

DICTIONARY News

Introducing LEXICALA *crosslingual multilayer lexical data*

K Dictionaries became involved in developing lexicographic resources twenty-five years ago, growing to multilanguage data sets, electronic versions, and working tools for dictionary creation. In the beginning, the company licensed English learner's semi-bilingual editions to local publishers (Password), the first digital dictionary was produced in 1997 with Q Multimedia (Pass-Q-Word, see [KDN 5, 1997](#)) and a year later we developed our own CD-ROM version of Passport learner's dictionary for McGraw-Hill Italy ([KDN 7, 1999](#)). At the start of this century Kielikone brought together 21 Password versions on Globaldix (CD and online, [KDN 9, 2001](#)), and we gradually became interested in multilingual lexicography and in applying and extending principles of English pedagogical lexicography and linguistic mapping to other languages. In 2005 K Dictionaries launched the Global Series, based on monolingual language cores developed minutely from scratch as lexical data sets from which individual components can be extracted and various dictionary forms can ensue in monolingual, bilingual and multilingual combinations ([KDN 17, 2009](#)).

This work has always evolved in close collaboration with a variety of industry and academia partners and other professionals worldwide. In recent years, our technology-driven focus was enhanced in content generation and data interoperability with computational linguistics methodologies, technologies and applications. The current outcome has the new service name LEXICALA for direct API access to resources for 50 languages. The Lexicala API is REST-compliant and features semantic, syntactic, phonetic and translation data in consistent

lexicala

machine-readable format, drawing on three lexicographic clusters:

Global Series. Monolingual cores of 25 languages with approximately 100 bilingual pairs and numerous multilingual combinations, consisting of detailed linguistic

mapping of each source language and often of the target language equivalents too.

Password Multilingual. Semi-bilingual versions of Password dictionary for learners of English in 45 languages, many of which include a word-to-sense index to the English origin that is automatically expanded into a multilingual index including the Password translation equivalents in all other languages.

Random House Webster's College Dictionary. Comprehensive English monolingual dictionary, originally addressed to American students for native language reference but useful also for upper-level non-native speakers, based on its final 2005 print edition.

The API will include also morphological word form relations and other language and grammar information. The data is available in JSON and partially (Global) in JSON-LD, along with the initial XML format. It is intended to serve NLP purposes, such as for application developers and for researchers, as well as for direct access to partner applications.

The new website <https://lexicala.com> offers a wider overview of Lexicala and K Dictionaries. The API is available at <https://api.lexicala.com>. A new online dictionary site will be launched later this year at <https://online.lexicala.com>.

Ilan Kernerman

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