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Sorry, shit and wow: a case study of the handling of interjections in three Nordic monolingual dictionaries

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Abstract: This paper discusses a qualitative and, to some extent, comparative metalexicographical case study on interjections, with an English origin, in three Nordic monolingual dictionaries. In short, the study answers the following research questions: (1) How are three well-established interjections handled in The Contemporary Dictionary of the Swedish Academy (SO) compared to corresponding entries in a Danish and a Norwegian dictionary and how can the SO descriptions be developed?; (2) How can three less-established interjections be analyzed and described in an updated version of the SO? The point of departure for answering the research questions is information types that are common in dictionary entries. Furthermore, the use of interjections in corpora and text collections for Swedish are crucial for the investigation. The study shows that interjections as a category imply several challenges for lexicographers. Finally, some suggestions are presented concerning the way in which the description of interjections in the SO may be developed.

Keywords: Nordic monolingual dictionaries, interjections, SO, DDO, NAOB, Språkbanken Text

1 Introduction


Today, the languages spoken in the Nordic region, among others Danish, Faroese, Finnish, Greenlandic, Icelandic, Norwegian (both Bokmål and Nynorsk) and Swedish, are influenced by English in various ways (cf. Peterson/Beers Fägersten 2024). One form of influence is “the incorporation of pragmatic element from English, including swear

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words, discourse markers, and vocatives [...]” in the individual languages (Hilmisdóttir/Peterson 2024: 85). Many words with an English origin are incorporated into languages in the Nordic region through written texts, but, in addition, there is an increasing influx of informal words and expressions that are mainly used in spoken language (cf. Hilmisdóttir/Peterson 2024: 87). One example of this lexical influence concerns lexical items that are classified as members of a specific part-of-speech – interjections. A few examples include *all right*, *fuck*, *nope*, *OMG*, *OK*, *sorry*, *shit*, *splash*, *wow* and *yippie*.

Some uses of three of these interjections, i.e. *sorry*, *shit* and *wow*, in the Familjeliv (‘Family life’) corpus are shown in examples (1)–(6).¹ Familjeliv is a Swedish social media forum, and the corpus, comprising about 9 billion tokens, is provided by using the word search platform Korp from Språkbanken Text (see Borin/Forsberg/Roxendal 2012 concerning Korp).

- (1) Ok, jag tolkade ditt inlägg fel, *sorry* (‘OK, I misinterpreted your post [in the discussion], *sorry*’)
- (2) tack alla snälla för hjälpen, och *sorry* om jag låter arg, är lite upprörd bara men jätteglad för hjälpen av er (‘thank you all kind people for your help, and *sorry* if I sound angry, I’m just a little upset but very happy for your help’)
- (3) *shit* vilket provocerande inlägg [...], där lyckades du bra (‘*shit*, what a provocative post [...], you did well there’)
- (4) Är en relativt nybliven internetshoppare och *shit* vad det är enkelt att shoppa loss (‘*shit*, I’m a relatively new internet shopper and it’s crazy how easy it is to shop’)
- (5) *wow* dom jeansen är verkligen hur snygga som helst. (‘*wow* those jeans are really stylish’)
- (6) Finner inga ord, mer än “wow”. (‘Can’t find words, more than “wow”.’)

Interjections such as *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* in examples (1)–(6) are potential *lemmas* (alternative term: *headwords*) in contemporary monolingual dictionaries for Swedish (cf. Svensén 2009: 93 on the two terms). This is also the case in contemporary dictionaries for other Nordic languages.

In this paper, we focus on how a limited number of interjections with an English origin are described, respectively how some such interjections could be described, in The Contemporary Dictionary of the Swedish Academy (Sw. *Svensk ordbok utgiven av Svenska Akademien*), henceforth SO. In addition, we pay attention to how the selected interjections are described in The Danish Dictionary (Dan. *Den Danske Ordbog*) henceforth DDO, and in The Norwegian Academy’s Dictionary (Norw. *Det Norske Akademis ordbok*), henceforth NAOB. The three dictionaries have similar aims, perspectives and target groups (see further section 3).

The study addresses two research questions:

¹ All translations from Swedish, Danish and Norwegian in this paper were done by the authors as well as all markings in italics in the examples.

(RQ1) How are the interjections *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* analyzed, described and presented in the present edition of the SO, in comparison to the corresponding dictionary entries in the DDO and the NAOB, and how might the SO descriptions of these interjections be developed?

(RQ2) How can the interjections *yes*, *nice/najs* and *woho/wohoo* be analyzed, described and presented in new dictionary entries in an updated version of the SO?

The three interjections in RQ1 are estimated to be relatively established in the three Nordic languages, while the three in RQ2 are not yet equally established, at least not in Swedish. The choice of interjections studied is further justified in section 4 and sub-section 5.2. This study, which is a development of a previous study by Landqvist/Sköldberg (2024), can be characterized as a qualitative metalexicographical investigation with comparative elements.

The paper is structured as follows. The themes treated in section 2 are central concepts and the theoretical-methodical points of departure for the study. Brief presentations of the three Nordic dictionaries SO, DDO and NAOB are given in section 3. The following section 4 discusses how the lexical items *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* are handled in the dictionaries. Section 5 is devoted to two themes. The first concerns how interjections with an English origin can be identified (and assessed) in Swedish corpora, and the second theme concerns how three such interjections, i.e. *yes*, *nice/najs* and *woho/wohoo*, can be analyzed, described and presented in an updated version of the SO. In section 6, conclusions from the study are presented, as well as some suggestions about the continued work with the SO.

2 Central concepts, background and points of departure

In this section, we define central concepts in the study, present the background and describe our theoretical-methodical departure points.

2.1 Central concepts

Three central concepts for the study are ‘lexicography’, ‘metalexicography’ and ‘loan-words’. According to Svensén (2009: 2), ‘lexicography’ can be defined as “the compilation of dictionaries”. Svensén, however, points out that this definition is too narrow and does not cover ‘theoretical lexicography’ or ‘metalexicography’, i.e. “the examination and development of theories concerning the compilation, characteristics, purposes and use of dictionaries” (Svensén 2009: 3). As previously stated in section 1, our study is metalexicographical.

Lexical units that appear in a language at a certain point of time are traditionally divided into *native words*, *loanwords* and *foreign words* (Svensén 2009: 333). The status of loanwords in the receiving language is a recurrent question in the literature (see e.g. Ljung 1988: 13–17; Sandøy 2009; Stålhammar 2010: 22–27). Different categorizations of English loanwords in Swedish are discussed, for example, by Chrystal (1988: 13–25), Ljung (1988: 59–85) and Stålhammar (2010: 22–27).

In the study, we utilize the loanword typology proposed by Jansson (2015: 26–27, 267–268), which is primarily based on Haugen (1956). With the designation *loanwords*, we thus intend lexical innovations in Swedish (*word loans*), which have their origin in a language other than Swedish. Such lexical innovations can be adopted in Swedish unchanged in terms of pronunciation, spelling, inflection and/or meaning (*quotational loans*), or they can be adapted to the possibilities and limitations of the grammatical and lexical structure of Swedish (*assimilated loanwords*). It is also worth noting that loanwords do not always have the exact same meaning in Swedish as in the source language. For example, Ljung (1988: 14) points out that the English *soul* is only used for a certain style of music in Swedish and not in the sense of ‘the soul of the human race’ (Sw. *själ*). As shown in section 1, the study applies to loanwords with an English origin, where the origin is determined based on information in the SO, DDO and NAOB dictionaries, as well as other sources consulted.

2.2 Background

In terms of linguistics, it is a challenge to identify, analyze and describe the part-of-speech known as interjections (cf. for instance SAG 1999: 746–748, § 1–2). Dingemanse (2023: 477) describes this challenge in his characterization of interjections as “the catch-all basket for linguistic items that bear a complicated relation to sentential syntax”. Dingemanse’s conclusion (2023: 477) is therefore that “[i]nterjections are a mirror reflecting methodological and theoretical assumption more than a coherent linguistic category that affords unitary treatment”.

