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Can Authority be Sustained while Balancing Accessibility and Formality?

Abstract

Economics has developed into a quantitative discipline that makes extensive use of mathematical and statistical concepts. When writing a dictionary for economics undergraduates it has to be recognised that many users will not have sufficient training in mathematics to benefit from formal definitions of mathematical and statistical concepts. In fact, it is more than likely that the user will want the dictionary to provide an accessible version of a definition that avoids mathematical notation. Providing a verbal description of a mathematical concept has the risk that the outcome is both verbose (compared to a definition using appropriate mathematical symbols) and imprecise. For the author of a dictionary this raises the question of how to resolve this conflict between accessibility and formal correctness. We use a range of examples from the *Oxford Dictionary of Economics* to illustrate this conflict and to assess the extent to which a non-formal definition can be viewed as authoritative.

Pedro A. Fuertes-Olivera

Designing Online Dictionaries of Economics: Two Opposing Views

Abstract

This paper supports the argument that a dictionary of Economics in the broad sense of the word is any information tool that contains structured data – e.g. dictionary articles, outer texts, hyperlinks, etc. – which can be used for retrieving information on economic concepts, economic language, economic instructions, and/or economic operations. Some of these are on the Internet and are accessed by individuals for concrete consultation in one or more situations. This definition is based on the tenets of the *Function Theory of Lexicography*, the theoretical construction initiated at the Aarhus School of Business in the 1990s which has since worked on the theory and practice of dictionaries (Bergenholtz /Tarp 2002, 2003, 2004; Tarp 2008; Fuertes-Olivera/Tarp 2014). This has resulted in a specific approach to dictionary making, which is identified in this chapter as a *lexicography-based approach*. On the other hand, some scholars espouse a different view, which is basically rooted in the theories and methods of (Applied) Linguistics (Rundell 2012a) and identified here as a *linguistics-based approach*. Both views are discussed and illustrated in relation to three specific issues: (a) the concept of a dictionary of Economics; (b) the sources of lexicographic data used in different dictionaries of Economics; (c) access to data and data presentation in several online dictionaries of Economics.

José Mateo

Lexicographical and Translation Issues in the Inclusion of English Financial Neonyms in Spanish Bilingual Dictionaries of Economics on Paper

Abstract

This is a crossroads time for dictionaries in print in general and for bilingual dictionaries of Economics in print in particular. A time when the prevalence of information technologies supposedly makes access to specialized lexicographical information easier and faster. The present study first reviews briefly the current situation of bilingual dictionaries of Economics on paper and their viability in a near future. It then examines, with more detail, the specific lexicographical issue of incorporating (i.e. translating) English financial neonyms, which appear practically every day in print and internet media, into English-Spanish/Spanish-English Dictionaries of Economics on paper, normally published in the lapse of years. This gap between the immediacy of the Internet and the delay of printing, seems to cause serious problems to bilingual lexicographers specialized in Economics especially when questionable translations of such neonyms are already circulating on the web. This, in addition to the ample presence of electronic glossaries and dictionaries, easily accessible by translators and professionals, but whose reliability, on the other hand, is not always guaranteed. Finally, a more active role is recommended to bilingual lexicographers in Economics by taking advantage of internet information media services and by joining efforts with finance experts and professionals.

Deny A. Kwary

The Evolution of Dictionaries of Economics: from a Glossary to a Lexicographical Information System

Abstract

Dictionaries of economics have evolved over time. In the past, most dictionaries were similar to glossaries and were in printed form. In this Internet era, some printed dictionaries have evolved into online dictionaries with various number of technological features. However, the evolution of these dictionaries has not taken into account the evolving needs and situations of the users. Consequently, as we can see from the review of the current online dictionaries of economics, these dictionaries have failed to satisfy the needs of the users, particularly the spoken text reception needs. This paper presents some principles in creating a future dictionary of economics that can satisfy the needs related to the situation when a non-native English speaker is listening to a business news in the English language. The future dictionary or the proposed dictionary in this paper takes the concept of a lexicographical information system (LIS) that integrates several components into the dictionary. The four components discussed are a voice recognition function, a tooltip, an auto-summarize function, and a definition-finder. This paper shows why these four components are needed and how they can solve the users' lexicographical problems correctly, promptly, and conveniently.

