

ASIALEX

Newsletter February 1999

The First ASIALEX Regional Symposium

The First ASIALEX Regional Symposium was held in Guangzhou on 14–16 January. The Symposium was hosted by Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, the home institution of the ASIALEX president, Professor Huang Jianhua. I'm sure all delegates were grateful for the hospitality shown by the staff at GUFs and impressed by the facilities at the University's modern campus.



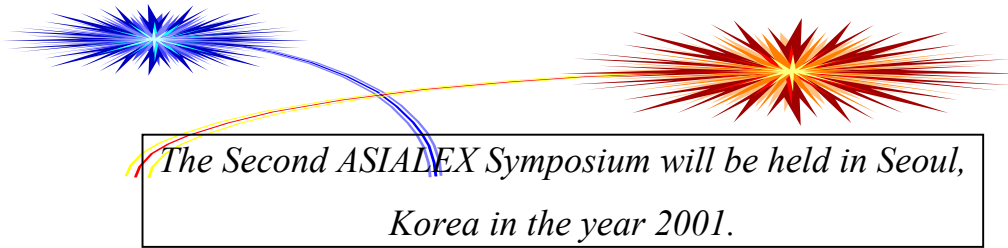
The organizers must have been pleased by the large number of delegates registered for the Symposium; members from at least six different nations were present. Attendance at the plenary sessions was well over 100, and there were enough papers read for a full two-day programme with parallel sessions. There was a strong and encouraging representation from Guangzhou, which reflected great credit on GUFs. The papers which were presented, and the general success of the Symposium, were a most positive indication of the lively state of Asian lexicography.

The standard of contributions was high, and papers were notable for the fact that, in general, they did not merely report but gave evidence of lexicographical analysis and reflection. This was most obviously true of the stimulating plenary papers (by Cao Xianzhuo, Tony Cowie, Cheng Ting Au and Andrew Taylor), but there were many others that offered historical depth and a good regional perspective to the view of dictionaries and dictionary-writing in Asia. Many of the papers, of course, were on bilingual or bilingualised dictionaries; but topics spread widely enough to include thesauruses, corpus-based lexicography and ESP dictionaries.

It would be remiss to conclude my comments without mentioning the first-class banquet which closed the Symposium, at which delegates were entertained in a most professional manner by students of GUFs. Most delegates were amazed that the students were majoring in English, not in music, dance or drama, such was the standard of their performance!

Well done, ASIALEX, and well done Guangzhou organizers! The quality of the Symposium augurs well for the future of this newest of the LEXes!

David Blair
Macquarie University
ex-secretary of AUSTRALEX



Report from the Secretary:

On behalf of the Association, I would like to welcome the forty-two new members who have joined us recently. Some of them found out about the Association by word of mouth while some read about us on the websites of our sister LEXes and lexicographical associations to which we owe our thanks. The majority of the new members, however, joined us during the EURALEX and ASIALEX conferences.

The membership fee for 1997-98 was due on 30th June, 1998. So far, only 30 members have renewed their membership! Those who have not yet done so, please send in your cheques. The amounts for different categories of membership are:

Personal membership	shall be that of an individual	HK\$100 (US\$13)
Student membership	shall be that of any individual enrolled as a full-time student in a tertiary institution	HK\$50 (US\$6.5)
Institutional membership	shall be that of an institution, e.g. an academic centre or publishing house	HK200 (US\$26)

Note: Cheques can only be accepted in Hong Kong dollars or U.S. dollars. Should you pay in U.S. dollars, please include a US\$8 handling fee to the total amount. The cheque should be sent to Amy Chi, c/o Language Centre, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Hong.

