

of unknown words in monolingual English dictionaries; the frequency of unknown words and its effect on reading comprehension; and evaluating electronic dictionaries used at the college level compared to paper dictionaries. This last paper by Yamada on student evaluations of monolingual English learners' dictionaries by university students is more thoughtful than the typical survey on attitudes. The students used three web-based dictionaries by Cambridge, Longman, and Oxford during a well thought out dictionary skills task. Then they took an opinion survey that brought to light several advantages that Cambridge and Longman have over Oxford in their page layout and user-friendly web design.

Overall, we can see how far Japanese bilingual lexicography has come in forty years since the mid-1960's. The frustrating situation with J-E dictionaries that I encountered in 1975 included poorly translated examples, and vague, polysemous entries, with little attention paid to natural conversational English. The result was my odd *eigo kusai nihongo*, 'Japanese that smells like English,' and strained attempts at stilted conversations. Editorial practices of 30 or 40 years ago

included much copying of other poorly constructed dictionaries, little sense of frequency of expressions or high frequency collocations, and a focus on wide ranging vocabulary coverage at the expense of better treatment of culturally relevant words that would enlighten users of Japanese bilingual dictionaries.

Happily, the newest generation of lexicography research from Japan highlights advances in several bilingual English-Japanese best sellers. Among these are the Taishukan *Genius* series, the Shogakukan *Progressive* series, and the Kenkyusha *Lighthouse* series, which, according to Ikegami, have been superseded by the recent *Longman Eiwa Jiten* (2006), a modern day melding of LDOCE principles of entry selection, microstructure, modern examples, and layout, strengthened by corpus based modern Japanese. This collection is a pleasure for me to read, not only for its easy to read typeface, very high quality paper, and its very sturdy binding, but also for the probing analyses and high quality of its papers.

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KD NEWS

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The Iwasaki Linguistic Circle and Dictionary Analysis

Kaoru Akasu

1. Introduction

The Iwasaki Linguistic Circle (ILC) is a study group of linguists and lexicographers, based in Tokyo, who have been making unique contributions in the field of lexicography for many years, notably in the arena of dictionary criticism or dictionary evaluation, through a series of work demonstrating in-depth analyses of dictionaries. The present paper deals mainly with the early period of this circle and introduces the readers to the first dictionary analysis conducted by its members and to some of the ideas and characteristic features involved in it.

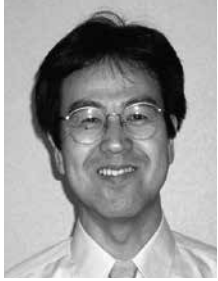
2. Historical Background

Let me begin by referring to the ILC history and today's ILC—of which I am an active member. The ILC, or *Iwasaki Kenkyukai* in Japanese and *Iwaken* for short—was set up in 1962 and started as a very small reading circle. Under their professor's guidance, five or six university graduates met at his home to read books

and articles on both general linguistics and English linguistics.¹ The mentor's name was Tamihei Iwasaki, Professor Emeritus at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies [*Tokyo Gaikokugo Daigaku*]. The late Professor Iwasaki, a phonetician, was among the leading English linguists at the time and well known for the English-Japanese dictionaries he wrote and edited. Obviously, this circle is named after him. As time went by, the ILC grew and now boasts a membership of some 200 people. The circle is currently headed by two original members: the ILC President, phonetician Shigeru Takebayashi, Professor Emeritus at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and Vice-President, metalexicographer Yoshiro Kojima, Professor Emeritus at Waseda University.

In 1972, ten years following its inception, the ILC launched the first issue of its journal, *Lexicon*, which is published annually. It is unique in that it often contains one or two very detailed dictionary analysis articles.² Actually, the first and second issues of

This article is based on a paper entitled 'Dictionary Analyses in Lexicon Revisited' read on August 27, 2003 at Asialex '03 Tokyo (Akasu 2003).