Norrick (2009: 867) states that interjections “divide into primary interjections such as *oh* and *uh* and secondary interjections such as *boy* and *damn*” (italics in the original; see also Norrick 2015: 254). Primary interjections function, and are used only as interjections, while secondary interjections may belong not just to this specific part-of-speech but also to other ones, for instance nouns, adjectives or adverbs (Norrick 2009: 867; 2015: 254). Interjections can function as independent utterances, which are not integrated into phrases, clauses or sentences; they can, however, also be integrated into such syntactic units (SAG 1999: 11, § 7, 767, § 15; Norrick 2015: 249; Rühlemann 2019: 82, 162). The syntactic possibilities of interjections pose a serious problem when identifying them in corpora, and Norrick (2015: 271) stresses that “[s]earches in large corpora are needed to discover the multifarious contexts and functions of interjections, but careful qualitative analysis of interjections continues to be necessary to determine particular functions [of the interjections in question]”.

Also from a specific lexicographical perspective, interjections often pose challenges in terms of analysis and description (Theilgaard 2013: 130–131). Wierzbicka (1992: 160) states that usually dictionaries recognize these “[u]npredictable and conventional characters by including them (or some of them) [i.e. interjections] and trying to define them. But the definitions they offer are not of a kind that could help anyone to learn how to use them”. In addition, lexicographers find little support in lexicographic handbooks, such as for instance Atkins/Rundell (2008), Svensén (2009) and Jackson (2022), if they seek guidelines and recommendations on how to handle members of this specific part-of-speech in monolingual or bilingual dictionaries.

2.3 Points of departure

In practical lexicographic work, loanwords in general also pose several challenges:

- How can lexicographers determine that a certain loanword is (sufficiently) established in the receiving language for it to be included in a certain dictionary (cf. Jansson 2015: 34–45)?
- What sources are available to make assessments and what skills do lexicographers possess to make these assessments (cf. Stålhammar 2010: 15–21)?
- How can lexicographers treat the loanword in question in the current dictionary, with the framework it offers and considering relevant information types (cf. Gellerstam 2009: 114–118)?

From a Swedish perspective, the Lexical database (Sw. *Lexikalisk databas*) is a central lexicographical resource (Josephson 2022: 51, 254–257). The Lexical database is the basis for several monolingual Swedish dictionaries (cf. Ralph/Järborg/Allén 1974), and its most recent outcome is The Contemporary Dictionary of the Swedish Academy (Sw. *Svensk ordbok utgiven av Svenska Akademien*), second edition 2021.

In Järborg (1989), so-called definition formats for different parts-of-speech in the database are presented; these include formats for nouns, adjectives, verbs etcetera (Järborg 1989: 22–30). However, nothing is said about how lexicographers should analyze, define and present interjections in the lexicographical outcomes based upon the Lexical database. This fact may be interpreted as an indication that Järborg (1989) deemed that no standardized definition formats were available and/or that interjections as part-of-speech were a peripheral category (cf. sub-section 2.2). Regardless of the cause/s, the effect is that lexicographers, working in this specific lexicographic tradition, may have to utilize various solutions to handle interjections in the best possible way in present and future monolingual Swedish dictionaries.

To support lexicographical analyses and descriptions of interjections, including those of English origin, lexicographers must have access to corpora that show how interjections are used. Interjections are primarily associated with spoken language (SAG 1999: 746, § 1; Norrick 2015: 251; Hilmisdóttir/Peterson 2024: 87), but lexicographers

often have a limited access to corpora of spoken language material (see e.g. Hilmsdóttir 2021: 79). Consequently, spoken language material rarely forms the basis of dictionaries, but one Nordic example is the Danish *Ordbog over Dansk Talesprog* – ODT ('A dictionary of spoken Danish') (Hansen 2015; Hansen/Hansen 2016). A second example is the Icelandic *Samtalsorðabók* ('Conversational dictionary') (Hilmsdóttir 2023). Furthermore, interjections also appear in writing, not least in more colloquial texts in social media, and Trap-Jensen (2004: 313), for instance, highlights lexicographers' need of corpora of more informal written texts for their work.

Both in the review of existing dictionary entries in the SO, DDO and NAOB (RQ1) and in relation to the proposals for new entries in a future version of the SO (RQ2), our central theoretical-methodical point of departure is information types that are usually found in dictionary entries (cf. Svensén 2009: 6–8). The terms used for the types – as well as other lexicographical terms in this paper – are in accordance with Svensén (2009). The information types are the following:

- Formal information (spelling, word division, pronunciation, inflection, word formation);
- Syntagmatic information (part-of-speech membership, syntactic valency, collocations, idioms);
- Semantic information (meaning/s of the lemma, content-paradigmatic information);
- Examples (providing syntagmatic information, semantic information and/or other types of information);
- Pragmatic information (formal marking providing information about lexical items occurrence and use)
- Etymology (information about lexical items origin and cognates).

3 The three dictionaries: SO, DDO and NAOB

As shown in section 1, the three dictionaries SO, DDO and NAOB play a central role in the study. In this section they are briefly presented.

Svensk ordbok utgiven av Svenska Akademien – SO is maintained and developed at the Department of Swedish, Multilingualism, Language Technology at the University of Gothenburg. The second edition of the SO, published in 2021, builds on several previous dictionaries, especially the first edition from 2009 (Sköldberg 2022: 139–142). The SO is a general language dictionary with approximately 65,000 lemmas and about 100,000 different senses. The dictionary is descriptive and focuses on modern Swedish and it is primarily based on written and edited texts that are published in newspapers and in novels. The SO is first and foremost aimed at speakers of Swedish as a first language and advanced second-language speakers and it is primarily intended to support reception but also to facilitate production. The second edition of the SO is only published digitally, as apps (for iOS and Android) and on the Swedish Academy's dictionary portal, Svenska.se (see Sköldberg 2022 and Trap-Jensen 2022 about the SO).

Den Danske Ordbog – DDO is developed at Det Danske Sprog- og Litteraturselskab. The current version of the DDO, which is a further development of six printed volumes published in 2003–2005, is also only published digitally in the form of apps and on the web. The DDO is a modern general-language dictionary, but it includes more lemmas than the SO, about 105,000 (November 2023; Om DDO a). On the DDO's website, the following information is presented: "An important feature of the plan was that the dictionary should describe the language as it is spoken and written by a broad cross-section of the Danish population. The dictionary should be descriptive and based on a corpus of authentic texts." (Om DDO b; see also Lorentzen 2004: 286). Regarding the close connection between interjections and spoken language (see sub-section 2.3), this statement about spoken and written language is highly relevant. Finally, the DDO addresses both first-language speakers and learners of Danish, and like the SO, this dictionary aims to support both reception and production (see Lorentzen/Trap-Jensen 2016 and Sobkowiak 2018, on the DDO).

Det Norske Akademis ordbok – NAOB aims at showing its users "how words have been used in the last 200 years in fiction, press and other publications" (About NAOB). The NAOB, published by The Norwegian Academy of Language and Literature (Det Norske Akademi), is a further development and modernization of *Norsk Riksmålsordbok*, and the NAOB documents bokmål/riksmål. The NAOB includes around 225,000 lemmas and nearly 400,000 quotations, and like the SO and DDO, the Norwegian dictionary addresses both first-language speakers and learners (November 2023; About NAOB). The NAOB is also a digital dictionary, but it is published only on the web (see Opsahl 2018, Trap-Jensen 2018 and Nilstun 2023 on the NAOB).

In short, the three Nordic dictionaries SO, DDO and NAOB have many features in common: 1) they are monolingual dictionaries that have been preceded by printed editions; 2) they are digitally published; 3) they focus on the general language; 4) they are, to a greater or lesser extent, based on corpora and, finally, 5) they address similar target groups. In contrast, however, the dictionaries comprise different numbers of lemmas and they cover different time periods.

4 The treatment of the entries *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* in the SO, the DDO and the NAOB

In the lemma list of the SO (2021), there are approximately 180 interjections (see further sub-section 5.2). Among these, the following interjections have, according to etymological information provided in the entries, (more or less) explicit English origin: *all right*, *hipp*, *japp*, *okej*, *shit*, *so long* and *sorry*. In this section, we analyze the entries *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* in the SO together with the corresponding entries in the DDO and the NAOB.

