

Reverso is adding the following KD titles to its services in 2014:

- monolingual dictionaries for English, French | German | Spanish
- bilingual, bi-directional French dictionaries for Arabic | Dutch | Hebrew | Portuguese Brazil and Portugal | Russian
- phrasal French/Hebrew dictionaries

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to validate their choice of words. This process of producing a coherent translation is what linguists describe as *encoding*, for *production* purposes.

One way to do it is to use online dictionaries, starting with bilingual dictionaries from the source language into the target language and then searching the definition or synonyms in the target language to find the most appropriate one in context. Another option would be to look up the definition or synonym of the assumed translation and see whether it is appropriate, also using the reverse translation (translating back into the source language).

For example, to translate *acharné* a French-English dictionary would provide equivalents such as *fierce*, *bitter*, *relentless* and *unremitting* as first proposals, with only a few examples. To search further, one could look for synonyms for *relentless* and find *ruthless*, *unrelenting* and *uncompromising*. However, in order to find the best translation, one should have a near-native level of English, or at least read the definitions or the “back translations”.

Moreover, if one were to use this adjective as part of *travail acharné*, results could be surprising. The RC search shows that it is widely used, and that its translation is *hard work*, although *hard* is not among the proposed translations or synonyms for *acharné*.

If the *relentless* translation is chosen, one

could check sentences containing the first one in the source language, and the second one in the target language, finding more than ten relevant examples.

Conclusion

Bilingual concordancers have already proven to answer certain requirements that dictionaries could not meet. This explains why their use has spread in recent years and why RC could profit from being easy-to-handle by average users though providing more advanced features. RC will continue to innovate and push towards the dictionary of the future. First, by improving and diversifying content resources, adding new and varied corpora that encompass diverse fields and language levels, and expanding coverage to both written and spoken language. Second, by introducing new ways to customize the user’s search experience. For example, large organizations that have voluminous corpora are already able to prioritize their content with more pertinent features, and subject domain, regional variants and the language level will also be possible to filter in the future. Last but not least, RC will strive to maintain high quality when dealing with large data volumes thanks to automatic cleaning scripts as well as processing user feedback. With this, we hope to be to the dictionary what a smartphone is to the old telephone today.

An introduction to iFinger and Clarify Language Service

Knut Haga

iFinger is a provider of digital dictionaries integrated in Microsoft Windows environment. The first version of the iFinger software was released in 2000, with the main goal of offering convenient look-up solutions in high-quality dictionaries. The portfolio varies from glossaries to unabridged monolingual and bilingual dictionaries from HarperCollins, Merriam-Webster, K Dictionaries, Pons and Cappelan Damm, as well as iFinger’s own terminology for the medical, technical and legal domains.

Since its inception, over 3.5 million users have accessed this dictionary software from CNET’s Download.com. It enables tailored application for multiple users in the corporate, educational and governmental sectors. At present iFinger has more than 200,000 users in the educational sector in Norway and more than 50,000 users in corporate and governmental sector.

Overall, the demand for language services is growing constantly. iFinger aims to meet this demand by developing new cloud-based language tools that will be available as native solutions for all common operating systems. This service is branded as Clarify and is offered for free to the general public, with premium content available through annual subscription to corporate and government users.

The initial launch in June 2014 offers a free dictionary service for 30 languages, including 670 dictionaries covering the languages of 3.4 billion people. There are mobile apps for iOS, to be followed soon by apps for Android and Windows Mobile, as well as by new services for Machine Translation and Text To Speech.

This entire activity is being transferred from iFinger to the new Clarify service, which is designed for unlimited global growth.

<http://clarifylanguage.com>
<http://ifinger.com>