

words and terms on the site and easily access their definitions and encyclopedia entries. The feature has become an invaluable learning tool for people from all walks of life, including students, professionals, and people learning a new language.

Over the years, TFD's users have repeatedly expressed interest in a feature that would allow them to provide the site with their own definitions, and, in 2007, Farlex addressed their requests by launching a second dictionary site—Definition-Of (www.Definition-Of.com). The site is built around user-contributed definitions and allows visitors to rank the quality of existing entries.

In May 2008, Farlex announced the largest single addition of reference material to TFD, including, for the first time, foreign language resources. The overwhelmingly positive user response to those four initial foreign language dictionaries encouraged the development team to further enhance the site's multilingual offerings, and, just months later, Farlex released TFD's newly expanded translations section, which allows users to translate dictionary terms from English into more than 40 different languages. At the same time, the site's developers launched the homepage in 10 new languages: Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian,

and Spanish. By expanding the scope of its resources to include titles outside of the English language, TFD addresses the multilingual needs of its ever-expanding user base.

While TFD does not track user information, IP address data indicate that about half of the site's users are based in the US. International Web surfers compose the remainder of its clientele. Many users are not native English speakers and use the site to improve their English skills or even teach themselves the language. The unique multilingual translator feature, which allows users to easily translate words from one language to another and just as easily switch to a third, has become an invaluable tool for such users.

TFD reached an exciting milestone in 2008, welcoming its billionth visitor in just five years. Since that time, the number of reference titles published by the site has expanded exponentially. The Farlex team remains committed to continuously enhancing TFD and is always developing new features that keep it on the cutting edge of online reference site technology. This ceaseless dedication to growing and evolving the site distinguishes TFD from other reference websites and makes it a singular destination for online information seekers.

Farlex is a business partner of K Dictionaries.

The BLDS Italian dictionary core

Palma Gallana

Introduction: a dictionary streaming to perfection

The BLDS is an extraordinary instrument. This is what I thought the first time I came across it and what I have become more and more convinced of during my work on it. It is not a common dictionary but a mono-bilingual one, "a dictionary streaming to perfection". It is user-friendly and made to measure for students and speakers of a foreign language at intermediate level, who can find in it all they need to understand the meaning of a word and use it correctly.

The dictionary is bilingual, built upon a monolingual base. Definitions and examples are in the source language, but are adapted in order to be easily understood by someone who is studying and needs to be coached to understand the meaning and use of words. Far from being banal or inaccurate, the definitions are formulated with simple terms, belonging to the dictionary core

itself. Examples are actual, practical, useful and not academic.

Providing this monolingual base is extraordinary for two reasons:

- a propaedeutic purpose, since the user is oriented to a soft monolingual approach before eventually getting to pure monolingual dictionaries.
- a linguistic purpose, since the user tastes the real savour of a foreign language, confronting definitions, examples, expressions, etc. in it.

BLDS is a rationally well-organised, balanced, complete monolingual core, predisposed to become a bilingual dictionary, where headwords are correlated by pronunciation and, together with the examples and phrases, each sense is translated into L2. This satisfies the need of finding punctual correspondences in L2, besides leading to a complete understanding of the word.

Traditional tools such as indicators of sense and use, synonyms and antonyms, etc, complete the work. The result is a fully bi-directional dictionary, interesting and useful for both L1 and L2 users.

The Italian core: two dictionaries in one

“How fantastic it would be to have an Italian BLDS core”, I thought, and the day the adventure began I was very excited to have the privilege to edit it myself. It was different from the traditional dictionaries I had worked on, and I found myself with the opportunity to finally make the dictionary I had lacked during my years of study and work. Though far from perfect, the actual Italian core is the result of great efforts, with its merits, qualities and limits.

Traditional monolingual dictionaries explain senses of words and eventually illustrate them with one or more examples. In medium-size dictionaries the definitions are often non-extensive, reduced to a couple of synonyms. Only bigger dictionaries usually add one or two extra synonyms in a special section, but that occurs only for few terms, not systematically, and synonyms are treated as secondary, information. The result is that if you need to find a synonym or an alternative term to avoid repetition you have to look it up in a specific synonym dictionary. This second dictionary might not have the same division of senses as the first one, so you have to start your query again.