The main reason for choosing these three lemmas is that they are described in different ways in the SO (cf. Svensén 2009: 205–252 on different possibilities to describe meanings in monolingual dictionaries). In addition, the entries *sorry* and *shit* were pub-

lished in the first edition (2009), while the entry *wow* was produced for the second one (2021). The NAOB treats all three interjections, while the DDO includes the entries *shit* and *wow* but not *sorry*.

Each of the three lemmas is discussed separately in a sub-section of section 4. The starting point in all three sub-sections is the entries in the SO and comparisons are made with the DDO and the NAOB, based on the information categories in sub-section 3.2. Using, among other things, comparisons, we then discuss how the existing SO entries can be developed.

4.1 The entry *sorry*

The interjection *sorry* is described in the following way in SO (see Figure 1). Current information types, to the left, relate to the corresponding parts in the entry *sorry*, to the right, by arrows in different colours.

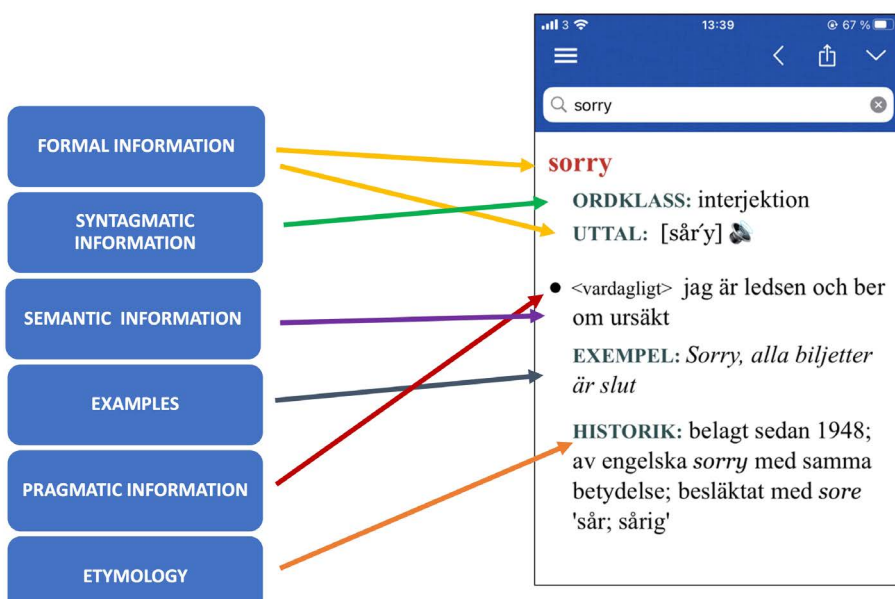


Figure 1: The entry *sorry* in the SO (app for iOS)

Figure 1 shows that the description of the interjection *sorry* is rather concise. Regarding Formal information, only one spelling, “sorry”, and one pronunciation, “[sår’y]”, are given. The pronunciation is communicated both in writing and with a linked audio file, marked with an icon. As pointed out by Holmer et al. (2015), the audio files in SO constitute an important aid for the users, especially learners of Swedish. Semantically, the

lemma has only one sense, which is conveyed by the definition “jag är ledsen och ber om ursäkt” (‘I am sorry and apologize’). Pragmatic information is provided by the formal marker “<vardagligt>” (‘<colloquial>’). Such information is also conveyed with the help of an Example: “*Sorry, alla biljetter är slut*” (‘Sorry, all tickets are sold out’). In terms of Etymology (establishment, origin and kinship), it is stated that *sorry* has been used in written Swedish texts since 1948 and it is derived from an English word with the same meaning (cf. Ljung 1988). The etymology of the English word, “sore”, is also presented.

As noted in the introduction to section 4, the DDO does not include *sorry*, but the NAOB does (see Figure 2).

sorry interjeksjon

FULL BOKMÅLSNORM

UTTALE [sɑ̃ːrːi]

ETYMOLOGI fra engelsk *sorry*, grunnbetydning ‘ulykkelig, smertelig, sår’, av gammelenghelsk *sārig*, avledet av *sār*, samme ord som *sår*; ellipse av *I am sorry* ‘jeg beklager’

BETYDNING OG BRUK

MUNTlig unnskyld ; beklager

SITATER

- *sorry, sa hun.* – *Mente ikke å kritisere* (Ingvar Ambjørnsen *Etter orkanen* 40 1993)
- *sorry at jeg ikke har skrevet på en uke, men det har skjedd så lite* (Siri Kristiansen *Siris dagbok* 54 2004)
- **MED OVERGANG FRA INTERJEKSJON TIL ADJEKTIV** ‘sorry’, sa visstnok den gamle mannen, men hva han var sorry for kommer ikke fram (Varden 22.09.2007/05:01) | hva han var lei seg for
- *sorry, jeg glemte tiden* (Skam Sesong 4, episode 10 2017)
- *beklager, sorry, jeg er lei for det* (Kathrine Nedrejord *Forvandlinga* 32 2018)
- *servitøren beklaget, hun sa «sorry», og at hun skulle sjekke* (Trude Marstein *Egne barn* 60 2022)

Figure 2: The entry *sorry* in the NAOB (web version)

Figure 2 shows that the NAOB entry “*sorry*” provides pronunciation, “UTTALE”, only in writing, “[sɑ̃ːrːi]”. By clicking on the question mark icon, users get an explanation of the audio script characters. The NAOB provides a more comprehensive etymology, “ETYMOLOGI”, than the SO, including information about Old English (“gammelenghelsk”) etcetera. A formal marker informs the users about the occurrence of the lemma in spoken language, “MUNTlig”. The sense is indicated by two synonyms, “unnskyld ; beklager” (‘excuse; sorry’). In addition, the NAOB entry offers far more examples, “SITATER”, than the corresponding SO entry. No year for the dating of *sorry* is given, but the quotations are relatively modern, the oldest one from 1993 (cf. Nilstun 2023). Worth noting is the fact that one of the examples is equipped with the comment “MED OVERGANG FRA INTERJEKSJON TIL ADJEKTIV” (‘WITH TRANSITION FROM INTERJECTION TO ADJECTIVE’) (cf. sub-section 2.2 about primary/secondary interjections).

As previously noted, the SO entry *sorry* was included in the first edition of the SO (2009). Considering that the use of an interjection might change relatively quickly (cf. Opsahl 2015: 144), and based on a comparison with the NAOB entry, it is possible

to improve the SO entry in terms of examples, content-paradigmatic information (cross-references to related lemmas) and part-of-speech membership.

The SO entry could be equipped with more examples to further illustrate how the interjection is used, e.g., “sorry, det var inte meningen” (‘sorry, I didn’t mean it’). The entry can also be provided with cross-references to other interjections, e.g. *förlåt* (‘excuse me’) or to an adverb such as *tyvärr* (‘unfortunately’), which can make an utterance milder or more polite. Such references strengthen the dictionary from both a reception and production point of view (cf. Svensén 2009: 388–397). More cross-references between dictionary entries also reinforce the semantic network that the SO constitutes (Blenselius/Sköldberg/Bäckerud 2021).

Furthermore, the Swedish *sorry* can, like the Norwegian one, function as an adjective, e.g. “[jag är] sorry över gnället, men jag är sur idag” (‘[I’m] sorry for the whining, but I’m in a bad mood today’). In addition, *sorry* can be used as a noun, e.g. in this example from the Familjeliv corpus: “det räcker med ett sorry” (‘it’s enough with a sorry’). The fact that *sorry* can function not only as an interjection, but also as an adjective and a noun, should be shown in an updated version of the SO. Finally, *sorry* actually appeared in Swedish before 1948. A search in the web resource KB Dagstidningar (‘The Royal Library Daily newspapers’) shows that *sorry* has been used in Swedish written texts since at least 1930.

4.2 The entry *shit*

In Figure 3, the interjection *shit* in the SO is presented. A comparison between the two editions of the dictionary reveals that the current entry, which like the entry *sorry* is relatively concise, is identical with the one published in the first edition of the SO (2009), except for the audio file that was added in the app version of the first edition in 2015 (Holmer/von Martens/Sköldberg 2015: 40–41).

