Book reviews

Hrisztova-Gotthard studied in Sofia, Bulgaria, followed by a research fellowship in Basel, Switzerland, and a doctorate in Pécs, Hungary. In her dissertation, *Vom gedruckten Sprichwörterbuch zur interaktiven Sprichwortdatenbank* (*From printed proverb dictionary to interactive proverb database*), she addresses phraseologists' common complaint about the poor representation of phrasemes in printed dictionaries. To resolve the issue, she proposes the use of interactive databases, making suggestions for the design of a multilingual version in Bulgarian, Hungarian, and German.

Contemporary lexicographers must decide whether or not to embrace the digital age. In the author's view, digital versions offer advantages on three levels, at least. First, since digital databases provide (almost) unlimited space to store significantly higher amounts of lexicographic information than traditional print dictionaries, they allow the inclusion of links to research papers, for instance. Next, they can be updated, modified, and expanded at any time to remain current and up-to-date. Finally, provided that adequate links are inserted, they make rapid access to a wide range of data possible. These aspects make digital databases attractive not only as reference tools but also for research.

Hrisztova-Gotthard's thesis opens with an introduction (Chapter 1) and ends with a conclusion (Chapter 6). The main body is structured into four parts. It contains a discussion of terminology in Chapter 2 where the author defines the terms "proverb" and "proverb dictionary" by making a distinction between proverbs and related phraseological units. This is followed by a chapter presenting several analyses of different monolingual and

plurilingual proverb dictionaries and proverb collections to establish criteria for the structure and function of the multilingual proverb database.

Chapter 3 begins with a brief overview of the history of paremiography in German, Bulgarian and Hungarian from the 16th century to the present. This is followed by analyses of one current monolingual proverb dictionary in each of these languages (Dudenredaktion 2007, Tóthné Litovkina 2005, Stojkova 2007) and a number of multilingual dictionaries. To establish their advantages and shortcomings, Hrisztova-Gotthard discusses macro-structural, micro-structural, and medio-structural criteria. Proverb definition, classification, selection and configuration, as well as external retrieval structures are employed for the macro-structural analysis. Micro-structural aspects involve the content and structure of the dictionary articles, whereas the reference system covers the medio-structural dimension. Many of the issues mentioned here can be resolved by the use of digital databases. In terms of macro-structure, such databases provide sufficient space for definitions and selection criteria of data items, as well as for links to research and results from empirical paremiology. Provided that the data are annotated properly, they can be structured and displayed according to a wide range of criteria. In other words, users can search for all components alphabetically, but also for other criteria such as geographic reach, thematic fields, and so forth. By constrast, multilingual print proverb dictionaries have had to accept, in particular, a trade-off between the number of proverbs and the amount of information about them. Thus, digital databases have the unarguable advantage of virtually unlimited space, which permits the inclusion of traditionally neglected information, such as variants of proverbs and rate of familiarity. Moreover, digital references allow rapid access to data. The final part of Chapter 3 is concerned with computer-assisted paremiography. It introduces a couple of digital proverb databases, such as Matti Kuusi and Outi Lauhakangas' internet-based *International Type System of Proverbs* (http://lauhakan. home.cern.ch/lauhakan/cerp.html), and on-line proverb databases (e.g. http://www.afriprov.org/). Several more recent and equally relevant databases would also have to be mentioned here: e.g. the pentalingual *SprichWort-Plattform* (2008–2010, http://www.ids-mannheim.de/lexik/SprichWort/), created alongside this dissertation and on-line since 2010; *EPHRAS* (2004–2006, http://www.ephras.org/), a preliminary tetralingual project; or *sprichwoerter.net* (http://www.sprichwoerter.net/), a popular trilingual compilation.

The interactive database is described in Chapter 4. It first compiles the structural and functional criteria for multilingual proverb databases.

Hrisztova-Gotthard opts for a "maximalist" approach to the input of lexico-graphically relevant information to ensure the availability of copious data on proverbs in various languages (e.g. synchronous, diachronous, and dia-topic variants, regional usage, stylistic register, frequency, interpretations, origin) as well as thematic classifications and combinations. The author mentions retrieval options that such databases should provide, not only for complete proverbs but also for their components (and inflectional forms), thematic categories, synonyms, antonyms and equivalents. This requires comprehensive data that are comparable across various languages, and also demands for highly time-consuming annotations of the proverb compila-tions. Data would originate from extant dictionaries and research literature. It is extremely unlikely, however, that direct interlingual comparison of data will be possible due to striking differences in terms of data basis and information content.

The presentation of the interactive database is followed by Chapter 5, which offers a few selected technological suggestions on how the theoreti-cal considerations above might be realized. The author provides a few ideas on the technical implementation such as data tokenization or use of Unicode to record data from various different languages (leaving the rest in the hands of the database architect). She also suggests the time-consuming procedure of manual lemmatization to overcome the language-specificity of lemmatizers. Ontology is to guide the lexical-semantic categorization of lemmata.

Hrisztova-Gotthard's dissertation is concerned with the highly topical issue of lexicography, which offers many new opportunities at the shift from classical printed dictionaries to digital databases. Her analysis of a number of relevant proverb dictionaries provides an interesting insight into the paremiographic standards of three linguistic traditions, from which she condenses the criteria for a multi-lingual proverb database, trying to express these new possibilities at the macro-, micro- and meso-structural levels. As suggested by the subtitle of the thesis, *On a linguistic and lexico-graphic concept for multilingual proverb databases*, the book is of major interest to scholars who are about to establish a (multilingual) phraseologi-cal database. However, with regard to the concrete implementation of such a far-reaching project, the problem of the provenance of comparable mate-rial remains unresolved. So far, printed dictionaries have been the primary source of digital databases. In the future, it will be essential to access new pools of lexicographic information – (comparable) corpus and survey data – in order for such databases to provide significantly more added value than a mere accumulation of existing dictionary information. This will

make them of even greater interest as a basis for research, and it will permit the more detailed study of equivalence relations.

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References

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Harald Burger: *Phraseologie. Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen*, 4., neu bearbeitete Auflage (Grundlagen der Germanistik 36). Berlin: Erich Schmidt, 2010. 239 pp. ISBN 978-3-503-12204-2 (Pb.).

In 1998, Harald Burger first published his introduction to phraseology, which has served as a reference book to many a researcher and student ever since. Aiming at constantly improving *Phraseologie. Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen*, he has now presented its fourth edition already. In the foreword Burger clearly defines the standards his work is supposed to establish: he stresses the need to introduce terminology, as well as criteria of analysis and categorization, on the one hand, and to provide an account of the actual use of phraseological units in spoken and written language, on the other. He also promises to provide a balance between academic scholarship and readability, in addition to illustrating the theoretical discussion with authentic examples.

The first chapter of the book is dedicated to presenting the main characteristics of phraseological units, namely polylexicality, fixedness, and idiomaticity. The author goes into detail about various aspects of fixedness, also showing that it only constitutes a relative characteristic, since phraseological units do allow for various kinds of intentional and unintentional variation. Burger emphasizes that idiomaticity is optional and applies only to the very heart of phraseology – idioms.

Chapter 2 introduces a possible classification of phraseological units. It ranges from giving a basic categorization to presenting specific types of multi-word units, such as binominals, fixed comparisons or winged words.