OUTSIDE MATTER COMPONENTS OF ENGLISH-LATVIAN DICTIONARIES COMPILED BEFORE WORLD WAR II

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Abstract. The study focuses on the investigation of outside matter components included in the general English-Latvian dictionaries published before World War II (WWII). The first English-Latvian dictionary was published in 1924, six more dictionaries of various sizes and structural complexity were compiled before WWII which temporarily interrupted the development of the English-Latvian lexicographic tradition. Most of the dictionaries compiled during this period are small, only three of them contain 20-30 000 headwords, the others are considerably smaller. The goal of the study is to identify, classify and describe the functions of the outside matter components included in these dictionaries. The framework of the analysis was based on Svensén's (2009) classification of outside matter components focusing on the functions rather than the location of these components. The analysis revealed some typical features related to the scope and location of the outside matter components of various functions encountered in the front and back matters of the seven ELDs published before the outbreak of WWII.

Keywords: English-Latvian dictionaries, lexicographic tradition, megastructure of dictionaries, outside matter components of dictionaries

INTRODUCTION

Apart from the main headword list dictionaries normally contain a number of outside matter components of various length, contents and function. These components can be located in the front, middle or back matter of the dictionary and, alongside with the main headword list, form the megastructure of the dictionary.

The study focuses on the investigation of the outside matter components in the English-Latvian dictionaries (ELDs) compiled in the initial period of the development of the English-Latvian lexicographic tradition. The tradition started in 1924 with the publication of the first general ELD compiled by Dravnieks (henceforth referred to as Dravnieks, 1924), six more dictionaries of various volume and complexity were published prior to WWII (Godiņš, 1929; Karlis Roze and Klaudija Roze, 1931; Curiks and Bangerska, 1937; Turkina, 1937; Akuraters, 1940; Pelcis, 1940). Most of these dictionaries are very small – only Dravnieks', Turkina's and Pelcis' dictionaries contain 20 000 to 30 000 headwords, the others fall in the category of small and very small dictionaries.

However, they play an important role in establishing some megastructural features of the whole lexicographic tradition.

It should be noted that the period from 1924 till 1940 or, roughly speaking, before WWII has been selected for the study because it constitutes the first period of its development which was disrupted by the outbreak of WWII. After the war several ELDs were published from 1945 to 1947 outside Latvia, mostly in the refugee camps in Germany. These dictionaries, despite being small and obviously limited in all possible ways, still write a very peculiar page in the history of English-Latvian lexicography. No new dictionaries were published in Latvia till 1948 when the first repeated edition of Turkina's dictionary appeared. The first newly compiled ELD published in Latvia was released only in 1957.

Thus, the goal of the study is to identify, classify and describe the functions of the outside matter components included in the ELDs published before WWII. To reach this goal the following research question was addressed: what outside matter components are encountered in the ELDs published during this period and what are their functions?

The following research tasks have been set to reach the goal of the study: to perform a review of the existing research in the field of the major structural levels of dictionaries with the focus on the megastructure and outside matter components; to collect samples of lexicographic material for the analysis of outside matter components encountered in the ELDs published before WWII; to specify the criteria of analysis and analyse the lexicographic material employing the selected criteria.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1 MEGASTRUCTURE AND OUTSIDE MATTER COMPONENTS OF DICTIONARIES

Metalexicographic literature distinguishes among three major structural levels of dictionaries: microstructure (the structure of the entry), macrostructure (the complete set of headwords) and megastructure (the whole dictionary from cover to cover). According to Hartmann (2001: 61) the megastructure of a dictionary is 'the all-embracing textual framework which in addition to the central macrostructure also includes front matter, middle matter and back matter'. The front, middle and back matter constitute the so called *outside matter* components of the dictionary (e.g. Cop, 1989: 761; Hartmann and James, 1998; Svensén, 2009). Only the front and the back matter components of the megastructural level of dictionaries will be further investigated in the present study since bilingual dictionaries (and also the English-Latvian dictionaries) traditionally do not contain any middle matter components described by Hausmann and Wiegand ([1989] 2003: 213) as 'those immediate constituents of the whole dictionary text which are inserted in the (central) word list but which are not part of this word list'.