As illustrated by Figure 3, only one spelling of the lemma, “shit”, is given. The information about the pronunciation of the word is communicated in writing (“[ʃit] ljust sj-ljud”) and with an audio file. The written information about the pronunciation is mainly given using ordinary characters in the SO, but some IPA characters are used, here [ʃ] for the initial phoneme in the word (cf. Svensén 2009: 114–123, on pronunciation information in dictionaries). As discussed by Holmer/von Martens/Sköldberg (2015: 44–45), many users, however, have difficulties in interpreting the phonetic transcription without consulting the pronunciation key. Therefore, the audio files are, in cases where IPA characters are deemed necessary, even more important to convey information about pronunciation of lemmas in the SO.

As with the other interjections in the SO, the syntagmatic information consists only of giving the part-of-speech membership (“ORDKLASS: interjektion”). However, in comparison to *sorry*, another type of meaning description is used, namely a synonym, here “förbaskat!” (‘damn it’). Furthermore, in the entry *shit* there is one example, “*shit också*,

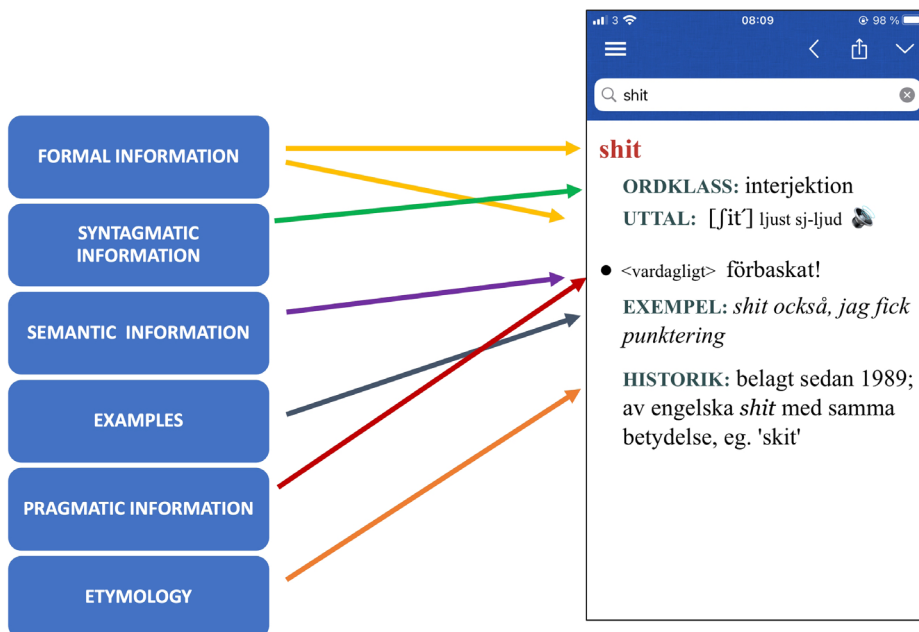


Figure 3: The entry *shit* in the SO (app for iOS)

jag fick punktering!’ (‘shit, I got a puncture’) and, as in the entry *sorry*, pragmatic information is communicated by the marker “<vardagligt>” (‘<colloquial>’). Finally, the first occurrence for the interjection *shit* in Swedish written texts is claimed to be in 1989, and the word has English origin.

Figure 4 includes the DDO entry *shit*¹, which refers to the interjection *shit*. (The noun *shit* is described in the entry *shit*².)

shit¹ udråbsord

UDTALE ['ʃid] eller ['ʃed]

OPRINDELSE kendt fra 1983 • jævnfør substantivet [shit](#)

Betydninger

bruges for at udtrykke overraskelse, ærgrelse, vrede, væmmelse el.lign. SPROGBRUG især talesprog | uformelt

ORD I NÆRHEDEDEN hold da helt op ...vis mere

EKSEMPLER oh shit | shit, mand

[lægen] sagde til mig jeg havde kræft, og jeg blev utroligt bange og tænkte: Shit, nu skal jeg dø talesp1991

Figure 4: The entry *shit*¹ in the DDO (web version)

Figure 4 shows that the Danish entry starts with formal information about spelling and syntagmatic information through the part-of-speech indication “*udråbsord*” (‘exclamation’). Then follows formal information about pronunciation (“*UDTALE*”) in writing and as a clickable link to an audio file. The written information about pronunciation indicates that *shit*¹ can be pronounced in two different ways, but there is actually only one audio file. If the users click on the icon with an exclamation mark, a new window opens with information about how pronunciation is communicated in the DDO. Further on, the entry provides data on etymology (“*OPRINDELSE*”); the word has been used in written Danish texts since 1983 and it is, etymologically, related to the noun *shit*². As in the SO and in the NAOB, the underlined words in the DDO entry are clickable links to other entries in the DDO.

The semantic information in the entry focuses on the emotions that *shit*¹ can express, for example surprise, annoyance, anger and disgust (“*overraskelse, ærgrelse, vrede, væmmelse [...]*”). Two types of pragmatic information (“*SPROGBRUG*”) are communicated: the word belongs primarily to spoken language (“*især talesprog*”) and it is stylistically considered to be informal (“*uformelt*”).

In the DDO, semantic information is also often given through the information type “*ORD I NÆRHEDEN*” (‘words nearby’). By clicking on the link “... vis mere” (‘show more’), the users receive additional information about senses and usages, presented in a Danish thesaurus, *Den Danske Begrebsordbog* – DDB (see Nimb/Trap-Jensen/Lorentzen 2014 about DDB).

As illustrated by Figure 4, the entry includes two short “*EKSEMPLER*” (‘examples’), “oh shit” and “shit, mand”. If the users of the dictionary click on the following symbol, they will get access to more corpus examples, which may be valuable from both a reception and production point of view. Finally in the entry, there is a longer quotation “[lægen] sagde til mig jeg havde kræft, og jeg blev utroligt bange og tænkte: Shit, nu skal jeg dø” (‘[the doctor] told me I had cancer and I got incredibly scared and thought: Shit, now I’m going to die’). The quotation is followed by a clickable link “*talesp1991*”, i.e. “Danmarks Radio (television broadcast), 1991”, informing about the source of the example.

Figure 5 shows the dictionary entry handling the interjection *shit* in the NAOB. (In the same way as the DDO, the NAOB comprises an entry for the noun *shit*.)

Figure 5 displays the NAOB entry *shit*, that first offers formal information about spelling and pronunciation, “*UTTALE*”, and syntagmatic information, i.e. part-of-speech membership “*interjeksjon*” (‘interjection’). Then, information about etymology, “*ETYMOLOGI*”, is given; *shit* has an English origin and meanings of the English word are presented. Under the heading “*BETYDNING OG BRUK*” (‘sense and use’), semantic as well as pragmatic information is offered. According to the NAOB, *shit* is used in oral contexts (“*MUNTILIG*”) to express emotions such as surprise, outrage etcetera (“*BRUKT FOR Å UTTRYKKE OVERRASKELSE, ERGRELSE E.L.*”). A cross-reference to the semantically related native Norwegian interjection *skitt*, i.e. pragmatic information, is included in the form of a clickable link. No information on the first usage of *shit* in written texts is reported, but the oldest citation (“*SITATER*”) in the entry is from the late 1990s.

shit interjeksjon

UTTALE [ʃit:]

ETYMOLOGI fra engelsk *shit*, grunnbetydning 'møkk, dritt, skitt'

BETYDNING OG BRUK

MUNTLLIG, BRUKT FOR Å UTTRYKKE OVERRASKELSE, ERGRELSE E.L. | jf. [skitt](#)

SITATER

- jeg føk opp av sofaen, holdt meg for munnen og utbrøt: *Shit, klesvasken!* (Bergens Tidende 17.07.1998/32)
- åh shit! Er vi for tidlig ute? (Sverre Knudsen *Kommer sjelden alene* 51 1999)
- da hun raste ned trappen ... mumlet hun i takt med bootshælenes smell i betong: – *Shit. Shit. Shit!* (Anne Holt *Sannheten bortenfor* 299 2003)
- *shit. Har mamma en hemmelig kjæreste?* (Ellen Sofie Lauritzen *Må. Ha. Katt!* 15 2021)

Figure 5: The entry *shit* in the NAOB (web version)

A comparison between the DDO and the NAOB, as well as with the digital resource KB Dagstidningar, shows that the entry *shit* in the present edition of the SO can be improved with regard to the meaning description, the examples and the etymological information.

