

2001 DICTIONARY REVIEWS Compiled by Albert Bork

January 2001

Harrap's Shorter Bilingual Dictionary English-French / French-English, 6th Edition 2000.

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Reviewed by:

Françoise Herrmann

In the digital age of binary 1s and 0s, there should definitely be more millenniums, if only for the opportunities such events create for the publication of new dictionary editions!

The sixth edition of *Harrap's Shorter Bilingual English-French, French-English Dictionary* comes in celebration of the new millennium, and in celebration (Y2K + 1) of the one hundred years since the foundation of the original Harrap Company in 1901, in Covent Garden, London. And, once again, this is a dictionary whose size (seven pounds, 2,304 pages, 305,599 words referenced), and institutional stature, belie its affectionate title: *The Shorter*. Originally, *The Shorter* was designed as an abridged, shorter version of the *French Standard Dictionary*. Currently, it is still *The Shorter*, abridged version of *Harrap's New Standard French & English Dictionary*, which comes in four volumes.

This sixth edition of *Harrap's Shorter* comes with 2,805 new words, reflecting the vast changes that have occurred linguistically since 1996, the year of the fifth edition. These new words arise in the world of the Internet, e-commerce, telemedicine, and the Euro. As mentioned in the Harrap's 2000 preface to the sixth edition: "Now, more people go surfing on the Internet than at the beach." Additionally, and of novel practical significance, there is an article supplement about the Internet in the initial pages of the dictionary, which places these new words in narrative context. Thus, if you are in need of a "firewall" (mur coupe-feu) to protect your system from a bunch of "hackers" (pirates informatiques or "bidouilleurs") when your "shopping cart" (panier) is full, then you are in for a good explanatory treat, in narrative format. Similarly, if you have no idea how to pronounce "Vincent.Guerin@balthazar.fr" in French, you will find "Vincent point Guérin, arrobas, balthazar, point F R," not to mention those familiar acronyms such as "ISDN" [Integrated Services Digital Network] or "ISP" [Internet Service Provider], which respectively and magically yield "RNIS" [Réseau numérique à integration de service] and "Fournisseur d'accès à l'Internet." And, finally, if you are unhappy on a "low traffic" (diffusion restreinte) mailing list, you may want to quickly switch to "high traffic" (grande diffusion). And if you are pondering how to translate those familiar desktop features such as "drop-down menus" (menus déroulants), "status bars" (barres d'état), "toolbars" (barres d'outils), and "navigation bars" (barres de navigation), then, again, you are in for an easy time. Easy on two counts: first, finding a hit translation, and second, finding a succinct narrative explanation of what these words refer to, how they occur, and where they fit in the domain of the Internet.

Beyond the conscious effort to supply updated terminology and translation, this edition of *The Shorter* also provides a new and uncommon feature, termed *usage notes*. These appear as gray boxes in the listings to warn against some of the pitfalls of translation, such as false cognates and "false friends." So, while you may be seasoned at translation, churning out an average of more than 2,500 words a day, sometimes five days a week, students may find these reminders of the utmost importance.

For example, the following usage notes are found in the text, for listing of the terms "engine," "engineer," and "umbrella":

For the term "engine":

Note that the French word **engin** is a false friend, and is rarely a translation for the English word **engine**. Its most common meaning is **machine**.

For the term "engineer":

Note that the French word **ingénieur** is never used to mean repairman.

And for the term "umbrella":

Note that the French word **ombrelle** is a false friend. It means sunshade.

Similarly, *The Shorter* presents another useful reference feature with the indexing of grammatical rules. When a term is subject to special grammatical treatment, the reference to such a rule is marked, in the text, next to the listed term, allowing for quick reference to the grammatical compendium that has been inserted at the center of the dictionary. Thus, for example, the English terms “kinetics,” “economics,” and “politics,” as nouns with an “-ics” suffix, are all referenced to an English grammatical note pertaining to subject-verb agreement: “Economics *is* a difficult subject” versus “The economics of the project *are* to be considered.” Conversely, for French terms, there are grammatical references for such terms as “Je, j’,” referring to ellipsis, or for the terms “année (year), journée (day), matinée (morning), and soirée (evening),” referring to the use of these feminine forms, in contrast to their masculine forms “an” (year), “jour” (day), “matin” (morning), “soir” (evening). This referencing appears as bold characters, in parenthesis, in the listed text, and is easy to find in the central blue grammatical compendium section.

Finally, in the popular and new era of translation *localization*, that is, the era where it does matter whether the audience is Canadian or Parisian French; or American or British English; or Mexican or Argentinian Spanish, it follows that the British roots of *The Shorter* also matter. Perhaps not to the extent of claiming mutual unintelligibility of these major language variations, but certainly for some of the finer differences. Thus, you’ll find that the translation for “appel interurbain” is a “trunk call” which, in the U.S., usually refers to a “long-distance call”; and that “appel gratuit” is a “freecall,” where it would most likely be “toll-free or an 800 number” in the U.S. You will also find that the warmth of your “édredon” (down comforter) has become an “eiderdown” or “quilt”; not to mention the indispensable rainwear: your beloved “bottes en cahoutchouc” (rubber boots), which you will discover transformed into “wellingtons, or ‘wellies’”, in British English. Thus, after stubbornly refusing to back down on the definite mutual intelligibility of British and American English (similar to Canadian and European French), you will almost certainly want to consult *The Shorter* for texts that require British localization.

