

## eLex 2017 Lexicography from Scratch

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the biennial Electronic Lexicography in the 21st Century conference series. The conference will take place in Leiden from 19 to 21 September and will be hosted by the Dutch Language Institute.

The theme of eLex 2017 is Lexicography from Scratch and the focus is on state-of-the-art technologies and methods for automating the creation of dictionaries. Over the past two decades, advances in NLP techniques have enabled the automatic extraction of different kinds of lexicographic information from corpora and other (digital) resources. As a result, key lexicographic tasks, such as finding collocations, definitions, example sentences or translations, are being increasingly transferred from humans to machines. Automating the dictionary creation process is highly relevant, especially for under-resourced languages, where dictionaries need to be compiled from scratch and where the users cannot wait for years, often decades, for the dictionary to be “completed”.

This year we have received nearly 50% more submissions in comparison with the previous conferences. The Programme Committee has made a nice selection of papers for presentations, demos and posters. Each submission was reviewed by at least two members of the 69-member Scientific Committee.

Keynote lectures will be delivered by Frieda Steurs (Dutch Language Institute), Ivan Titov (University of Amsterdam/University of

melteth” — their inclusion can reveal something about language attitudes and lexicographical technique. Suppose that Cockeram did make some words up to see what an extended list of derivatives looked like — false evidence of English, but an important experiment in dictionary structure and, as Miyoshi points out, evidence that the notion of derivatives had taken hold of the linguistic imagination in early seventeenth-century England. Within Cockeram’s entry, **Liquefaction** is defined as “That Liquation is,” and the cross-reference, Miyoshi argues, may represent “Cockeram’s attempt to present [...] entries in a systematic way” (15), which I would emend to “increasingly complex entries.” In the early English dictionaries, we see both macro- and microstructural features we now take for granted in the process of their invention.

The history of English dictionaries tends to mention Cockeram in passing. Miyoshi clearly sees him as perhaps the central figure in the development of English lexicography during the seventeenth century. Besides the treatment of derivatives in Chapter 2, Miyoshi considers his treatment of high-frequency verbs (Chapter 3), source material (Chapter 4), and entry structure (Chapter 5), and then contrasts his Anglicization of foreign words to that of Blount in *Glossographia* (Chapter 6). *The First Century of English Monolingual Lexicography* is a slim book: there are 38 pages of introductory material, including an elegant introduction by John Considine, and the chapters by Miyoshi comprise but 130 pages, not counting references and index. Half of the ten chapters and nearly half the pages — 62 of them — focus on Cockeram’s work. It’s the most detailed and concentrated analysis of Cockeram’s *English Dictionarie* I’ve ever read — for that reason alone, the book is a valuable addition to the historical literature about early dictionaries.

In Chapter 3, Miyoshi investigates another aspect of Cockeram’s “system,” the treatment of phrasal verbs, which as an element of dictionary structure resembles and aligns well with treatment of noun derivatives — looking across lexical categories, one detects an inclination towards elaboration that would drive later lexicographical innovation until its practices were well established in dictionaries by John Kersey, Nathan Bailey, and of course Samuel Johnson. In Chapter 4, Miyoshi argues quite persuasively that the tradition of English–Latin dictionaries we have long assumed — under Starnes’ and Noyes’ influence — underlies the second part of Cockeram’s dictionary,

does not in fact. In the second part, entries open with colloquial terms then defined with Latinate or, as Miyoshi calls them, “refined” terms, the reverse of the “hard word” entry pattern. Because the defining terms are Latin or Latinate, it’s easy to assume some connection to the vernacular–classical bilingual dictionaries that precede publication of *The English Dictionarie*, but Miyoshi’s collations reveal that approximately 90% of the “refined” words come from the first part of Cockeram’s *English Dictionarie*, Cawdrey’s *Table*, or Bullokar’s *Expositor*. With characteristic understatement, Miyoshi suggests, “We may now have to reconsider the influence of the English–Latin dictionary on the early English monolingual dictionary” (41).

If the second part of Cockeram’s dictionary borrows so much material from Cawdrey and Bullokar, then what’s new and interesting about it? Miyoshi explains in Chapter 5 that, as in the first part, Cockeram developed a more complex entry structure than those of his contemporaries — especially in presenting synonyms and information on word formation — such that the second part “is highly significant as a dictionary of its time” that contained “the precursors of techniques which are indispensable for the development of English monolingual dictionaries after it” (49). In Chapter 6 he wraps up his inquiry into Cockeram by comparing his approach to Anglicizing foreign words, especially Latin or Latinate ones — **litispence**, for example — to Blount’s in *Glossographia* and concluding that both lexicographers blotted English with inkhorn terms.