As previously shown, the meaning description for *shit* in the SO consists of only the adverb “förbaskat” (‘damned!’), but this word is actually polysemous in the dictionary. The first sense of the lemma *förbaskad*, neuter *förbaskat*, is relevant in connection with *shit*, not the second one, but this information is not communicated to the dictionary users. Thus, this chain of synonyms is not a successful solution (cf. Svensén 2009: 214–217 on the pros and cons with synonym definitions). Furthermore, in both the DDO and the NAOB, equivalents of the word “surprise” are included in the meaning descriptions. The semantic information given in an updated SO entry could therefore be formulated as “uttryck för negativ eller positiv överraskning eller förvåning” (‘expression of negative or positive surprise or astonishment’). The entry would also be further improved with a cross-reference to a subsense of the noun *skit* (‘shit’), which as well can be used as a kind of interjection. This use could be exemplified by a corpus-inspired example such as “skit också, sista bussen har precis gått!” (‘damn, the last bus just left!’).

In addition, the choice of tense in the existing SO example “*shit också, jag fick punktering*” (‘shit, I got a puncture’) can be debated. A statement like “*shit också, jag har punktering*” (‘shit, I have a puncture’) would be more likely. A revised meaning description requires more examples that show both negative and positive context, e.g. “*shit också, mobilen har laddat ur!*” (‘shit, the cell phone has run out of power’) and “*haha, shit, va kull!*” (‘haha, shit, very funny!’) (cf. Svensén 2009: 241 on examples and meaning description).

Furthermore, the entry in the present SO indicates that the year of the first occurrence of *shit* in Swedish texts is 1989. However, KB Dagstidningar shows that the word, without rendering English, has appeared in written texts since at least 1971. As with other interjections of English origin, there may, however, be even earlier occurrences of *shit* in Swedish, especially in spoken language (cf. Hilmisdóttir 2023).

4.3 The entry *wow*

The SO entry *wow* is reproduced in Figure 6.

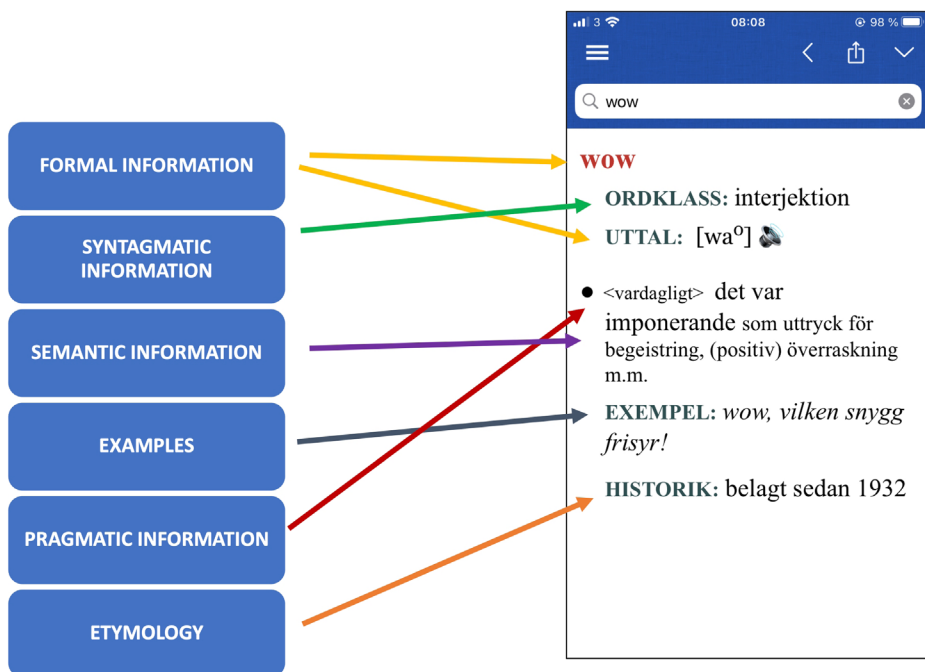


Figure 6: The entry *wow* in the SO (app for iOS)

The entry *wow* first provides formal information about spelling and pronunciation and syntagmatic information about the word's parts-of-speech membership. The semantic information about the lemma is communicated through a combination of a definition, “det var imponerande” (‘that’s impressive’), and a definitional complement. The addendum to the definition states that *wow* serves as an expression of excitement, (positive) surprise, etcetera. The only example in the entry is “*wow, vilken snygg frisy!*” (‘wow, what a nice haircut!’). As in the entries *sorry* and *shit* in sub-sections 4.1 and 4.2 respectively, the paradigmatic marker “<vardagligt>” (‘colloquial’) is used. First evidence for *wow* in Swedish written texts is claimed to be in 1932, while nothing is said about the etymology of the word.

Figure 7 shows the DDO entry *wow*¹, which refers to the interjection *wow* (a homographical noun is dealt with in the entry *wow*²).

As illustrated by Figure 7, the DDO entry begins with formal information about spelling and syntagmatic information on part-of-speech membership, “*udråbsord*” (‘interjection’). For the Danish *wow*¹, two alternative spellings are given: “*wauw*” and “*wau*”, but only one pronunciation, “[‘wa:w]”. This is followed with the origin of the

WOW¹ udråbsord
 også i formerne: **wauw**, **wau**
 UDTALE [wɔ:w]  
 OPRINDELSE fra engelsk

Betydninger

bruges for at udtrykke begejstring, positiv overraskelse osv.

ORD I NÆRHEDEN **bravo** | **nøj** | **nej¹** | **orv** | **mand...vis mere**

Har du virkelig købt det. For 5500 kroner, du er sindssyg! WOW!! ThRyda92

Figure 7: Entry *wow*¹ in the DDO (web version)

word, i.e. “fra engelsk” (‘from English’), but nothing is said about its first evidence in Danish.

As with *shit*¹ in DDO, the semantic information, “Betydninger”, focuses on the emotions that *wow*¹ expresses. The word “bruges for at udtrykke begejstring, positiv overraskelse osv.” (‘serves to express excitement, positive surprise, etcetera.’). The word is related to other words that can express e.g. recognition or excitement, for example, “bravo”. If the users need more information on semantically related lemmas, they can click on the link under “ORD I NÆRHEDEN” and get more data from the DDB thesaurus. Finally, there is one single example, where the source reference “ThRyda92” stands for the short story *Forever Young* from 1992 by Thomas Rydahl.

The entry *wow* in NAOB is presented in Figure 8. In the same way as DDO, NAOB also includes an entry about the noun *wow*.

wow interjeksjon

UTTALE [vao] 

ETYMOLOGI fra engelsk *wow*, lydord

BETYDNING OG BRUK

SOM UTTRYKK FOR AT MAN ER IMPONERT ELLER OVERRASKET du verden

SITATER

- ikke sånn at du bare tenker wow og fy faen her er det lekkert når du kommer inn (Arne Berggren *Vanessa – eller hvordan overleve på Hankø* 12 1993)
- for ti år siden nådde opplaget vårt 40.000. «Wow», sa folk, og var overbevist om at toppen var nådd (Dagbladet 28.02.2000/4)
- wow! Nye tøfler? (Frode Øverli *Pondus. Flat firer* 41 2004)
- WOW. Skal du ha fest i morgen? (Sverre Henmo *Gutten til venstre* 74 2005)
- wow, ropte den svensk-norske astronauten lykkelig, før han spurte ... om det virkelig var en aurora borealis de var vitne til (NTBtekst 05.12.2006/34)
- wow, kan jeg tappe og drikke sevje fra dette treet? (Arnodd Håpnes *Trær i Norge* 7 2017)

Figure 8: The entry *wow* in the NAOB (web version)

The NAOB entry first presents information about spelling and part-of-speech membership, “interjeksion” (‘interjection’). Etymological information is then given, “ETYMOLOGI”: “fra engelsk *wow*, lydord” (‘from English *wow*, onomatopoeic’). The interjection *wow* expresses that one is impressed or surprised, “SOM UTTRYKK FOR AT MAN ER IMPONERT ELLER OVERRASKAT”, and a synonymous expression, “du verden”, is mentioned. No information of *wow*’s first occurrence in Norwegian is given, but the oldest quotation, “SITATER”, is from 1993.