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Lexicon did not carry any analyses of dictionaries, and *Lexicon* No. 3 (1974) was the first to include dictionary analysis. However, in 1968, four years before the first issue of *Lexicon* came out, ILC members had published an original dictionary analysis in another journal: *Reports of the University of Electro-Communication*, which constituted the first of its type. This review, in the so-called Iwaken-style, broke new ground and set the standard for the many analyses to follow in *Lexicon*, as well as for two other analyses published in the *International Journal of Lexicography* (*IJL*) and two more in *Reports of the University of Electro-Communication*.

There are four study groups in the current ILC: Lexicography, Corpus, Grammar, and Theoretical Linguistics. Interested members meet basically once a month and read a book or an article of their choice and discuss the subject matter. As mentioned earlier, this kind of meeting, which we call *rindokukai* (regular meeting of a reading circle), was the starting point of the ILC, and is still at the heart of the circle. Also, some younger members of the ILC have started looking into the history of major English-Japanese dictionaries published in Japan. The first portion of this series of works came out in *Lexicon* No. 24 (1994), with the title 'Historical Development of English-Japanese Dictionaries in Japan (1)', and seven papers have come out so far. The findings and their implications are expected to make a significant contribution to a better and deeper understanding of bilingual lexicography in Japan.

3. The First Dictionary Analysis

Let us take a look at the first dictionary analysis, which appeared in 1968 in *Reports of the University of Electro-Communications*, the Japanese title of which journal is *Denki-tsushin Daigaku Gakuho*. One might wonder just why it appeared in this particular publication. The reason can be attributed to the fact that two of the four authors were faculty members at this university.³

What follows explores the methodological dimension of this review dissecting *Penguin English Dictionary* (1965). Five aspects of the dictionary are examined in this analysis and compared with other dictionaries, namely, selection of words entered, description of senses, usage labels, idiomatic phrases, and pronunciation.

3.1 Headwords

As for the first aspect, the selection of words entered, 100 words were taken from each of five, randomly chosen, sections of *Penguin*, totaling 500 words. These word selections

came from pages 150-151, 301-302, 450-451, 598-601, and 697-698, and were then compared to corresponding entries in the following dictionaries: *Concise Oxford Dictionary 5e* (*COD*), *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*, *Random House Dictionary*, and *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*. The results of the comparison were given in tables and the conclusion, taken from the English synopsis at the head of the article, states as follows: "*Penguin* is much more liberal toward informal terms and Americanisms than *COD*. Moreover, inflected forms are freely included as the main entries to an extent unusual for a dictionary of this size. On the other hand, *Penguin* is not so active as *COD* and other smaller Oxford dictionaries, in entering difficult words, especially classical terms."

3.2 Sense Description

The second aspect dealt with coverage, arrangement, manner of presentation, cross referencing, and terms and expressions used in definitions. In so doing, common words such as *cat*, *grass*, *nice*, *large*, *fairly*, *fast* (adv), *please*, and *look* were scrupulously compared mainly between *Penguin* and *COD*. Also compared were words like *constellation*, *crustacea*, and *feminism*, which are much less common. Here is the conclusion: "*Penguin* attaches greater importance to the colloquial meaning than to the literary, and arranges the meanings according to the frequency of their use to the great advantage of the general user. The poor presentation in this dictionary of grammatical terms shows contrastive features against other dictionaries, and in this respect *Penguin* has practically nothing to offer. Lack of illustrative sentences and cross references, apart from the references to *Penguin Reference Books*, are other flaws to be improved."

3.3 Usage Labels

For usage labels, 200 headwords were chosen from each of the following eight sections: *advert* - *agometer*; *d* - *deadlight*; *f* - *faro*; *j* - *jeans*; *m* - *manna*¹; *proud* - *pulverizer*; *stink* - *stratosphere*; *virtual* - *vying*. The *j* - *jeans* part was the only exception in that it contained 100 word samples, bringing the headword total to 1,500 in all. These words were compared between *Penguin* and *COD* for the presence or absence of usage labels and their specific types such as *slang*, *colloquial*, *archaic*, and *vulgar*. Hence, the conclusion: "A comparative survey of the usage labels, especially those of *slang*, *colloquial*, *archaic*, and *poetic*, discloses that there is an undeniable, even if slight,

discrepancy in the use of the labels, and this is certainly due to the difference in the outlooks of the English language of *COD* and *Penguin*.”

