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Research Article

LEXICOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL WEALTH IN EXPLANATORY AND BILINGUAL ITALIAN AND ALBANIAN DICTIONARIES



Lexicology

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Abstract

The topic of this article stems from the long experience working with students. The study of a foreign language entails the difficulties of idioms or phraseological phrases comprehension. Languages are rich in these unlimited sources which differ from one language to another. To carry out these studies, we have resorted to various dictionaries bilingual, multilingual or even explanatory ones. We have observed the expression of these phrase logical phrases in several dictionaries. In this study we are focused on the difficulty of finding the idioms meaning, classification based on their meanings, the relationship between lexicology and lexicography. The lexicographer's work is to be evaluated for the variety of strategies s/he should use in order to facilitate the figurative meaning of these expressions. He is more inclined to prevent the meaning transference, something which he outdoes even a linguist or a philosopher. As a conclusion, it is worth evaluating the work of all those who cope with the lexicographical reflection of this linguistic richness.

Interest in the study of phraseological units has increased internationally over the last decades, together with the recognition of lexicology as a separate discipline and the growing spread of the phenomenon of globalization, which has greatly influenced the formation of a 'multilingual society'. It is worth mentioning that in recent years numerous initiatives have been launched regarding the study of phraseological units or their reflection in relevant dictionaries. This is an element of enrichment, a sign of exchange and collaboration. The intensity and speed of communication increase the circulation and the learning of linguisticand multinational forms, accelerating a process of intertwining of cultures and languages of different peoples, thus creating a stable contact.

Lexicography relates to the technique of compiling dictionaries; it uses the studies of lexicology, semantics, morphology, syntax, etc. It also utilizes metalexicographic research that helps it describe a lemma or its headings according to the needs of different users. The connection between lexicology and lexicography is not a purely interdependent relationship: lexicology is one of the lexicographer's many sources of information and on the other hand modern lexicography is becoming more and more, especially in its electronic version, a source of inspiration for linguists.

Lexicographic strategies related to polysemy are different. Generally, the dictionary in one of its volumes lists as different meanings only the meanings that are very different from each other to be found, such as synonyms and antonyms, hyperonyms and other relations. Connotation meanings are placed next to the semantically closest meanings, unless they represent a phraseological unit or when they are more used in the first sense.

Although it is required that the microstructure of dictionaries always be uniform, that is, the internal structure of each word, this remains the most difficult area to adjust. This is due to the number and quality of meanings of polysemous lemmas.

Countless meanings are listed more for the eye than for the mind: they serve to make a very long explanation seem well-laid-out. The examples and phraseology, in most cases distributed after each meaning soften the abruptness of the transitions from one meaning to another, show that there is always a match between the meaning of the word in the example and the meaning at the top of the list of meanings. A lexicographer is increasingly more inclined than linguists and philosophers not to fragment the smoothness of transitions from one meaning to another, because if on the one hand rigor and accuracy are given, on the other hand he is aware that he is writing definitions for a human user, and consequently not only that he cannot but he should neither be too scientific nor explain in great detail, so he/she can take for granted some linguistic and encyclopedic knowledge. The skill of the lexicographer lies precisely in what kind of vocabulary he/she should compile and which audience he/she should serve it. The risk of not giving the specific meaning that the word takes in a sentence should be avoided. Italian lexicology, which has been rich in the author's examples, risks suffering from the fascination with beautiful examples: it may end up fragmenting the meanings of the word and following the particular meanings of the context, failing to give an overview of the word.

In terms of the order of meanings in dictionaries, the order from where it goes from the basic meaning to the figurative and specialized ones is widespread. Outdated or archaic meanings, even though they were first, end up at the bottom of the list, as they are meanings that may be of least interest to all users. There are other dictionaries that deal with the historical order of meanings and it is precisely the historical dictionaries that trace exactly the history of the life of the word from the oldest usage to the present day.

It is rare that in the microstructure of a monolingual dictionary there is a section on phraseology where everything that is not marked during the ordering of meanings (such as idioms, proverbs, etc.) can be summarized. This only happens with verbs like essere, avere, fare, mettere, dare, prendere, mandare, etc., but there are cases in which nothing is found on them either, and the lexicographer must invent meanings that act as common denominator for all registered locutions.