A comparison between the three *wow* entries shows that the existing SO entry can be further developed. The possibilities apply to the information on spelling, the description of meaning, the examples and the etymological data.

Given that the DDO reports variant spellings, it may be worth investigating the possible occurrence of spelling variants in Swedish. Opsahl (2015: 142) points out that it is often difficult to determine how loanwords, which mainly occur in spoken language, should be rendered in writing (cf. Josephson 2022: 185). A search limited to the newspaper *Expressen* during the 1990s in KB Dagstidningar also reveals that the spellings *waow* and *woaw* occur together with *wow*. However, based on KB Dagstidningar as a whole, our assessment is that nowadays *wow* is the clearly dominant spelling.

The SO communicates the sense of *wow* through the definition, “det var imponerande” (‘that was impressive’), and the definitional complement in smaller print “om uttryck för begeistring, (positiv) överraskning m.m.” (‘on expressions of excitement, (positive) surprise, etc.’), which is similar to the meaning descriptions in the DDO and the NAOB. However, according to the uses in the previously mentioned corpus Familjeliv, people are less likely to use *wow* in the case of a negative surprise. The parenthesis in SO’s definitional complement around the word *positiv* (‘positive’) could therefore probably be removed. The meaning description can also be improved by a cross-reference to the third sense of the lemma *cool* and by more examples. Two such possible examples are “wow, vilken läcker bild!” (‘wow, what a beautiful picture!’) and “när jag nådde mållinjen tänkte jag, wow! Jag klarade det!” (‘when I reached the finish line I thought, wow! I did it!’).

Further, the dictionaries provide supplementary information on establishment, origin and kinship. The SO is alone in giving the year of first usage in Swedish written texts, while both the DDO and the NAOB state the English origin. This latter information could be added to the SO.

5 New interjectional entries in an updated version of the SO

Thus far, we have discussed three existing SO entries concerning interjections of English origin. In this section, we discuss interjections which may be included in an updated version of the SO. For the discussion, we relate to information about current interjec-

tions in other dictionaries for Nordic languages as well as the use of interjections in the corpora in Korp and in the newspaper texts in KB Dagstidningar.

5.1 Identification of new possible lemmas

An important part of the lexicographical work within the SO dictionary project is to compare the lemmas included in the *Lexical database* with the words used in contemporary texts, not least newer corpora in Korp. The comparisons result in lists of lexical items in the corpora that are not included in the SO (2021). These words are to be considered as “lemma candidates” for an updated version of the dictionary.

Korp currently (June 2024) includes approximately 260 different sub-corpora with a total of around 16 billion tokens. For this study, a strategic selection of sub-corpora was performed. The first sub-corpus selected consists of more edited [Sw. “redigerade”] texts from the newspaper Dagens Arena and SVT Nyheter, i.e. digital texts published by the Swedish public service television. The second sub-corpus chosen consists of more colloquial texts from Familjeliv and Flashback, which are popular Swedish social media fora for discussion.

Furthermore, language technologists Markus Forsberg and Anne Schumacher Olsson at Språkbanken Text have extracted the content of two recent complete years of these text materials (years 2021–2022). In total, the selected sub-corpora consist of roughly 80 million tokens. In addition, Forsberg and Schumacher Olsson have identified the words with the part-of-speech tag “interjektion” (‘interjection’) in the current texts and that are *not* included in the Swedish Associative Thesaurus version 2 (SALDO). The SALDO is an extensive electronic lexicon resource for modern Swedish written language, it constitutes a base for the majority of Språkbanken Text’s resources and its lemmas coincide to a large extent with the lemmas in the SO and the lemmas in the *Svenska Akademiens ordlista* (Swedish Academy’s glossary), henceforth SAOL (see Borin/Forsberg/Lönnngren 2013 about SALDO).

The result of the work done by Forsberg and Schumacher Olsson is a list of approximately 2,500 types, including a lot of “noise”, e.g. smileys. We have examined the list of types manually and, among other things, compiled spelling variants of the same interjection, for instance, *nice* and *najs*. Table 1 presents, in alphabetical order, a number of lemma candidates, classified as interjections, for a revised version of the SO. These candidates are slightly stronger candidates than many other possible interjections; this judgement is based on their frequency and distribution in the corpora (cf. the lists by Norrick 2015: 257–258 with 260 recurrent English interjections). All the interjections in Table 1 are considered to be English loanwords.

Table 1: Interjectional lemma candidates to the SO

aaah/aah
argh/arghh/arrgh
awesome
aw/aww/awww
ay/aye
bla/bla/bla/bla/bla
check
daahhh/dah
eeeeh/eeeh/eehh/eeh/eehh/eh/ehh/ehhh/ehhhh
fuck
gaaah/gaah/gah
gotcha
hehe/heheh/hehehe
hepp/häpp
hey
hrmph
jeeezuz
jäpp/yep/yep
lol
meh
muahahaha
najs/nice
nepp/näpp
nope
ooops/ops/ups
ouch
ow/owww
pfff/pfft
tada
ts
ugh
whoops/whops
whohoo/woho/wohoo/woohoo
yay
yes
yummi/yummie/yummii/yummy

In accordance with our expectations, the texts from Familjeliv and Flashback fora of discussion have contributed with most candidates to the list (cf. Norrick 2015: 249, 251). As can be seen, the words are mainly primary interjections, e.g. *ouch*, but there are also secondary interjections in the table, e.g. *fuck* (cf. Norrick 2015: 260).

5.2 The handling of three interjections with English origin and not yet included in the SO

Based on Table 1, in sub-sections 5.2.1–5.2.3 we discuss three new possible lemmas in an updated version of SO: *yes*, *nice/najs* and *woho/wohoo*. The selection of these lemma candidates is derived from the fact that they present different types of challenges when analyzing and describing them in new SO entries.

As mentioned in section 3, SO (2021) is preceded by SO (2009), which in turn has several predecessors. As a consequence, there are conventions concerning how entries in the dictionary are to be designed. However, as shown in sub-section 2.3, Järborg (1989: 22–30) does not provide any definition formats for the part-of-speech that is interjection. Therefore, the approximately 180 existing interjectional entries must be examined in order to handle new interjections in accordance with previously utilized solutions. A few of the existing interjectional entries in SO (2021) are *bravo*, *haha*, *hej då* ('bye'), *poff* ('poof'), *simsalabim*, *tack* ('thanks') and *mjau* ('meow'). In addition, there are 8 noun entries, e.g. *skit* ('shit'), *stopp* ('stop') and *flämt* ('gasp'), in the SO (2021), where an interjectional function is categorized as a subsense. Thus, this way of describing interjections is also a possibility (cf. Theilgaard 2013: 131). An examination of the existing interjection entries in the SO shows, among other things, that the majority of the interjections included are monosemous, e.g. *schas* ('schoo'), but there are also polysemous interjections, e.g. *äh* ('oh, pooh, dash it') in the SO.

Three different strategies are used to describe the senses of this part-of-speech in the SO (2021). The first strategy involves rendering the sense with a definition, as with *sorry* in sub-section 4.1, or with a synonym, as with *shit* in sub-section 4.2. This strategy can be related to meaning descriptions of discourse particles in two Icelandic dictionaries: the descriptions are "quite general and consist of a combination of definitions and synonym explanations" (Hilmisdóttir 2021: 97). The second strategy in the SO involves describing the use of the interjection, its occurrence, etc. Examples are *puh* (an expression for dullness, tiredness or boredom), *nåväl* (which summarizes etcetera) and *mu* (which reproduces the sound of a cow). The third strategy to convey the senses consists of a combination of these ways, e.g., as in the case of *wow* in sub-section 4.3.

