

## BOOK REVIEW

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ANDREJS VEISBERGS (2013). *ENGLISH AND LATVIAN WORD FORMATION COMPARED*.

Riga: The University of Latvia Press. ISBN 978-9984-45-764-2.

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For about past two decades Andrejs Veisbergs has been focussing on various aspects of Latvian lexicology and phraseology. Veisberg's *English and Latvian Word Formation Compared* is a continuation of his work started in the monograph *English and Latvian Word-Formation. Contrastive Analysis*. Riga: LU, 1997.

*English and Latvian Word Formation Compared* is a contrastive analysis of Latvian and English word formation types, richly illustrated by examples that reflect the way word formation patterns act today as well as a brief, fact based insight into the role they have played in the formation of Latvian. That makes the book both deeply theoretical and excitingly empirical. Like other languages, Latvian is influenced by English today. Veisberg's daring delving into the ocean of old and new words and providing a logical, theoretically grounded system of the development of lexis in these two languages make *English and Latvian Word Formation Compared* a compulsory reading for anybody studying and working with languages professionally: scholars, students of linguistics, translation and interpreting as well as everybody interested in the way languages develop.

*English and Latvian Word Formation Compared* is divided into thirteen chapters that reflect the main word formation patterns. They may intersect and have alternate forms, and there may be occasional other types, but the ones discussed (coinage, sound imitation, borrowing, conversion, composition, repetition, affixation, abbreviation, clipping, blending, backformation, semantic shift, base modification and lexicalisation of grammatical forms) have been proved to be the major by the quantitative analysis of the language material. Chapter 13 "Transfer issues" outlines the main factors of word formation that professional translators need to take into account thus helping them to transfer their tacit knowledge into a fact-based practice.

Veisbergs does not back away from controversial issues, like categorization of modern Latvian compounds and gives a particularly thorough insight into the types of word formation where English influence has been the strongest. *English and Latvian Word Formation Compared* reveals the Latvian language in all its variety: pointing out the traditionalist inconsistencies in applying some of the patterns (like abbreviation), pointing to the strong adherence to the tradition in

some cases while addressing the new developments that have not been described yet. The book is a valuable input into linguistics in general and Latvian linguistics in particular, where lexicology is an under-researched field. Every reader of the book will find answers to their questions about the way language is used. Parallelism in both languages stems from universal word-formation principles as well as the strong influence of English upon Latvian in the last two decades, which has brought about short hyphenated compounds, phrasal compounds, more expanded use of conversion, blends and nonce use of words. *English and Latvian Word Formation Compared* will inspire further research in the field of word formation, terminology and translation.