You may also pay by remittance to the following account:

Hang Seng Bank:
 – account holder **ASIALEX** (in capital letters)
 – account number 361-046667-001
 – branch address Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
 Clear Water Bay
 Kowloon, Hong Kong

Educational advancement:

- ✧ The 13th International Lexicography Course will be held at Exeter (UK) from 19th to 23rd April 1999. More information is given in the fourth section of the DRC website (<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/drc>). The course fee (£190) and charges for bed, breakfast and dinner for residents at the Crossmead Conference Centre (£250) are being held at last year's level.
- ✧ Sue Atkins and Michael Rundell, two highly experienced lexicographers, are offering courses in all aspects of dictionary making and computational lexicography. Courses cover a range of academic issues and practical applications, and can be tailored to meet specific needs. To find out more, check out their website at: <http://ds.dial.pipex.com/town/lane/ae345/>

Lexicographical events in 1999

**COMPLEX '99 – 5th Conference on Computational Lexicography
and Text Research, to be held in Pecs, Hungary,
16–19 June 1999.**

Papers on the following areas will be presented:

- Lexical databases and electronic dictionaries
- Corpora and corpus-based research
- Parallel corpora
- Critical review of SGML tools
- Lexicons and software tools for machine translation.

The registration fee is 500 DM. A reduced fee of 300DM can be arranged for participants coming from Eastern Europe. Registration by e-mail is encouraged. This may be sent either to the *COMPLEX '99* conference organizers Julia Pajzs at pajzs@nytud.hu or Jozsef Andor at andor@btk.jpte.hu. For more information, please contact the conference organizers either by e-mail or by post: Julia Pajzs, Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, PO Box 19 Budapest, H-1250 Hungary.

**The Fifth International Conference on Current Problems in
Lexicography, to be held in Belgorod, Russia,
11–13 May 1999.**

Organized by Belgorod State University (Russia) and Kharkov Lexicographic Society (Ukraine), and under the aegis of the Lavrentij Zizanj Tustanovsky International Association for East Slavic Lexicography (IAESL).

Topics to be covered include:

- Methodological and linguistic aspects of lexicography
- Historical lexicography
- Terminography
- Learner's lexicography
- Computerization of lexicographical activities
- Computer-supported dictionaries
- Dictionary development projects.

Contributions (paper titles, general information about the author as well as the address for correspondence) will be accepted till 1 April, 1999. Participants are also welcome to submit short abstracts of their papers, 1–2 pages each, or full papers of 7–8 pages each (2 spaces between the lines), both as camera-ready hard copies and files on diskettes (as *.doc files prepared using Microsoft Word 6.0, Microsoft Word 7.0, or in Rich Text Format, if prepared in MS Office 97). The organizers are planning to publish proceedings of the Conference.

The fee for participants is USD15. An interesting social programme will be offered, including a city tour and a friendship supper. A bookstand presenting linguistic and lexicographical works will be available. For more information on the conference and submission of contributions, please write to Geroev Truda at 33-D, Apt. 4., Kharkov Lexicographical Society, Ukraine 310136, Kharkov.

Fax: 572 43 5094, 572 40 0601
E-mail: *root@khls.kharkiv.Com*

The Third International School in Lexicography “Dictionary in the Contemporary World”, to be held at Ivanovo State University, Russia, 14–16 September 1999.

The guest speaker will be Dr Ruth Vatvedt Fjeld (Section of Norwegian Lexicography, Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo).

Topics will include:

- Is Lexicography a linguistic discipline?
- Homonymy, polysemy and vagueness as lexicographic problems
- Plagiarism, criminality and ethics in lexicography and dictionary-making
- Lexicography and language ideology in Scandinavia

To apply for participation and for further information, contact Professor Olga Karpova:

Tel: 70 9 3230 0291
Fax: 70 9 3232 6600
E-mail: karpova@ivgu.ivanovo.su

Call for papers for publication

Name of journal: *Linguistik online*
(<http://viadrina.euv-frankfurt-o.de/~wjournal/deutsch/index.html>)
Title: General Monolingual Dictionary - a lexicographic concept or a fiction?