3.4 Idioms

As for the idiomatic phrases, the analysts looked into location, arrangement, and coverage. Idiomatic phrases within entries given for such common words as *get*, *make*, *put*, and *take* were compared mainly between *Penguin*, *COD*, and *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*. It says in the synopsis that “[a]s regards the ‘idiomatic phrases’ in *Penguin*, they are considerably large in number and are various in kind. Some of them, mostly labeled *coll* or *sl*, are supposed to be the ones rarely found in other dictionaries of a similar or even larger size. The explanations given to them are usually simple and plain, forming a remarkable contrast with *COD* which often uses somewhat difficult expressions for the purpose. All these may be called the chief merits of the ‘idiomatic phrases’ in *Penguin*, but the most marked demerit we have noticed is the confusion in the order of their arrangement.”

3.5 Pronunciation

As regards the last aspect, pronunciation, the analysis comprised two different parts. The first dealt with the transcription system, with a comparison made between the *Penguin* symbols and the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet). In addition, specific transcriptions of consonants and vowels were compared between *Penguin* and *COD* or the *English Pronouncing Dictionary 12e (EPD12)*. The latter part of the analysis was an attempt to see if *Penguin* identified any new pronunciation trends. *Penguin* and *EPD12* were specifically compared for this purpose. Here is the synopsis: “The phonetic symbols employed in *Penguin* are not those proposed by the International Phonetic Association, but are based on conventional spelling. They are, however, fairly consistent and satisfactory so far as the symbols for vowels in accented syllables and for consonants are concerned. On the other hand, vowels in unaccented syllables are rather poorly represented and the notation of full vowels in syllables with secondary stress is misleading. This defect is due to the principle of accentuation adopted by the dictionary. *Penguin* marks accented syllables with italic letters and unaccented ones with romans. By this method only two degrees of stress can be distinguished, while, in fact, three degrees of stress—primary, secondary and weak—are distinctive in English. Hence this ambiguity: both secondary stressed full

vowels and weak stressed obscure vowels are represented with the same symbols In our opinion the system of accentuation in *Penguin* leaves much to be improved.” In conclusion, the reviewers stated that “[t]he remarkable features of this dictionary we have revealed in the above analyses lead us to think that it is a fairly successful experiment in modern lexicography and that, along with *COD*, it will satisfy the needs of the general reader of today.” It is noteworthy that they brought their discussion to a conclusion on a positive note.

4. Concluding Remarks

The above goes to show that this first ever dictionary analysis, by four Iwaken members, had certain characteristic features worthy of attention. First, it was a comparative analysis, as pointed out in Nakamoto (1998). Second, the analysis was based on random sampling. Random sampling is necessary for the analysis to be objective rather than subjective, and being objective adds reliability to the analysis. Third, it was a collaborative project involving four analysts: to use Jackson's (2002) term, it was a case of “team reviewing.” Fourth, it was a critical appraisal, for both merits and demerits of the dictionary were pursued with impartiality. Fifth, it was an extensive, comprehensive analysis (also pointed out in Nakamoto) and an in-depth, detailed review. If one peruses all the subsequent dictionary analyses in *Lexicon*, as well as those in the other two journals given in Table 1, one sees that all these characteristics run through the dictionary analyses in one way or another. Therefore, this first dictionary analysis may well be called a seminal, example-setting work.