Exhausted by this double check, when I started editing the Italian core, I had the idea to make two dictionaries in one: a monolingual core with extensive definitions and an additional synonym apparatus. This apparatus comes as the first element of the semantic section. The entry in fact is structured so as to introduce the sense of a word (after the **morphology** section) starting from the **context** it deals with/belongs to and the **synonyms**. Then, an extensive **definition** explains the meaning of the headword and one or more **examples** and/or **idiomatic expressions** illustrate it. Moreover, the definition is preceded by a short **sense indicator**, meant as a substitute of the definition itself in the edition exclusively for native Italian speakers.

morphology

If irregular, the feminine and plural forms are given for nouns and adjectives. For intransitive verbs, the auxiliary is specified, and accurate distinction is made between intransitive pronominal and reflexive verbs. Specificities concerning verb tense/mood required by syntactic words (prepositions, conjunctions, etc) or concerning elisions,

euphonic forms or combined forms are given in explanatory notes.

context

A lot of effort has been put into the lexicographical structure, which provides specific **indicators of use and sense** throughout the dictionary. **Register labels**, which identify the levels of expression beyond standard language (familiar, vulgar, bureaucratic, euphemistic, etc); **sense qualifiers** or rhetorical indications, which denote particular expressive modalities (figurative, extensive, ironic, pejorative, etc); and **sector/field indicators**, which are labels for specialist terms (anatomy, economy, sport, etc) have been accurately tracked in order to guide and/or alert the reader during the consultation. The **range of application** of the word, that is to say the object, person or animal it refers to, is also given when useful or appropriate.

By contextualising the meanings with the multiple and abundant sense indicators, the dictionary helps the user to identify the most suitable and translation.

synonyms

About ninety percent of the headwords are correlated by one or more **synonyms**. They appear right after the grammatical information and introduce the semantic section. Synonyms act as a kind of accordion that permits the semantic dimension of the headword to extend. They do this by proposing an equivalent to the headword that is on the same level and can replace it. Such a range of words that are close to the lemma gives the user an idea of the sense he/she is going to encounter.

This approach is very useful for multiple reasons:

- the user might already know one of the synonyms, so the headword becomes less unfamiliar.
- by setting the headword in the company of terms that mean the same, different channels with different possible contexts open in the mind of the reader, and thus he/she gets a wider panorama of the possible nuances that a headword may carry within a given sense.
- a set of synonyms can turn out to be a good didactic tool to learn new words and establish linguistic associations.
- during a search for a word in the electronic version of the dictionary, a term that is not registered as a headword may be found among the synonyms. In this case it is possible to get to the meaning of the synonym or approach it by means of association with the headword it is linked to, which has its proper definition, example and translation. Since the number



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An extract from a BLDS Italian entry:

andare¹ [an'dare] *vi* (*aus. essere*) **1** =muoversi; {*senza meta*} spostarsi senza una meta precisa ◇ *andare a piedi* ◇ *andare in bicicletta* ◇ *andare piano* ◇ *andare a spasso* ◆ **andare a zonzo** passeggiare senza meta ◆ **andare d'accordo** *fig* trovarsi bene insieme ◆ **andare fiero** mostrarsi fiero ◆ **andare sul sicuro** non rischiare ◆ **andare a naso** *fig* seguire l'istinto **2** =dirigersi; =recarsi; =procedere; {*verso una direzione / meta*} spostarsi in una direzione o verso una meta ◇ *andare avanti* ◇ *andare a casa* ◇ *andare in vacanza* ◆ **andare in onda** essere trasmesso alla televisione o alla radio ◆ **andare in scena** *theat* essere rappresentato ◆ **andare a nozze** *fig* trovarsi molto bene in una data situazione **3** tempo: =passare; =trascorrere; =volare; indica lo scorrere del tempo ◇ *Due settimane se ne sono andate solo per scegliere la località.* **4** {*essere destinato*} essere destinato ◇ *Questi CD vanno sul primo scaffale.* ◇ *La forchetta va a sinistra, il coltello a destra.* **5** abbigliamento: =essere; {*stare*} stare in un certo modo ◇ *Le scarpe mi vanno strette.* ◇ *La giacca mi va alla perfezione.* ◆ **andare a pennello** calzare o vestire bene **6** attività: =procedere; =svolgersi; avere luogo o avanzare in un certo modo ◇ *Come vanno le cose sul lavoro?* ◇ *Va tutto bene.* ◆ **andare a gonfie vele** ottimamente ◆ **andare a buon fine** concludersi con successo **7** apparecchio: =funzionare; adempiere la propria funzione ◇ *La televisione non va più.* **8** =diventare; =modificarsi;

