



Some comments on the functions of bilingual dictionaries

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally, a bilingual dictionary was called a translation dictionary and indeed, the translation of texts was the main goal of creating of such dictionaries. Bilingual dictionaries arose in connection with the development of political, economic, and cultural ties between peoples. Bilingual dictionaries provide the users with information about the vocabulary and grammar of another language, as well as concepts about a different culture, a different vision of the world. This article provides an overview on the main functions of bilingual dictionaries

Keywords:

dictionary, monolingual dictionary, bilingual dictionary, language, function

Introduction

Dictionary is defined as the informative treasure of culture, science and art of a certain group of people. It means as the gift of great difficulties to progress the worldview of people. Thus, lexicography can be compared with trying to dig a well with a needle. Each lexicographic work is worthy of respect and admiration. We know well, dictionaries were the guiding stars for the people who sought knowledge not only in the field of linguistics and the field of lexicography but also in all the trades and fields developed by human beings for many centuries. The status of lexicography as a science might be problematic to explain those times as Berkov (2004) defined that lexicography was one of the most ancient kinds of linguistic activities of human beings and it was often considered to be less 'prestigious' than some other fields in linguistics and therefore less popular among prominent linguists.

James Murray who was one of the early editors of the "Oxford English Dictionary", had delivered lectures on the evolution of English lexicography and he claimed which still remains true today and will continue to be true in the future: "the English dictionary like the

English constitution is the creation of no one man, and of no one age; it is a growth that has slowly developed itself a down the ages".

Dictionaries play an important role in various fields of human activity, contribute to improving the correctness and expressiveness of the speech of native speakers, and reflect the knowledge accumulated by the lingua-cultural society throughout the history of its development. Dictionaries perform a special function in the field of education, they act as intermediaries between society and the user of the dictionary, they are necessary to eliminate discrepancies between individual and collective consciousness. Bilingual dictionaries are considered as a repository of culture on the one hand, and on the other as bridges between different cultures, representing not only linguistic forms, but also cultural facts. Bilingual dictionaries provide an opportunity to learn foreign languages, learn about other cultures. Constantly developing intercultural interaction, strengthening contacts between representatives of different linguistic cultures, determine the relevance of further study of the specifics of a bilingual dictionary.

Materials and Methods

According to R. Hartmann and G. James, a bilingual dictionary as “a type of dictionary that correlates the lexical composition of two languages through translation equivalents, as opposed to a monolingual dictionary in which interpretations are given in one language ... By providing lexical equivalents, a bilingual dictionary helps language learners and translators to read or create texts in a foreign language. However, finding suitable lexical equivalents is a rather difficult task, especially in terms of languages associated with different cultures” (Hartmann & James, 1998). L. Zgusta (1971) defined “The main goal of a bilingual dictionary is to correlate the lexical units of one language with those lexical units of another language that are equivalent to them in lexical meaning”.

These definitions make it possible to draw the following conclusions:

- 1) a bilingual dictionary correlates the lexical systems of two languages;
- 2) the meaning of the lexical unit of the source language is conveyed by means of an equivalent in the target language;
- 3) establishing equivalence between the lexical units of two different languages is a difficult task, especially if these languages represent cultures that are very distant from each other.

Currently, there is a wide variety of bilingual dictionaries. Traditionally, they are divided into two large groups: general dictionaries that translate common vocabulary from one language to another; and scientific, scientific-technical and technical dictionaries, which mainly include terms for various branches of science and technology or highly specialized terminology. B.T. Atkins (2008) divided bilingual dictionaries into unidirectional and bidirectional. This distinction is related to the structure of the dictionary and, as a result, affects the functions and meaning of these dictionaries for users. For example, we may say, a one-way English-Uzbek dictionary has one text, with the source language being Uzbek and the target language being English. The situation is different with bidirectional dictionaries, in which there are two texts: in one the source language is Uzbek,

and the target language is English, in the second it is vice versa.

The functions of unidirectional and bidirectional dictionaries also differ. In the case of a one-way dictionary, for a native speaker of the source language, the dictionary is a “coding” (active) dictionary, and for a native speaker of the target language, it is a “decoding” (passive) one. Of the two texts of the bidirectional dictionary, each performs two functions simultaneously - encoding and decoding. In our view, dictionary should contain such characteristics of the word that will contribute not only to understanding the word, but also to its correct use.

The classification of skills is based on the typology of the functions of a bilingual dictionary, presented in the work of J. Magdan, (1990) who distinguishes:

- 1) understanding of the text in a foreign language without translation into the native language (understanding of the text in the target language);
- 2) translation of the text from the native language into a foreign language (understanding of the text in the source language, creation of the text in the target language);
- 3) creation of a text in a foreign language without relying on a text in the native language (production of a text in the target language);
- 4) translation of the text from a foreign language into the native language (understanding of the text in the target language, creation of the text in the source language).

Depending on their size, bilingual dictionaries contain two parts, two sections, which are either combined in one or divided into two books.

For example: one section lists lexemes of the source language and their equivalents in the target language, the other, on the contrary, presents the lexemes of the target language and their equivalents in the source language. This combination of bilingual materials suggests the possibility of successful use of these dictionaries by speakers of both languages.

Results and Discussions

Modern lexicography is a vocabulary industry that satisfies the need for a wide variety of types of information about a word. This science develops in two main directions. One is the creation of specialized dictionaries that would contain information of only one type (for example, only about the origin of a word or about its spelling). Another is the creation of "complex" dictionaries that would include, if possible, all the information about the word: not only would they give an interpretation of its meaning, grammatical characteristics, pronunciation and spelling rules, but also describe its semantic connections with other words (synonyms, antonyms), features its use in different styles of speech. Sometimes, for completeness, such complex dictionaries also include encyclopedic information about the thing that the word names. Various types of dictionaries are being developed depending on who they are addressed to (academic, educational, for general use, reference dictionaries for professionals in various fields of activity, dictionaries for various technical, applied purposes).

Dictionaries play an important role in solving the problem of "language and culture". On the one hand, a dictionary is a snapshot of an ever-renewing and in motion language on the other hand, it is a cultural phenomenon that not only reflects modern culture, but also captures its previous states.

In general, the types of educational dictionaries correspond to the main types of philological dictionaries. Their main difference lies in the fact that educational dictionaries have a teaching orientation and are used as one of the teaching aids. Educational dictionaries are anthropocentric. Their main task is to help a person in the formation of language as an accessory of consciousness and in the effective use of this language.

Bilingual dictionaries are special lexicographic publications representing units of one language and their equivalents in another language. Different types of bilingual dictionaries are aimed at developing different skills in users who are native speakers of the

source language and the target language. Bilingual dictionaries are traditionally divided into active (bidirectional) and passive (unidirectional).

A bilingual dictionary establishes links between two languages, so it also reveals the relationship between two cultures: the left-hand side of a bilingual dictionary typically presents a list of cultural facts encoded by the lexemes of the source language, while the right-hand side contains a parallel list of equivalent cultural facts from another language.

For modern lexicography, the question of the relationship between linguistic and non-linguistic (encyclopedic, regional studies, etc.) information in the dictionary is significant. Bilingual dictionaries are seen as a repository of culture, on the one hand, and as bridges between different cultures, on the other.

The relationship between culture and dictionaries (both monolingual and multilingual) shows that dictionaries represent not only language, but also culture. Dictionaries represent culture because words are associated with culture. Thus, dictionaries, which are an archive of the words of a language, actually represent the culture contained in the language.

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