4.1 In his article titled ‘Dictionary Reviews and Reviewing: 1900-1975’, Robert Chapman offers four interesting suggestions on the method of dictionary reviewing. After commending, as a model, a review conducted by James B. McMillan, he writes: “I have four suggestions to offer toward a still better method. First, it would be desirable, if it does not prove too clumsy, to constitute a reviewing team something like the technical advising team most dictionaries use. ... Second, reviewers should use a random sampling device that covers the book from A to Z, so that the total average performance may be assessed. ... Third, very close attention should be paid to the quality of these fifty or more definitions. They should be painstakingly analyzed for, to use McMillan's criteria, accuracy,



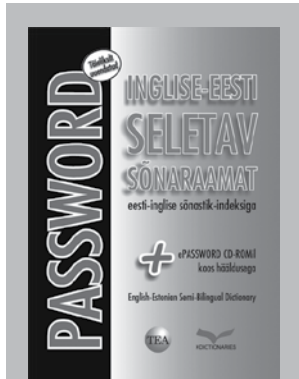
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completeness, clearness, simplicity, and modernity. ... Fourth, the “referential integrity” should be tested by tracking down a number of cross-references. This is an excellent gauge of editorial thoroughness and the effectiveness of systems.” The ILC researchers did just this in their analysis of *Penguin English Dictionary*. The article by Chapman was published in 1977, so again, it is worth pointing out that the Iwaken analysis of *Penguin* was out in 1968.

4.2 Regrettably, *Lexicon* has yet to enjoy due exposure and acknowledgment, and I can think of a couple of reasons for that. One major reason is linguistic in nature. Not all articles in *Lexicon* were written in English up until 1994, and as far as dictionary analyses are concerned, all of them were written in Japanese. Though they had additional English summaries it is not clear how much these helped to lower the barrier of non-recognition. In a way, *Lexicon* was turned in on itself. In 1994 a welcome change was made in the *Lexicon’s Guidelines for Contributors*, and it was decided that all submissions must be in English. So, since 1995, all dictionary analyses have been made more easily accessible to non-Japanese readers in and outside of Japan.

Incidentally, Howard Jackson (2002: 175-76) stated the following: “Where team reviewing has been undertaken *more recently* (e.g. the well-organized and comprehensive Japanese reviews of COD5 ... and of LDEL2 ...), each member of the team has taken a different aspect of linguistic description (pronunciation, definition, usage, etymology, etc.) rather than vocabulary specialism, which is probably a more sensible division of labour.” This, I think, is another reason why *Lexicon* was not receiving due attention. If Jackson had known that team reviews of this kind had existed long before these two reviews came out, he might well have commented otherwise. It makes me feel pleased, as well as proud, however, to know that Jackson commended our review articles in *IJL* and, in particular, recommended them for further reading on dictionary criticism.

4.3 Again, it seems to me that, until quite recently, we failed to make it clear, in the first place, to whom these dictionary analyses in *Lexicon* were addressed. It is quite understandable why that was the case. Who would have imagined, in the nineteen sixties, that lexicography would attract such attention as we are witnessing now? Things have really changed over the years. My belief is that the world of

lexicography is becoming smaller and smaller, more so than ever, so there is a sense in which dictionary analyses in *Lexicon* are aimed at all people interested in practical or theoretical lexicography. We need to realize that we can, and should, make a contribution to the development of this ever expanding field.

The name of *Lexicon* is now listed as a main entry in the *Dictionary of Lexicography* (1998), and 350 copies are printed each year, with some 60 sent to individuals and institutions abroad. I believe that we have so much more to contribute in a variety of ways toward better lexicography.

Notes

1. See Takebayashi (1973), Kojima (1985), Higashi (2003), and others for more detail.
2. I constructed two tables at the end of this paper in order to help readers overview what kind of dictionary analysis has been carried out by ILC members in the past nearly four decades. These tables are actually revised and updated versions of the tables given in Nakamoto (1998). Table 1 shows all the relevant dictionary analyses in chronological order. The middle group, headed by roman numeral (II), is composed of all the analyses appearing in *Lexicon*. The dictionary analyses that preceded these in time are given in the first group, indicated by roman numeral (I). The third group is the Iwaken-style review articles that came out in *IJL*, indicated by roman numeral (III). I hasten to add that dictionary analyses made by single authors have been left out of this account. If one wishes to get some idea of what the Iwaken dictionary analysis is like, I suggest taking a look at these two reviews in *IJL*, since they are perhaps more easily accessible. The one difference I might point out between them and the analyses in *Lexicon* is that the *IJL* reviews are considerably shorter and much more concise than the *Lexicon* articles because of space limitations. Table 2 indicates which aspects of the dictionary have been examined in each analysis. Obviously, not every dimension is dealt with for plausible reasons, but it is safe to say that these analyses are quite comprehensive in their coverage of the material.