Valeria Caruso

A Guide (not only) for Economics Dictionaries

Abstract

The recent report by Besomi (2013) shows the huge number of Economics dictionaries available online, but also describes some of their shortcomings; on the contrary Fuertes-Olivera (2012) points out the potential of these resources in a learning context. However, in order to offer a quick reference guide to Economics dictionaries for web surfers, an evaluation system (Caruso 2011) has been designed to assess dictionary usability with respect to three kinds of prospective users (laymen, semi-experts, and experts), both in cognitive and communicative tasks, and with special reference to two types of situations in which the dictionaries might be consulted, namely translation and learning. This project, however, is not devoted to testing data quality, therefore it doesn't necessarily give any guarantees to web surfers regarding the contents provided by unrestricted dictionaries found on the Internet.

The analysis of Economics dictionaries carried out using this tool, offers a quantitative survey of the overall lexicographical features they display, proving that, even if these resources are on average not particularly suited for communicative tasks, some of them include specific kinds of data that are considered crucial for supporting users in text production (Alonso et al. 2011).

Emilie Sand Pedersen & Helle V. Dam

Short-Term Memory in the Production Phase of Sight Translation

Abstract

This article reports on an empirical study on short-term memory in sight translation. The aim of the study was to test the hypothesis that sight translation requires the use of short-term memory during target-text production, as suggested by previous research. The hypothesis was tested on the basis of an experiment involving sight translation from Spanish into Danish and subsequent interviews with the translators. The data – the Spanish source text, seven sight translations into Danish, and the post-interviews – were analysed using both quantitative and qualitative methods, and the results of the study confirmed the hypothesis. In fact, the (quantitative) analyses of the sight-translated texts indicated that the subjects needed their short-term memory extensively during target-text production. However, the (qualitative) analyses of the interviews showed that the subjects had little awareness of this need.

Cecilia Lazzeretti

A Landscape Never Goes Out of Style

Diachronic Lexical Variation in Exhibition Press Announcements

Abstract

The paper focuses on diachronic lexical variation in a professional textual genre which has gained growing importance over time in the field of museum public relations and art discourse: exhibition press announcements (EPAs). The aim of the analysis is to investigate the language of EPAs from a diachronic perspective in order to identify word frequencies showing large increases or decreases, or stability in word frequencies. Baker's (2011) method to distinguish variation over time across multiple corpora was applied and particular attention was placed on the presence of "lockwords", i.e. words "relatively static in terms of frequency" (Baker 2011: 66). The analysis is carried out on a corpus of EPAs dating from 1950 to 2009 issued by American and British museums. The study reports on a number of trends relating to linguistic and cultural change of EPAs, including the emergence of new criteria in assessing the value of artists and artworks despite a certain consistency in terms of subjects, the shift from one-item to multi-item exhibitions and the preference for more vivid and straight-forward descriptions. For instance, the frequency of the noun *landscape* has remained stable over time, suggesting that this subject is particularly consistent in art displays, quite a sort of classic, that never grows old, while the artist's *career* – a word showing a clear pattern of growth – has become particularly valuable over time for museum professionals in charge of exhibitions.

Keywords: press releases, art discourse, museums, diachronic, variation, lexis

Henning Bergenholtz & Heidi Agerbo

Meaning Identification and Meaning Selection for General Language

Monolingual Dictionaries

Abstract

The traditional way for lexicographers to deal with polysemy in dictionaries is by applying the terms lumping and splitting. We will not follow this tradition. Instead, we argue that the identification and selection of meaning items (= polysems) should be treated in the same way as the identification and selection of lemmas. Identifying meaning items is comparable to identifying different words, the only difference being that meaning items share the same orthographic form. When identifying meaning items, we do not at the outset assume that a somewhat abstract meaning can be split up. Instead, we always assume that there may be many meaning items connected to a lemma, and we try to identify them – though for some lemmas, it is only possible to identify one meaning item. The process of identification involves a method that combines analyzing corpora and establishing a meaning relationship to references in the world (in this contribution called things), followed by a meaning formulation of the identified meaning items which can be used for reception situations. Not always – as in the case of lemma selection – will all the identified meaning items be included in the dictionary. The selection of identified meaning items will depend on the genuine purpose of the dictionary.