5.2.1 The example *yes*

Figure 9 shows the content of a draft of an entry concerning the lemma *yes* in an updated version of the SO. On the left-hand side of Figure 9, various types of information are indicated, and on the right-hand side, information is presented in Swedish about the lemma. The following discussion also includes comments on how the interjection *yes* is handled in the DDO, the NAOB, the *Ordbog over Danske Interjektioner* – ODI ('the Dictionary of Danish interjections') and the monolingual diachronic *Swedish Academy's*

dictionary – SAOB (see ODI og interjektioner about this subproject of the Ordbog over Dansk Talesprog – ODT).

LEMMA	yes
PRONUNCIATION	[jes'] [+ ljudfil]
PART-OF-SPEECH	interjektion
SEMANTIC INFORMATION: MAIN SENSE	uttryck för stor entusiasm eller tillfredsställelse över någonting (förväntat eller oväntat) som inträffar
CONTENT-PARADIGMATIC INFORMATION	JFR ¹ <i>hurra</i> [interjektion [+ klickbar länk]]
EXAMPLES	Yes! Äntligen är pusslet klart; Jag kände bara "yes!" när jag gick vidare till final
PRAGMATIC INFORMATION	<vardagligt>
SEMANTIC INFORMATION: SUB-SENSE	även utan eftertryck och med sammanfattande funktion
CONTENT-PARADIGMATIC INFORMATION	JFR ¹ <i>okej/okey</i> [interjektion] [+ klickbar länk]
EXAMPLES	Yes, då går vi vidare till nästa punkt på programmet
PRAGMATIC INFORMATION	<vardagligt>
HISTORICAL INFORMATION	<i>Expressen</i> 1987 (KB Dagstidningar)

Figure 9: The entry *yes* in an updated version of the SO (draft)

The word *yes*, with just one spelling, is included as a lemma in the Danish DDO, the Norwegian NAOB, the Danish ODI and the Swedish SAOB respectively. The SO information on the pronunciation of the word, given in Figure 9, is settled after a comparison with the data in the four dictionaries and it is communicated by the written form "[jes']" and by a clickable link, "[+ljudfil]". However, it is rather complicated to inform the dictionary users about the pronunciation of interjections. As already men-

tioned in sub-section 2.3, interjections are mainly used in spoken language. Lindberg (1980: 131) states that the rendering of an interjection in writing is only “a pale reflection [...]” compared with the nuances expressed in spoken language. In order to obtain a more nuanced idea of what a particular use of an interjection really means, one must consider the speaker’s tone of voice. Hence, the production of the audio files puts high demands on both the reader of the lemmas and the person instructing the reader.

The syntagmatic information provided is that *yes* is an interjection, and the pragmatic information is conveyed by the formal marker “<vardagligt>” (<colloquial>). Both the DDO and the NAOB state that *yes* is used colloquially. According to the ODI, typical users of the word in Danish were born between 1987 and 1996, which is a rather specific piece of information.

Based on the use of the word in corpora that were consulted, and the information given in other dictionaries, our assessment is that *yes* is used in slightly different ways that can be presented using a main sense description and a subsense description in the SO entry. The main sense is captured by the following description: “uttryck för stor entusiasm eller tillfredsställelse över någonting (förväntat eller oväntat) som inträffar” (‘expression of great enthusiasm or satisfaction over something (expected or unexpected) occurring’). The meaning description is combined with a cross-reference to the entry *hurra*, which is also used to express joy. In the first example in Figure 9, *yes* forms a graphic sentence on its own: “Yes! Äntligen är pusslet klart” (‘Yes! Finally, the puzzle is complete’). In the second example, the word is included in a sentence: “Jag kände bara ‘yes’ när jag gick vidare till final” (‘I just felt “yes!” when I went on to the final’) (cf. SAG 1999: 765–768, § 14–15 on the syntactic functions of interjections in Swedish).

The subsense of *yes* is indicated by a comment on how the interjection is pronounced and its function: “även utan eftertryck och med sammanfattande funktion” (‘also without emphasis and with a summary function’). Furthermore, a cross-reference is given to the SO entry *okej/okej*, which means ‘yes, I accept’, i.e. content-paradigmatic information with the help of a clickable link. The cross-reference, as well as the example “yes, då går vi vidare till nästa punkt på programmet” (‘yes, then we move on to the next item of the program’), illustrates this use of the interjection. It can be debated if this use of *yes*, which, as already mentioned, is pronounced with less emphasis, should be exemplified with a separate audio file, followed by a clickable link.

At the end of the entry, only information about the establishment of the word in Swedish written texts is given. The reason for this is that information about the origin and kinship of new lemmas is, in accordance with the instructions from the client – the Swedish Academy, not prioritized in the work concerning an updated version of the SO (Sköldberg 2022: 146). According to the SAOB diachronic dictionary, the first evidence of *yes* in Swedish is dated to 1987. The DDO gives the same year, while this type of information is not included in the NAOB. After searching in KB Dagstidningar, we chose to follow the SAOB; the first occurrence of *yes* is identified in the Expressen daily newspaper in 1987. In the diachronic dictionary, however, it is pointed out that the word has appeared as an English quotation word in Swedish texts since the 19th century.

5.2.2 The example *nice/najs*

In the corpora utilized in this study (see sub-section 5.1), there are two common spelling variants of the word pronounced [najs], namely *nice* and *najs*. Thus, one of the variants is identical with the English spelling of the word and the other variant has been orthographically adapted to Swedish (see Josephson 2022: 202–204 on orthographic adaptation of English loanwords). However, the variant *nice* is more common in the corpora, and therefore it is proposed to be the main lemma form and *najs* is presented as a variant form in a future SO entry.

The analysis of the uses of the word shows that it can function as an interjection as well as an adjective. In addition, in the DDO and NAOB, *nice* is categorized as an adjective. The word can thus, as shown in Figure 10, be handled as certain nouns in the SO where the interjectional use is communicated in a subsense (cf. sub-section 5.2).

LEMMA	nice eller najs
PRONUNCIATION	[najs] [+ljudfil]
PART-OF-SPEECH	adjektiv
INFLECTION	neutrum <i>nice</i> eller <i>najs</i> , bestämd form och plural <i>najsa</i>
SEMANTIC INFORMATION: MAIN SENSE	som ger upphov till positiva känslor och gott humör
CONTENT-PARADIGMATIC INFORMATION	JFR <i>fin</i> [adjektiv], <i>trevlig</i> [adjektiv] [+klickbara länkar]
EXAMPLES	En nice restaurang; Han tyckte att det var ganska nice att bara vara hemma på semestern; Nu ska det bli nice med en kall öl
PRAGMATIC INFORMATION	<vardagligt>
SEMANTIC INFORMATION: SUB-SENSE	även med funktion av en sorts interjektion
CONTENT-PARADIGMATIC INFORMATION	–
EXAMPLES	Kolla vilken pool vi har på hotellet! – Nice! Hörde du att jag fick godkänt på tentan? – Nice! Grattis!
PRAGMATIC INFORMATION	<vardagligt>
HISTORICAL INFORMATION	<i>Hudiksvallstidningen</i> 1960 (KB Dagstidningar)

Figure 10: The entry *nice/najs* in an updated version of the SO (draft)

At the top of Figure 10, formal information about the word is to be found, with spelling and pronunciation. Since *nice/najs* is classified as an adjective, information about the inflection of the word is also included; the neuter form is *nice* or *najs* and the definite form and the plural form is *najsa*. The sense of the adjective is indicated by the definition “som ger upphov till positiva känslor och gott humör” (‘giving rise to positive feelings and a good mood’). The conventional way to define adjectival lemmas in lexicographical outcomes based on Lexical database is with a relative clause, here “som ger [...]” (cf. Järborg 1989: 25). To further specify the sense, and show alternative ways of expression, cross-references to the adjectives *fin* and *trevlig* are provided, with links. The semantic information is supplemented with three examples, e.g. “En nice restaurang” (‘A nice restaurant’).