When we talk about the definition of a dictionary we must keep in mind that it must contain everything that is universal, necessary and fundamental to the competence of the native speaker, leaving to the encyclopedia what is special and not fundamental to the competence of the user. By necessary, in this case, we understand what is pragmatically necessary to establish a relationship between the speakers of our culture. The main problem for contemporary semantics and at the same time for lexicology is not that linguistic knowledge should be kept separate from encyclopedic knowledge, but the fact that we have to decide what is the part of the necessary information that resists all contexts. The solutions found in the dictionaries in the market are a bit empirical and not always coherent in all object definitions of the same type. For now in general

dictionaries the definitions are part of a slightly harsh metalanguage, they would be very similar to those of everyday speech if it were not for some peculiarities which are noticed during a careful and persevering consultation.

Regarding the Albanian language, we can say that it is a language that is used figuratively to a rather high degree. *Gjuha kocka s'ka e kocka thyen* (which translated literally means *The tongue has no bones but it breaks bones*) goes the saying, a very significant saying which points out both the naming and evaluating skills which are quite powerful. Phraseological units are also expressive of these skills. They are found in all Albanian dictionaries starting from the Latin-Albanian Dictionary of F. Bardhi (1635) (until now the first genuine bilingual dictionary which serves also as an indicator of the beginnings of Albanian lexicography) and up to dozens of hundreds of dictionaries to date.

Taking into account the volumetric structures and dimensions, the scientific profile of the compilers (amateurs or specialists), the stage or the experience of a lexicographer, Albanian phraseology is found¹:

- a) In explanatory dictionaries
- b) In bilingual and multilingual dictionaries

In the monolingual dictionaries we will distinguish Explanatory dictionaries (Dictionary of the Albanian language, 1954, which has hundreds of such units; *Dictionary of the modern Albanian language*, 1980, with about 8000 phraseological units; *Dictionary of today's Albanian*, 1984/2002, with about 500 phraseological units and the *Dictionary of the Albanian language*, 2006, with about 8000 phraseological units) as well as the *Phraseological dictionaries*, where the Phraseological dictionary of J. Thomai, 1999, with over 12000 phraseological units displays genuine scientific and lexicographical values. But many other national or dialectal dictionaries that reflect tens of thousands of phraseological units should not be left out. We are not dwelling on this argument because many evaluations and qualitative analyzes have been performed for these dictionaries².

In terms of explanatory dictionaries of the Italian language it is worth mentioning some of the most popular dictionaries such as *Zingarelli*³, which every year comes out in a new version, *Garzianiti* 1987⁴, Disc 1997 and *De Mauro*⁵ 2000. Another complete Italian dictionary is *Gradi*⁶ 1999, with about 1788 phraseological units. Also *Dizionario compatto della lingua italiana*⁷ curated by Anna Cattana and Maria Teresa Nesci with about 13000 phraseological units.

¹ Gjoçaj, Z., Trajtesa frazeo stilistike te shqipes, 2009

² J. Thomai, *Leksikologjia e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 2006

³ Zingarelli, 1999

⁴ Garzanti, 1987

⁵ De Mauro, 2000

⁶ Gradi, 1999

⁷ Dizionario italiano della lingua compatta, 1995/1996

There are also many bilingual dictionaries such as, Dizionario compatto albanese italiano/italiano - albanese 8 by Paola Guerra and Alberto Spagnoli contains a considerable amount of phraseological units. Another rich source is the *Phraseological Dictionary* by Artan Fida, 1998, Tiranë. A collection and adaptation of phraseological expressions which, according to the author, juxtaposes Italian phraseology with its equivalent in Albanian¹⁰. The phraseological wealth of both languages has been and is still reflected in numerous works, but these are some of them.

In conclusion we can say that if at the beginning of the compilation of phraseological dictionaries proverbs, sayings, aphorisms or figurative expressions pertaining to different situations were left out, now they are a valuable part of the dictionaries which point out the expressive power of each peoplefurthermore they serve as witnesses to the linguistic wealth we possess. It is worth mentioning the painstaking work of lexicographers who are trying, in addition to phraseological dictionaries where a simple translation of the expression is given, to deal with finding their equivalent. Another asset that is offered to us, young researchers, making our work and study much easier.

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⁹ A. Fida, *Fjalori frazeologjik*, 1998

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