The reference to Katsumata (1958) in Table 1 concerns *Kenkyusha’s New Dictionary of English Collocations*.

3. See Nakao (2003) for more detail.

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Tables ►

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- ALD** Hornby, A.S., E.V. Gatenby, and H. Wakefield (Ed.). (1963). *The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- CDD** Barnhart, C.L. (Ed.). (1951). *Thorndike-Barnhart Comprehensive Desk Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday & Company.
- Century** Whitney, W.D. (Ed.). (1911) *The Century Dictionary*. New York: The Century Company.
- COD** McIntosh, E. (Ed.). (1964). *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* (5th ed.). London: Oxford University Press.
- HPD** Barnhart, C.L. (Ed.). (1965) *The Thorndike-Barnhart Handy Pocket Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday.
- HSD** Thorndike, E.L. and C.L. Barnhart (Ed.). (1965) *Thorndike-Barnhart High School Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday.
- NSD** Funk, I. (Ed.). (1963). *Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language*. New York: Funk & Wagnalls.
- NWD** Guralnik, D.B (Ed.). (1956). *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*. Cleveland: World.
- NWDp** Guralnik, D.B. (Ed.). (1959). *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language* (Pocket-Size ed.). New York: Popular Library.
- OED** Murray, J.A.H., et al. (Ed.). (1933) *The Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- OID** Coulson, J., et al. (Ed.). (1962). *The Oxford Illustrated Dictionary* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Penguin** Garmonsway, G.N. (Ed.). (1965). *The Penguin English Dictionary*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
- POD** Le Mesurier, H.C. and E. McIntosh (Ed.). *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary of Current English* (4th ed.). Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- RHD** Stein, J. (Ed.). (1966). *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*. New York: Random House.
- UED** Wyld, H.C. (Ed.). (1932). *The Universal Dictionary of the English Language*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Web** Gove, P.B. (Ed.). (1961). *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language*. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam.
- WebCol** Gove, P.B. (Ed.). (1963). *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam.

Table 1: ILC dictionary analysis in chronological order according to publication.