It is relevant to note that the division of dictionary structure into three basic levels is not unanimously accepted by the whole lexicographic community. While, for instance, Hartmann and James ([1998] 2001), Hartmann (2001) and Svensén (2009) distinguish among three basic structural levels, such scholars as, for instance, Nielsen (1990), Bejoint (2000), Landau (2001), Jackson (2002), Atkins and Rundell (2008), single out two structural levels of the dictionary without employing the term megastructure when describing the overall structure of the dictionary. However, the three-tiered division, and the further subdivision of the megastructural level into separate outside matter components has been adopted for the purpose of this study.

It should be added that apart from the basic structural levels discussed above, some scholars (e.g. Hausmann and Wiegand, [1989] 2003; Bergenholtz and Tarp, 1995; Nielsen, [1999] 2003; Hartmann, 2001) refer also to several subsidiary structural levels, for instance, cross-reference structure (or mediostructure), access structure (or search path) and addressing structure, however, these structural levels will not be further investigated in this study.

Hausmann and Wiegand ([1989] 2003: 211) observe that in most dictionaries 'the front matter is not as a whole a functional part of the dictionary, but rather an arbitrary set of functional text types'. Cop (1989: 762) also underscores the heterogenic character of the outside matter as well as the fact that separate components can contain linguistic as well as encyclopaedic information. Only one component of the outside matter is generally viewed as indispensable, namely, the *user's guide* or the component informing the user about the structure and usage of the dictionary (e.g. Cop 1989: 761; Hausmann and Wiegand, [1989] 2003: 213; Gouws and Prinsloo, 2005: 57). The *preface* and the *table of contents* are also occasionally mentioned as relevant informative outside matter components (e.g. Nielsen, 1990: 55), though much less frequently. It can be concluded that in comparison to the main entry list (the macrostructure) and the information provided in each entry (the microstructure), mandatory for every dictionary, the front and back matters of the dictionary can contain various components of linguistic or encyclopaedic contents, or informative function; also they can be located either in the front or the back matter of the dictionary.

Distinction can also be made between *integrated* and *non-integrated* outside matter components (Kammerer and Wiegand, 1998 in Gouws and Prinsloo, 2005: 59–61). According to the scholars the outside matter component is viewed as integrated if it contains information that supplements the one provided in the central wordlist (e.g. personal names, grammatical data); however, if it does not present a direct link with the contents of the central headword list, it is considered to be non-integrated (e.g. lists of weights, measures, symbols, etc.). Opinions differ about the necessity of the non-integrated outside matter components. Gouws and Prinsloo (2005: 58) acknowledge the optional character of these outside matter components, but still maintain that they can 'play an important role to enhance the quality of the information transfer to which the dictionary is

committed'. Nielsen (1990: 55–57), on the contrary, holds that if an obvious link between the headword list and these components cannot be established, they can be excluded from the outside matter of the dictionary.

2 SVENSÉN'S CLASSIFICATION OF OUTSIDE MATTER COMPONENTS

The distinction into integrated and non-integrated outside matter components is too general to serve as a basis for the analysis of the megastructural components of ELDs. A more detailed and comprehensive classification of outside matter components is provided by Svensén (2009: 379–386). Stressing the irrelevance of the physical location of these components (in the front, middle or back matter), Svensén suggests a classification according to their function which contains four main categories:

1) components providing information on the language(s) described in the dictionary;

2) *metafunctional* components providing details about the dictionary and its use;

3) components constituting the access structure;

4) components with some other function.

The outside matter components belonging to the first category (components providing information on the language(s) described in the dictionary) in general terms provide similar information to the one offered in the central headword list. These components fall in two subgroups, namely, the components containing information that could have been distributed among separate entries, but still have been concentrated in survey entries, inflectional paradigms or simply outside the headword list (e.g. geographical and personal names); and components providing 'general linguistic information' and having a more independent function like, for instance, pronunciation, word formation and grammar rules (ibid.: 380).

The *preface* and the *user's guide* are the most relevant metafunctional outside matter components providing details about the dictionary and its use. The preface, according to Svensén (ibid.), should include information about the purpose, the intended user group, etc. The user's guide which is often viewed as an indispensable metafunctional component of the dictionary according to Landau (2001: 149) has 'to describe as clearly as possible all the kinds of information included in the dictionary, show the reader how to interpret the data given'.