of headwords is limited, as is the scope of the dictionary, synonyms help to create a virtual extensibility.

antonyms

Antonyms too occur, though less frequently than synonyms, and only in cases when it is useful to highlight the headword by means of semantic contraposition or when it is necessary to clarify the sense of a headword by saying what it is not about.

sense indicator

The sense indicator is a word or brief phrase that immediately evokes the context for collocating a particular sense of the headword and offers an intuitive association for it. Since it is represented by a word or group of words (glosses) that frequently appear together with the headword, it forms typical combinations that a native speaker would consider as natural.

The sense indicator can specify:

- the **general context** by means of a complement (in literature, of an animal, etc). The sense indicator is sometimes represented by part of the definition, if general enough. Since the definition and sense indicator do not appear together in the same dictionary version, this won't generate redundancy.
- a **category** by means of a generic term, the **hypernym**, to whose field of application the headword belongs as one of its particular representatives ("animal" for 'horse', "profession" for 'lawyer', etc).

The sense indicator can also be represented by:

- a **generic synonym**, that is to say the most generic among synonyms, usually used in the formulation of the definition, that gives the sense of the headword and eventually can replace it.
- a **specific hyponym**, that is to say a particular representative of the headword, that plays in such a case the role of generic term.

Particular attention has been put into avoiding redundancy as concerns the "synonym-definition" section and "synonym-sense indicator" section. Since synonyms are visible always, and definition or sense indicator alternatively, a term that appears in the definition may occur as a sense indicator or one that appears as a sense indicator may appear in the definition, but neither will occur as a synonym (e.g. *pentimento 1* =mortificazione (rimorso) rimorso per ciò che si è fatto **2** =rammarico (rimpianto) rimpianto per ciò che non si è fatto).

definition

The definition is a brief (approximate) description in simple Italian, formulated

with words from the dictionary's headword list. Definitions are succinct and clear, as often as possible are autonomous and do not contain derivatives of the defined word.

The definition usually centres on the semantic nature of the term; however, especially in case of grammar terms, it can explain the grammatical-syntactic function and application.

examples

The contextualization of terms is achieved by means of up-to-date natural examples, which reflect real contemporary Italian language. Examples are rather short and use simple words from the dictionary's list of headwords. They can be **syntagms** (usually) or **full sentences** (if they are the only or best way to show the commonest use of a term).

idiomatic expressions

Idioms and **set phrases** (and relative examples) with their metaphorical evocative meaning, not only have a particular linguistic "taste" but also help impart an idea of Italian culture, history and life.

selection criteria

Headwords, examples and expressions have been selected so as to offer a wide panorama of the actual, active and living language. The **headword selection** ranges from spoken/informal words to the terms of specialist sectors (e.g. finance, technology, law, etc) which occur most frequently in today's communication. The extremes, too specific and too slangy, have been excluded in order to collocate the dictionary on a well-balanced middle level.

Within the headwords and sub-entries the meanings are ordered according to frequency of use and logical consequence (literal before figurative or extensive, general before specific or sector, etc).

Conclusion: work is always in progress

The conclusion is that now that the core is finished, it is time to start it again. At present there is a core, quite rich as far as lexicography is concerned. But there are many components that are missing and might be added, especially on a morphological level (informative notes on conjugations, or references to conjugation tables; degrees of comparison for adjectives; augmentative, diminutive and other altered forms; syllabication; etc). The headword list can be augmented and extended so as to include also prefixes, suffixes and acronyms. And many more integrations could be conceived, since "streaming to perfection" never ends. Work on the second phase of the Italian dictionary core is currently underway.