Linguistik online is an international journal that aims to contribute to linguistic research. It is a free online publication and covers a wide spectrum of different linguistic questions. *Linguistik online* deals with the principal problems of linguistics in periodical rotation; special editions are planned for all areas. To guarantee the high scientific level of *Linguistik online*, articles will be published only after being positively assessed in a peer-review process by at least two experts.

The aim of **this** edition is to reopen the discussion on the concept of a general monolingual dictionary, its possibilities, borderline cases and restrictions. The topics which could be presented in the articles include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The basic principles of a general monolingual dictionary (GMD)
- 2) Lexicographical and lexicological aspects of word presentation (i.e. lexicographic codification of different expert vocabularies)
- 3) The features of lexicographic concept and structure of this type of dictionary construction, entry, preface and practical guides on using the dictionary, given information, style, ambiguity, collocations, etc.
- 4) The modes of using a GMD (i.e. in compliance with its purpose or not, in teaching and learning foreign languages, for children, adults, native and non-native speakers, translators as dictionary users, etc.)
- 5) The relation of GMD to learners' dictionaries/encyclopaedias/encyclopaedic dictionaries/bilingual dictionaries and other relevant reference books
- 6) GMD on CD-ROM / on the Internet
- 7) GMD as reference books that in the first place
 - aim at explanation of language-specific vocabulary characteristics from the synchronous aspect;
 - can be published on different sorts of media (book, file cards, discs and CD-ROM, etc.)
 - are designated for a heterogeneous (adult) native speaker user (a layman with minimum of school knowledge as well as an expert versed in various fields of knowledge)
 - describe vocabulary according to syntagmatic principles but also consider the basic paradigmatic relations in the vocabulary

- do not focus exclusively or exhaust one part of language but give general information, for example about orthography, spelling, grammar, style, etymology, idioms, meaning of words and word groups, etc.
- do not treat explanation of meaning of words as an end in itself but always attempt to consider the user and the basic typological goals so that the purpose is not a semantic description but a pragmatically oriented lexicographic meaning description
- describe relevant sub-levels of standard language, for example expert vocabularies, regional and colloquial expressions, etc.

This special edition should be published in Spring 1999. Please submit the title and synopsis of your intended article by e-mail or letter **by February 1999**. E-mail to Pitzek@EUnet.yu or jasam@rz-uni.osnabrueck.de or snail-mail to: Professor Dr Elke Hentschel, Universität Osnabrück, Fachbereich Sprach - und Literaturwissenschaft, Neuer Graben 40, D-49069 Osnabrück.

Information on other lexicographical organisations

✧ *Our sister LEXes: AFRILEX, AUSTRALEX and EURALEX*

Spotlight: AFRILEX

Chairperson: Prof. Rufus Gouws
 Department of Afrikaans and Dutch
 University of Stellenbosch
 7599 Stellenbosch
 South Africa.
 E-mail: rhg@maties.sun.ac.za

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Marietta Alberts
 Wingate Park, P.O. Box 846,
 0153 South Africa

AFRILEX was established in 1995 in Stellenbosch to be an association for lexicography for the whole continent of Africa and we have approximately 120 members. It is an association for anybody interested in any aspect of dictionary-making, dictionary use, theoretical lexicography etc. We hold international conferences annually and two to three regional seminars.

AFRILEX publishes an annual journal in co-operation with the Bureau of the WAT, called *LEXIKOS* and is currently involved in many training initiatives.

Information from Professor Daan Prinsloo

✧ *Others*

Spotlight: International Association of Eastern-Slavonic Lexicography

The 4th International Conference "Contemporary Problems of Lexicography" held by Kharkov Lexicographic Society and Grodno State University took place from 1st–3rd of June 1998 in Grodno (Belarus). At their final session the participants founded International Association of Eastern-Slavonic Lexicography (IAESL). The official languages of IAESL and all its bodies are: Belorussian, Russian and Ukrainian. The Association is a non-profit one and all its activities are self-sustaining.