The third category: components constituting the access structure contains various kinds of indexes which 'offer an additional entry point to the material contained in the lemma list' (Svensén, 2009: 383) and make the dictionary poly-accessible. Also the table of contents, the so called *running heads* (the first and/or the last word or part of the word provided on the top of the page) can be mentioned as components of the dictionary access structure.

The last category of Svensén's classification (components with some other function) comprises outside matter components of various, often not very clearly identifiable functions. These components are predominantly of encyclopaedic contents. Some samples mentioned by Landau (2001: 149–151), Cop (1989: 163–164) and Svensén (2009: 386) include biographical names, colleges and universities, a list of US presidents, signs, symbols, etc. According to the scholars, such components are more frequently found in American general purpose dictionaries. Svensén (ibid.) also notes that the back matters of small bilingual dictionaries can also contain small phrasebooks as well as information on currency, climate, geography, culture, etc. The functions of some of these components, their link to the subject matter of the dictionary and, accordingly, their necessity has been questioned by several scholars (e.g. Nielsen, 1990: 55–57; Svensén, 2009: 386).

METHOD

The framework of the analysis of the outside matter components of the ELDs compiled before WWII is based on the classification suggested by Svensén, however, some changes have been introduced. Two new categories have been employed instead of Svensén's category 'components providing information on the language(s) described in the dictionary', namely, 'components providing linguistic information' and 'components providing encyclopaedic information'; the category 'components with some other function' is extended to include all the outside matter components without a clear function and, possibly, also not clearly linked to the subject matter of the general bilingual dictionaries discussed in the study.

The framework of the analysis is based on five major categories (presented here with some typical samples of outside matter components):

I.   *Metafunctional* components providing details about the dictionary and its use (*preface, user's guide* or its separate elements)

II. Components providing encyclopaedic information (*lists of personal names, geographical names, nationalities,* etc.)

III. Components providing linguistic information on the language described (*grammar, word-formation rules, lists of irregular verbs,* etc.)

IV. Components with some other (or unclear) function (*lists of measures, signs, symbols*, etc.)

V.   Components belonging to the access structure (*the table of contents, the running heads, thumb indexes*, etc.)

It is relevant to note that the list of the concrete components associated with each of the categories is intentionally left open-ended since the descriptive analysis of the outside matter components of the selected dictionaries is intended to reveal the whole scope of components belonging to each of the categories.

It will also be traced if the components have been included in the front or back matter of the dictionary to detect some typical tendencies concerning their location in the outside matter of the dictionaries.

Thus, the analysis of the outside matter components is composed to reveal:

1) the scope of the outside matter components included in the dictionaries;

2) the typical set and functions of the outside matter components found in the ELDs published during the first stage of the lexicographic tradition;

3) the typical position of the components (the front (FM) or the back matter (BM)).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seven general ELDs were published from 1924 to 1940. Only three of them contain twenty to thirty thousand headwords, the others are much smaller, but all of them, even the smallest ones, contain some outside matter components. The Appendix presents the data collected and structured according to the framework of the analysis.

The data show that not all the general ELDs compiled during this period contain such clearly distinguishable metafunctional components as the *preface* and the *user's guide.* Only four out of the seven dictionaries contain a *preface* (Godiņš, 1929; Roze and Roze, 1931; Curiks and Bangerska, 1937; Pelcis, 1940) and two contain a *user's guide* (Dravnieks, 1924 and Turkina, 1937). However, it should be noted that both components may be presented without a distinct title. Often the dictionaries contain either the *preface* or the *user's guide*, besides, their contents and functions can overlap and be hard to distinguish. For instance, the information on the word-stock or the types of lexical items included in the dictionary (typically provided in the *preface)*, in these dictionaries may appear in the *user's guide* (or a cluster of separate components which could be viewed as the *user's guide*). Notably, all the dictionaries, even those without a distinct *user's guide*, provide a *pronunciation key* and five out of seven a *list of labels* used in the dictionary. The systematic inclusion of the *pronunciation key* obviously indicates that pronunciation has been viewed as a relevant aspect of the description of the English language. This interest in phonetics and accordingly the phonetic description employed in the ELDs is linked to the fact that in the 1920s phonetics specialists from London University were invited to Latvia to train phonetics teachers (e.g. Reinholds, 1922: 87). As a result of this educational programme which established the tradition of adherence to the International Phonetic Alphabet in English-Latvian lexicography, this phonetic transcription has been applied in the ELDs published since 1931, namely, Roze and Roze (1931), Curiks and Bangerska (1937), and Pelcis (1940), i.e. during the period discussed in the present study, as well as in all the ELDs published in Latvia since 1940.

