respected practising lexicographers, this book has finally arrived, and delivers on very many levels. This review article presents a critical analysis of its features.