The description of the subsense of the lemma *nice/najs* is shown with the wording “även med funktion av en sorts interjektion” (‘also with the function of a kind of interjection’). However, it is not easy to reproduce a natural use of this function. One possibility is to illustrate this in a short dialogue, e.g. “Hörde du att jag fick godkänt på tentan? – Nice! Grattis!” (‘Did you know that I passed the exam? – Nice! Congratulations!’) (cf. Hilmsdóttir 2021: 81 on dialogues in DDO entries and Norrick 2015: 249, 263, 270, who state that interjections often appear in dialogues).

As seen in Figure 10, pragmatic information is conveyed by the formal marker “<vardagligt>” (‘<colloquial>’), both for the main sense and the subsense, i.e. as in the draft for the entry describing the word *yes* in sub-section 5.2.1.

It is difficult to determine when *nice/najs*, both the adjective and the interjection, was established in Swedish. One reason for the difficulty is, among others, that the French place name *Nice* appears frequently in the KB Dagstidningar. However, the resource shows that the adjective *nice* has appeared at least since 1960 in Swedish written texts, and the spelling variant *najs* has occurred since 1995. In Figure 11, only information about the first occurrence of the more common spelling variant is given: “1960”.

5.2.3 The example *woho/wohoo*

The third and last example of a new interjection entry for an updated version of the SO is *woho/wohoo*. In current corpora, there are at least four spelling variants: *whohoo/woho/wohoo/woohoo*. In theory, one can imagine – or even demand – that all spellings should be included in a descriptive dictionary like the SO. However, lexicographers usually choose the most common variants in the corpora used, in this case, *woho* and *wohoo*. Figure 11 shows how the word, which is not treated in the DDO or the NAOB, can be described in the SO.

As previously mentioned, the handling of this lemma requires certain decisions regarding spelling variation. The pronunciation of the word can also be discussed. The problem is primarily how the interjection should be read. Should the audio file illus-

LEMMA	woho eller wohoo
PRONUNCIATION	[woho'] [+ ljudfil]
PART-OF-SPEECH	interjektion
SEMANTIC INFORMATION	uttryck för stor uppskattning eller tillfredsställelse
CONTENT-PARADIGMATIC INFORMATION	JFR ¹ <i>hurra</i> [interjektion], <i>jippi</i> [interjektion], <i>tjoho</i> [interjektion] [+ klickbara länkar]
EXAMPLES	Woho, äntligen helg! Och flest poäng fick det gröna laget. – Woho, vi vann!
PRAGMATIC INFORMATION	<vardagligt>
HISTORICAL INFORMATION	<i>Göteborgs-Posten</i> 1998 (KB Dagstidningar)

Figure 11: The entry *woho/wohoo* in an updated version of the SO (draft)

trate a subdued voice or a more enthusiastic exclamation (cf. the pronunciations of *yes* in sub-section 5.2.1)?

The question about pronunciation is connected with the semantic information, formulated as “uttryck för stor uppskattning eller tillfredsställelse” (‘expression of great appreciation or satisfaction’). How is the adjective “stor” (‘great’) in the definition of *woho/wohoo* to be interpreted?

In Figure 11, cross-references, with links, are made to other interjections used in similar situations: ¹*hurra*, *jippi* and *tjoho*. Just like in the drafts for the entries *yes* and *nice/najs* in sub-sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 respectively, pragmatic information is conveyed by the formal marker “<vardagligt>” (‘<colloquial>’).

As in the case of *nice/najs* in sub-section 5.2.2, one of the two examples given has the form of a corpus-based dialogue: “Och flest poäng fick det gröna laget. – Woho, vi vann!” (‘And the green team got the most points. – Woho, we won!’). Finally, the interjection, based on information in KB Dagstidningar, has been used in Swedish written texts since 1998.

6 Conclusion and discussion

This paper discusses a qualitative and, to a certain extent, comparative metalexicographical case study based on the two research questions in section 1. The analysis is based on a number of information types that are central to monolingual dictionary entries and concerns the existing entries *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* in the three Nordic dictionaries SO, DDO and NAOB (RQ1) as well as the draft entries *yes*, *nice/najs* and *woho/wohoo* in an updated SO (RQ2).

The analysis concerns a very limited number of interjections, but it nevertheless shows that lexicographic work with members of this particular part-of-speech is challenging. The specific challenges identified in this study are to be handled by lexicographers working with the Lexical database (see sub-section 3.2) and the SO and SAOL dictionaries. It may be assumed, however, that lexicographers working with other contemporary monolingual dictionaries are facing the same or similar problems and possibilities (cf. sub-section 2.2).

Questions arise as to how formal information about spelling and pronunciation should be communicated in the best possible way in the SO. The dictionary could offer its users more easily accessible information about how the written representation of pronunciation is meant to be interpreted.

The inflectional information for members of this part-of-speech can also be discussed. Interjections are often described as inflexible (SAG 1999: 746, § 1), which may be evident for first-language speakers, but the same does not always apply to second-language speakers. Therefore, in the SO, added inflectional information such as “oböjlig” (‘inflexible’) may be useful, especially for speakers of Swedish as a second language.

Furthermore, the study shows that it is not obvious how the meaning descriptions should be formulated. However, a review of all interjection entries in the SO (2021) (cf. sub-section 5.2), suggests that the descriptions of senses are best communicated through descriptions of the use and/or functions of the interjection, rather than through definitions. Content-paradigmatic information, in terms of cross-references to other interjections, may also strengthen the semantic aspects of the entries.

In addition, it is difficult to find illustrative interjectional examples in corpora that can be used in dictionary entries. Such examples are, however, important for elucidating senses and construction patterns for lemmas in the entries. Pragmatic information, e.g. “<vardagligt>” (‘<colloquial>’), may be difficult for dictionary users to understand. Reliable information about the establishment of the interjections in Swedish may also be difficult to find, as well as information about their origin and kinship.

Part of the lexicographic work in compiling contemporary Nordic dictionaries such as the SO, the DDO and the NAOB is thus to identify, analyze and describe members of the part-of speech known as interjections. As shown in this paper, Nordic lexicographers can benefit from each other’s work. The frameworks and principles behind each dictionary must of course be respected, but the principles must also be reconsidered and – when needed – revised.

As far as interjectional entries in a future SO are concerned, there are at least three possibilities for development. Firstly, using the Danish DDO and/or the Norwegian NAOB dictionaries as resources would certainly enhance the work with the SO. Through Henrik Lorentzen (DDO), and Hanne Lauvstad and Carina Nilstun (NAOB), the SO lexicographers have been given access to lists with all interjection entries in both dictionaries, and the lists can form the basis for more comparisons. Secondly, some interjections are included in the SAOL but not in the SO. This applies, for example, to *jaa* ('yes') and *morsning* ('hey'). Thirdly, the SAOL and the SO indicate different parts-of-speech for identical lemmas. One example is *ritsch*, which is classified as an interjection in the SAOL but as a noun in the SO. With reference to the Svenska.se dictionary portal, where the entries in the SAOL, the SO and the SAOB are displayed together, such unjustified differences between the contemporary dictionaries should be handled.

In section 1 of this paper, some examples of how *sorry*, *shit* and *wow* are used in the Korp resource of Familjeliv corpus are presented. Finally, we exemplify the use of three other interjections of English origin in the same corpus (see Table 1 in sub-section 5.2). These interjections have not yet been included in the SO:

- (7) Viggo har extremt vassa naglar och han är i åldern nu då han gärna vill visa sin kärlek genom att nypas i ansiktet och dra i håret – *ouch*. ('Viggo has extremely sharp nails and he's now at an age when he likes to show his love by pinching my face and by pulling my hair – *ouch*')
- (8) Har en vännina [sic!] som inte blev gravid på 10 år trots ivf, sen börja hon med akupunktur och *whoops* var hon gravid! ('I have a friend who didn't get pregnant for 10 years despite IVF, then she began with acupuncture and *whoops* she got pregnant!')
- (9) Här blir det bakpotatis med aioli och quornfilé idag, *yummy*! ('Here, baked potatoes with aioli and quorn fillet will be served today, *yummy*!')

With the examples (7)–(9), we invite the readers of this paper to reflect upon how the loanwords *ouch*, *whoops* and *yummy* could be handled in dictionary entries reflecting contemporary languages.

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