The information provided in the *prefaces* of the four dictionaries containing this component, is mostly quite scanty and fragmentary. Only occasionally the *preface* presents some relevant information about the purpose of the dictionary, the components of the outside matter, the target user group, etc. Five dictionaries provide a *list of labels,* but a closer scrutiny of the lists reveals that most of them contain grammar labels and metalinguistic abbreviations, e.g.:

> *acc.* (accusative), *aux.* (auxiliary), *gr(am).* (grammar), *indic.* (indicative), *m.* (masculine), *nom.* (nominative), *pl.* (plural), *sk.*(skaties [see]), *v.refl.* (verb reflexive) (Turkina, 1937).

The other types of labels – regional, domain, register, temporal, etc. appear only in three dictionaries. The two largest dictionaries, namely Dravnieks (1924) and Turkina (1937), include the longest list of these types of labels, for instance,

> *angl.* (English), *Lo.* (London), *artill.* (artillery), *phls.* (philosophy), *surv.* (surveying), *sl.* (slang), *poet.* (poetry) (Dravnieks, 1924),

> *Amer.* (Americanism), *elect.* (electricity), *mus.* (music), *jur.* (law term), *fig.* (figuratively), *bibl.* (biblical) (Turkina, 1937),

> *Engl.* (England), *U.S.A.* (United States of America) (Pelcis, 1940).

It should be added that some of the domain and temporal labels in Dravnieks' dictionary (1924) are presented by symbols, for example, crossed swords (military term), a flower (botanical term), a book (scientific term), a cross (obsolete word).

This review reveals that the distinction between the *preface* and the *user's guide* as two separate metafunctional components of megastructure is not yet established at this initial stage of the English-Latvian lexicographic tradition. However, the location of the *preface* and the *user's guide* (or the cluster of separate components functioning as the *user's guide*), is uniform: they are always provided in the front matter of the dictionary.

The outside matter components providing encyclopaedic information which could be incorporated in the general headword list are very scarcely presented in the ELDs published during this period, but if included, they always appear in the back matter, thus establishing a typical megastructural feature characteristic of the whole lexicographic tradition. Only three dictionaries provide such lists of lexical items: *numerals* (cardinal and ordinal) are provided by Dravnieks (1924); a list including various types of *abbreviations* (e.g. A. B., B.C., Adm., cur., Dr., Fri., etc.) is included in Turkina's dictionary (1937); but a small dictionary compiled by Akuraters (1940) provides the longest list of encyclopaedic outside matter components, namely, *days of the week, months, continents, countries and nations of Europe.* It is obvious that during this period the outside matter components of encyclopaedic contents are not viewed as relevant. Partly it could be explained by the small (and often due to practical considerations intentionally limited) volume of most ELDs published before WWII. Also worth noting is the fact that the most

relevant vocabulary items found in such lists (e.g. numerals, days of the week, months, the most common abbreviations) can be found in the macrostructure of even the smallest dictionaries. The compilers might have chosen to avoid some (perhaps, unnecessary) repetition in these dictionaries of limited volume. It might be added that in the ELDs published during the Soviet period and after regaining of independence in 1991, the amount of such components has grown considerably.

The components providing linguistic information on the language described (English in all the cases because all the ELDs discussed in this study are targeted at the Latvian speech community) are encountered much more frequently. These components almost always appear in the front matter of the dictionary, *pronunciation rules, lists of principal forms of irregular verbs* and *the rules for conjugation of verbs,* which appear in most of the dictionaries, can be listed as the most widespread ones. Turkina (1937) presents the widest scope of this type of components, including the *list of principal forms of irregular verbs, conjugation of verbs and auxiliary verbs, plural of nouns, gender of nouns* and *degrees of comparison of adjectives.* Noteworthy is also the information on word-formation (by affixation) provided in the front matter of Pelcis (1940). It includes lists of prefixes and suffixes classified by meaning or part of speech of the derivatives, some explanatory notes and examples are provided as well, e.g.:

> **-able** "ko var", "kas iespējams", pm. **eat** ēst; **eatable** ēdams (ko var ēst),
>
> **-ion** "-ība" pm. **protect** aizsargāt: **protection** aizsardzība,
>
> **-er (superlative)** superlatīvā pakāpe **quickest** (tā pat kā īpašības vārdam).

