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Organization of Lexicographic Knowledge in Dictionaries of a New Type

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How can the achievements of modern world lexicographic theory and practice enrich us? What types of dictionaries are especially required today? Which of all lexicographic studies will be most fruitful here and now? This paper is an attempt to give answers to some of these questions. (Author)

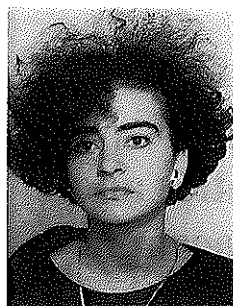
The creation of any dictionary is ultimately a specific organization of the knowledge about specific dictionary units.

There is an essential difference between Bulgarian dictionaries, following the Russian lexicographic tradition, on the one hand, and English, American, German and French dictionaries on the other hand.

The first are an example of a literary type of dictionary. They are full of quotations which despite their literary value often do not contribute much towards clearing our notion of a concrete word and have a purely decorative function.

The second type includes much information of an encyclopaedic character, and they are considerably more open for terms from different spheres of science. This does not mean blurring the boundaries between general and special dictionaries (on the opposition "general vs special vocabularies" we follow (1)).

The active presence of science and technology in our life presupposes a process of "opening the Bulgarian dictionaries (both monolingual and bilingual) for terms re-



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presenting different spheres of science and technology". Without them and without encyclopaedic references modern man can hardly communicate properly.

Such dictionaries of a new type are a vital necessity now, but for their creation an enormous amount of preliminary work is required - the accumulation of all necessary lexicographic data.

Using as a starting point the idea of the Russian lexicographer Valerij Morkovkin concerning the differentiation between anthropocentric and linguocentric types of lexicographer's work (2) we offer the concept of an anthropocentric type of dictionaries based on the functional heterogeneity of words. The enlargement of the vocabulary and widening of the scope of the lexicographic interpretation of the active vocabulary fund units will be done by a reduced presentation of data for the passive vocabulary fund units.

Having in mind the lexicographic situation in Bulgaria we find the realization of the offered concept particularly relevant, since at this stage the new-type dictionaries in Bulgaria should be polyfunctional in order to serve the multipurpose requirements of this transient period.

References

- (1) Riggs, F.W.: Indexing Glossary: a new rationale. Frankfurt: INDEKS Verlag 1982. 40p = FID/CR Report No.20
- (2) Morkovkin, V.V.: Antropocentricheskij vs lingvocentricheskij podkhod k leksikografirovaniju. In: Nacional'na ja specifika jazyka i ego otrazheniev normativnom slovare. (Anthropocentric vs. Linguocentric Approach to Lexicographical Activity. In: National Specificity of the Language and its Reflection in the Normative Vocabulary). Orig.ru., Moskva: Nauka 1988. 170p.