President: Professor V.V. Dubichinsky (Kharkov, Ukraine)

Vice-Presidents: V.I. Zimin, Professor (Moscow, Russia)
T.A. Lisitsina, Professor (Novgorod, Russia)
L.V. Rychkova, Assistant Professor (Grodno, Belarus)

Executive Director: M. Grabska, Professor (Gdansk, Poland)

Members of IAESL can be collectives, individuals and honorary, irrespective of nationality, citizenship, religion, etc., who actively create and study dictionaries and pay the appropriate membership fees.

IAESL intends to create national branches in different countries of the world. Currently, it is organizing the Computer Lexicography Section of IAESL in Canada. The headquarters of IAESL is in Kharkov (Ukraine):

33-d, Geroyev Truda Str, apt. 4,
Kharkov, Ukraine 310136

Tel: 572 66 8340
E-mail: root@khls.kharkiv.com

The secretariat of IAESL is in Gdansk (Poland), the contact address is:

Uniwersytet Gdanski
Wydział Filologiczno-Historyczny
Instytut Filologii
Słowiańskiej, ul. Wita Stwosza, 55,
80-952 Gdansk, Poland

Tel.: 58 552 9239, 56 652 4216
E-mail: imarnw@friko4.onet.pl

Web sites of lexicographic interest include the following:

AFRILEX <http://www.up.ac.za/academic/libarts/afrilang/homelex.html>

American Dialect Society

<http://www.et.byu.edu/lilliek/ads/index.htm>

AUSTRALEX

<http://www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/alex.html>

COMLEX Syntax

<http://cs.nyu.edu/cs/projects/teus/comlex>

Produced by the Proteus Project at New York University. This is a broad-coverage English lexicon of syntactic features designed for natural language processing by computer.

Dictionary Research Centre

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/drc>

DSNA

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dsna/index.html>

EAGLES - The Expert Advisory Group on Language Engineering Standards

<http://www.ilc.pi.cnr.it/EAGLES/home.html>

Established by the European Commission to provide standards for large-scale language resources such as computational lexicons, for the means of manipulating these, and for assessing resources, tools and products.

EURALEX <http://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/euralex.html>

LexiGraf <http://egntia.ee.auth.gr/~yhat/yiannis/>

A software environment for desktop production of multilingual terminological dictionaries.

TELRI - the Trans-European Language Resources Infrastructure

<http://www.ids-mannheim.de/telri/cdrom.html>

A European Commission project for creating a viable infrastructure between leading European language and language technology centres and a means for universities, research centres, and industry to provide language resources in the public domain for the NLP community. Information on a double CD-ROM containing corpora of over 20 European languages, with tools for working with them, is published by the TELRI Association.

The International Journal of Lexicography

<http://www.oup.co.uk/lexico>

The Less Commonly Taught Languages Project of the National Language Resource Center

<http://carla.acad.umn.edu/lctl/lctl.html>

Vietnam Lexicography Center

<http://www.vietlex.com.vn.htm>

Website on dictionary use:

<http://www.u-gakugei.ac.jp/~tefldpt/tonolab/userstudy/index/html>

A bibliography of studies on dictionary use and on general and computational lexicography in English, compiled by Yukio Tono.

Website on phraseology:

<http://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/euralex./bibweb/html>

A bibliography of phraseology expanded from the "Select Bibliography" by Anthony Cowie and Peter Howarth published in the *International Journal of Lexicography* 9/1 (1996). It includes dictionaries of phraseological units and books and articles on phraseology. The bibliography is being coordinated by Rosamund Moon (rosamund@cobuild.collins.co.uk), who welcomes additional references and suggestions.

Taken mostly from the EURALEX newsletter and special thanks to Professor David Gates, ex-president of DSNA (Dictionary Society of North America).

**Edited by Amy Chi
Language Centre
Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology
8th February, 1999.**