Year of publication	Dictionary analyzed	Number of analysts	Dictionaries chiefly compared
I Reports of the University of Electro-Communications			
1968	PED1 (1965)	4	COD5 (1964), WNCD7 (1963), RHD1 (1966), NID3 (1961), NWDp (1959)
1969-70	NWD1 (1953)	7	ACD (1947), WNCD6 (1949)
1971	NWD2 (1970)	7	NWD1 (1953), WNCD7 (1963), RHCD1 (1968), AHD1 (1969)
II Lexicon			
1974 (3)	EWD (1971) & CTCD (1972)	3	COD5 (1964)
1975 (4)	OALD3 (1974)	4	ISED (1942), ALD2 (1963)
1977 (6)	COD6 (1976)	6	COD5 (1964)
1979-80 (8, 9)	LDOCE1 (1978)	5	WNCD8 (1973), RHCD2 (1975), NWD2 (1970)
1981 (10)	CED1 (1979)	5	WNCD8 (1973), RHCD2 (1975), NWD2 (1970)
1982 (11)	CULD (1980)	5	LDOCE1 (1978), OALD3 (1974)
1985 (14)	WNCD9 (1983)	4	WNCD8 (1973), AHD2 (1982), RHCD2 (1975), CED1 (1979), NWD2 (1970)
1986 (15)	LDAE (1983)	7	LDOCE1 (1978), LASDE1 (1983), OALD3 (1974), OSDAE1 (1978), OSDCE1 (1978)
1987 (16)	POD7 (1984)	6	POD6 (1978), COD7 (1982), CPED (1981), AHDp (1983)
1988 (17)	BBI1 (1986)	3	LDOCE1 (1978), LDOCE2 (1987), Katsumata (1958)
1989 (18)	COB1 (1987)	7	LDOCE2 (1987), OALD3 (1980/85)
1989-90 (18, 19)	LDOCE2 (1987)	9	LDOCE1 (1978)
1990 (19)	NWD3 (1988)	9	NWD2 (1970), WNCD9 (1983), RHCD2 (1975)
1990-91 (20, 21)	OEDCD1 (1989)	3	OED1 (1884-1928)
1991 (21)	RHD2 (1987)	10	RHD1 (1966), NWD3 (1988), WNCD9 (1983)
1992 (22)	OALD4 (1989)	7	OALD3 (1985), LDOCE2 (1987), COB1 (1987)
1993-94 (23, 24)	PESD (1991)	5	OALD4 (1989), LDOCE2 (1987), PED2 (1969)
1995 (25)	LLA (1993)	4	LDOCE2 (1987), OALD4 (1989), COB1 (1987), LLCE (1981)
1996 (26)	CIDE (1995)	6	LDOCE3 (1995), OALD5 (1995), COB2 (1995)
1996 (26)	OALD5 (1995)	5	OALD4 (1989)
1997 (27)	COB2 (1995)	5	COB1 (1987), OALD5 (1995)
1999 (29)	NHD (1996)	6	LDOCE3 (1995), OALD5 (1995), RHWD (1997)
2000 (30)	NODE (1998)	6	CED4 (1998), CD (1998), COD9 (1995), AHD3 (1992)
2001 (31)	OALD6 (2000)	5	OALD5 (1995), LDOCE3 (1995), COB2 (1995)
2002 (32)	LAAD (2000)	7	LDOCE3 (1995), COB3 (2001), OALD6 (2000)
2003 (33)	COB3 (2001)	5	COB2 (1995), OALD6 (2000), LDOCE3 (1995)
2005 (35)	LDOCE4 (2003)	5	LDOCE3 (1995), LDOCE2 (1987), COB4 (2003)
2006 (36)	OALD7 (2005)	6	OALD6 (2000), MED (2002), LDOCE4 (2003), COB4 (2003)
III International Journal of Lexicography			
1992	COD8 (1990)	7	COD7 (1982), POD7 (1984)
1994	LDEL2 (1991)	5	COD8 (1990), CED3 (1991)

Table 2: Main dictionary aspects examined in ILC analyses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
PED1		+	+		+			+		+			
NWD1	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+			
NWD2	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+			
EWD, CTCD		+	+		+								
OALD3	+	+	+	+		+							
COD6		+	+		+	+				+	+		
LDOCE1	+	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	
CED1		+	+	+	+						+		
CULD	+	+		+	+	+	+						
WNCD9	+	+		+			+			+			
LDAE, OSDAE		+	+		+	+	+	+				+	
POD7		+	+		+	+		+			+		
COB1		+	+		+	+	+						
LDOCE2	+	+		+	+	+	+				+		
NWD3	+	+		+			+	+	+	+	+		
RHD2		+	+		+			+	+	+	+	+	+
OALD4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+						
PESD		+	+		+	+	+	+					
CIDE		+	+	+	+	+	+						
OALD5	+	+		+	+	+	+				+		
COB2		+	+		+	+	+	+					
NHD, RHWD		+	+		+	+	+	+					
NODE	+	+		+	+	+				+			
OALD6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+				
LAAD	+	+		+	+	+	+		+		+		+
COB3		+	+		+	+	+	+					
LDOCE4	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
CALD1	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+				
MWCD11	+	+	+	+	+		+	+					
OALD7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
COD8		+	+		+	+	+	+				+	
LDEL2	+	+		+									

A: Word coverage and entry structure
B: Pronunciation
C: Syllabification
D: Sense description
E: Verbal illustrations

F: Grammatical information
G: Usage labels and/or usage notes
H: Synonym essays
I: Phraseology

J: Etymology
K: Pictorial illustrations
L: Appendices
M: User research