The book under review is a series of case studies operating a certain methodology; it concludes only that close attention to the data of seventeenth-century English dictionary texts leads us to re-evaluate relationships among them — both the data and the dictionaries, I suppose. Miyoshi’s argument about Cockeram opens into a sort of teleological arc of lexicographical development in the period. Cockeram experiments with systematic approaches to the lexicon in dictionary form, we’re told. Cockeram leads us to Chapter 7, titled “Edward Phillips’s *New World of English Words* (1658): The First Systematic Treatment of English Vocabulary.” Whereas, Blount, for instance, “still saw naturalized foreign words as the primary object of lexicography [...] Phillips was coming to realize that what matters is the systematic treatment of the vocabulary of English, whatever its origins” (84), which is a necessary step towards the lexicographical professionalism of

Elisha Coles and John Kersey, who bring the seventeenth century to a close.

Elisha Coles's *English Dictionary*, the next chapter's focus, would summarize and harmonize all lexicographical developments of the century, looking backwards over his predecessors and extending lexicographical system to the internal linking of entries — Coles took the dictionary as a book of miscellaneous entries and made it whole. In John Considine's formulation, "In English and Latin, his work was a milestone in the establishment of the genre of the compactly printed, fully alphabetized classroom dictionary which draws on larger and more learned dictionaries. I think it would be possible to argue that he was one of the founders of that genre, although of course that is a simplification" (2012, 53). It is, rather, a simplification and a truth at the same time.

Chapters 9 and 10 rightly conclude the seventeenth century as it tips into the eighteenth, with John Kersey's *New English Dictionary* (1702), which pivots away from the hard words tradition towards the modern dictionary. Chapter 9 argues, on close comparison of Hogarth's *Gazophylacium* with the *New English Dictionary*, that the former influenced the latter, so that while innovative, the *New English Dictionary* was not independent of earlier dictionaries, not quite as new as the title promised. Chapter 10 suggests that Kersey's primary innovation is the careful treatment of compound adjectives and nouns, a further development of Cockeram's interest in morphological complexity, so, Miyoshi believes, tied to the seventeenth century more than leading into the eighteenth.

Each of Miyoshi's chapters looks forensically into a very precise matter of dictionary structure in one or two dictionaries and each has its illuminating moment. But their narrowness is also a limiting factor and sometimes we are misled, much as Miyoshi rightly claims we can be misled by Starnes and Noyes. So, I accept Miyoshi's point about the *Gazophylacium's* influence on Kersey, and I agree that the *New English Dictionary* is textually a seventeenth-century specimen, but the textual matters aren't the only salient aspects of that dictionary. It leads into the eighteenth century, as Allen Walker Read observed, because Kersey was "the first professional lexicographer" (2003, 223). He saw the purpose and art of lexicography differently from his schoolmaster predecessors — the "hard words dictionary" tradition might as aptly be described the "schoolmaster dictionary" tradition — and in that respect he looks forward to Bailey

and Johnson, however many lemmata he carried over from the *Gazophylacium* or any other dictionary.

Taken by themselves, then, Miyoshi's chapters, though well connected to one another, lack essential context. Fortunately, Considine's introduction outlines both "The seventeenth-century monolingual English dictionary tradition" (xxiii–xxiv) and "Studying the tradition: before and after Starnes and Noyes" (xxiv–xxviii), and explains Miyoshi's critical intervention in those traditions and the ways in which his work complements and improves upon Starnes and Noyes (xxviii–xxxvii). Considine's knowledge of the subject is deep and wide, but the introduction is brief and appealing — the sort to which only genuine erudition can lead. Miyoshi proves that seventeenth-century dictionaries are textually much more interrelated than we had realized and reiterates what we've known for a while, that lexicographers of the time rather freely borrowed from one another. But why presume originality when the best possible definition has already been written? I find repeating Considine's conclusion similarly irresistible: "*The English Dictionary from Cawdrey to Johnson* will continue, for the time being, to be the authority of first recourse, but after reading what it has to say on a given topic, it will always be wise to ask, 'does Miyoshi have anything to say about that?' and to turn to this book" (xxxvii). Just so.

#### References

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Michael Adams

Edinburgh), Jane Solomon (Dictionary.com), and Ben Zimmer (Wall Street Journal, formerly Vocabulary.com). One more keynote will be held for the first time as part of the Adam Kilgarriff Lecture, in memory of our colleague and friend Adam Kilgarriff, by Paweł Rutkowski (University of Warsaw), winner of the Adam Kilgarriff Prize 2017.

The programme includes traditionally three parallel sessions, software demonstrations, poster sessions, a book and software exhibition, and a social event. On Wednesday 20 September, participants will gather in beach pavilion Paal 14 on the Dutch coast for a relaxing evening with BBQ while taking in the stunning views of the North Sea.

The conference is preceded by the Final Meeting of COST Action IS1305 European Network of e-Lexicography (<http://elexicography.eu/>), which will take place on Monday 18 September at the same venue. Two workshops are scheduled on Thursday afternoon, immediately after the conference: a Sketch Engine workshop, where participants can learn about the new interface and upgrade their corpus skills, and a K Dictionaries workshop, on developing and handling human- and machine-driven lexicographic resources.

For more information on the conference, visit the revamped eLex website at <https://elex.link/elex2017/>.

We hope that you will join us at eLex 2017 and we look forward to welcoming you in Leiden.

**Carole Tiberius**

on behalf of the eLex 2017 Organising Committee.