Another interesting example of linguistic outside matter components is a list of collocations (verbs+prepositions) provided in the dictionary by Curiks and Bangerska (1937). This is also the only representative of the whole group of components that is located in the back matter.

The reasonably wide scope of the outside matter components containing linguistic information on the English language encountered in these ELDs reveals that the compilers tried to adjust the dictionaries to the needs of the intended users, obviously, learners of the English language (however, language learners as the intended users are mentioned only in three dictionaries). Their typical location in the front matter of the dictionaries also underlines their relevance in the view of the compilers.

Very few components with some other function can be found in the ELDs analysed in this study. In fact, only two dictionaries contain components which could fall in this category, namely, *correction of mistakes* (Turkina, 1937) and *reading of numbers in English* (Pelcis, 1940). The former is self-explanatory, while the latter, providing some short instructions for the Latvian learner on how to read and understand dates, years and telephone numbers in the English language, obviously also attempts to meet the needs of a learner of a foreign language.

Apart from the alphabetic arrangement of headwords in all the general ELDs, the only other component of access structure in four of the dictionaries is the *running heads* or the first and/or the last headword or its part provided at the top of the page targeted at the facilitation of the lookup process.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the outside matter components in the ELDs published before WWII reveals some typical features of the scope and functions of these components as established by the first seven dictionaries of the lexicographic tradition. However, it is also obvious that the megastructure of the ELDs is still in the process of formation.

Not all the ELDs compiled during this period contain such relevant metafunctional components as the *preface* and the *user's guide*, a clear distinction between these components is also not yet established and their contents may overlap. However, the inclusion of the *pronunciation key* in all and the *list of labels* in nearly all the ELDs published during this period reveals a clear tendency towards a certain group of elements forming the *user's guides* of the ELDs.

The outside matter components providing encyclopaedic information are very scarcely presented in these ELDs, but if included, typically appear in the back matter. One of the possible reasons for the exclusion of such components could be the small volume of the dictionaries.

The components providing linguistic information on the language described are encountered much more frequently and almost always appear in the front matter of the dictionary. The comparatively wide scope of these components reveals the compilers' willingness to adjust the dictionaries to the needs of language learners.

These early ELDs still do not show any signs of being supplemented with some, possibly, unnecessary outside matter components of unclear function. This tendency unfortunately develops in the later stages of the development of this lexicographic tradition.

It can be concluded that the analysis reveals the scope, some typical sets and location of the outside matter components of various functions, some typical megastructural features can already be traced, but unfortunately the further development of the lexicographic tradition was deeply affected by the outbreak of WWII.

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APPENDIX

Outside matter components in the ELDs compiled from 1924 to 1940

	Dravnieks (1924)	Godiņš (1929)	Roze, Roze (1931)	Curiks, Bangerska (1937)	Turkina (1937)	Akuraters (1940)	Pelcis (1940)
I. Metafunctional components							
preface		+	+	+			+
user's guide	+				+		+
- pronunciation key	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- list of labels	+		+	+	+		+
II. Components providing encyclopaedic information							
abbreviations					BM		
numerals	BM						
days of the week						BM	
months						BM	
continents						BM	
countries and nations of Europe						BM	
III. Components providing linguistic information							
alphabet	FM						
pronunciation rules	FM	FM	FM				FM
grammar rules:	FM		FM		FM		FM
- conjugation of verbs	FM		FM		FM		FM
- conjugation of aux. verbs					FM		
- plural of nouns					FM		
- gender of nouns					FM		
- degrees of comp. of adj.					FM		
lists of irregular verbs	FM		FM	FM	FM	FM	
word-formation (affixation)							FM
list of verb + preposition				BM			
IV. Components with some other function							
reading of numbers in English							FM
correction of mistakes					BM		
V. Components belonging to access structure							
'running heads'	+			+	+		+

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