In sum, *The Shorter* is an indispensable general bilingual reference tool for translators of French and English. With such features as the effort to stay current, including clear narrative support, usage notes, easy grammatical referencing, and British localization, the sixth edition of *The Shorter* comes as a terrific tool that continues to fully live up to its fine, and long-standing, reputation.

Incidentally though, in the digital age of binary 1s and 0s, and for all who would rather discontinue weightlifting with their seven-pound *Shorter*, there is a Y2K +1 CD-ROM version of *Harrap’s Shorter*, with such wonderful, and bonus, media-specific highlights and innovations as audio pronunciation of terms, conversion tables, and document templates. But this must be the subject of another review.

Not to mention the specialized Harrap’s companion bilingual dictionaries for the Internet, marketing, and finance. All forthcoming reviews.... Till then, happy hard copy *Shorter*! And alternative body sculpting!

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February 2001 • New Tools For New Times: by Alexandre Mikheev

Everybody will agree that there is something very fascinating about dictionaries. I remember when I got hooked on languages during my junior year in high school, when I found a beat up copy of V. K. Muller's *English-Russian Dictionary* with faded brown cloth covers in the garret of my grandmother's old house. This fortuitous find prompted me to enroll in professional language training, and eventually led to a lifelong career in translation and interpretation. I still keep a Muller dictionary on a shelf in my office (the 17th impression from 1978—there is also a 1985 edition at the Monterey Institute library, which is the 20th impression), but it is of more sentimental value than practical use these days. The fact is that paper dictionaries are born, they live, and then they die. Thanks to new technology, some of them can enjoy unusual longevity. One case in point being the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, which was the first major lexicographical work not to be compiled by hand, saving thousands of man-hours. Its fourth anniversary edition maintains the same familiar look and speaks with the same authority as the first edition published 30 years ago,¹ and I still consider it to be an authoritative and reliable tool. But it is the ubiquitous computer that has helped to make the *American Heritage* such a phenomenal success and an efficient tool of the translator today. The dictionary is now available on CD-ROM, and you can also install it on the hard drive of your computer, which can speed up your search time quite a bit.

However, some paper dictionaries simply refuse to die. *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language* has a vocabulary of 450,000 words and phrases and absorbed 757 editor-years, but this mind-boggling figure does not include the time invested by typists, photocopiers, clerical assistants, and that of over 200 consultants.² When this new edition was first published, scholars criticized it for being too discriminating in the different shades of meaning, but this is what translators survive on, and over the years the dictionary has proved to be invaluable for any English-language translator. The sheer quality and breadth of this lexicographical work guaranteed *Webster's Third* a very special place among paper dictionaries, and you will find a copy in virtually any university library. As of this year, it is also available on CD-ROM.

But in the real world of English-Russian translation, few professionals would think of consulting the Muller dictionary, since there are newer, larger, and more reliable lexicographic sources. The two-volume "*Bolshoi*"³ certainly lived up to its name, but there is also Elsevier's *Russian-English Dictionary* (compiled by Paul Macura. Amsterdam/New York: Elsevier, 1999) and *The Oxford English-Russian Dictionary* (edited by P.S. Falla. Oxford [Oxfordshire]: Clarendon Press, 1984), among others. In fact, there are so many dictionaries out there that the initial fascination with them can easily become an addiction. One of my colleagues has accumulated a huge collection of dictionaries. When we go on an assignment together, he usually comes loaded with all sorts of specialized dictionaries, which can be a real lifesaver in an emergency. For example, during the Sydney Olympic Games last summer, in the absence of a solid English-Russian dictionary on sports, we survived on thin (about a dozen pages each) dictionaries on individual Olympic sports prepared for the 1980 Moscow Olympics. We were grateful, however, that the Russians did not compete in baseball, because there is virtually nothing in the way of dictionaries relating to this all-American favorite.

Lately, I have been happy to part with my own paper dictionaries, and little by little they have found their way into my colleague's collection. I have found that there is a better and more efficient way to keep abreast of new developments in the English language and terminology. Like so many other people, I feel that the computer has made my life much easier, and now I lug my laptop around wherever I go. At first, I only used the computer to store glossaries and terminology sheets, and over the years I have compiled glossaries from my interpretation assignments on such diverse topics as international crime, beauty care, space exploration, computer technology, international finance, etc. In fact, I now set up my laptop right there in the interpreting booth, since the technicians don't seem to mind, and log every new term. I can always check any unusual term whenever it comes up. For example, when "*capital forbearance*" turned up in a paper at a World Bank seminar on "Financial Risks, System Stability, and Economic Globalization," I found the esoteric legal term *forbearance* right there in my copy of the *American Heritage* on the hard drive of my computer.

With the advent of CD-ROM technology, it became possible to store vast amounts of data on a single disk. Almost immediately, lexicographers took advantage of this new development, and one of the first English-Russian CD-ROM dictionaries to appear on the market was *Polyglossum*.⁴ The advantages of such a dictionary are clear. Not only does it give you instant access to the entry, but you can also see a large number of word combinations and translations. You can choose from several versions of *Polyglossum*, with the largest English-Russian-English dictionary containing about 1,700,000 terms from general lexis, economics and finance, business, bank terminology, business correspondence, polytechnic, mathematics, medicine, computer technology, and ecology.

The *Multilex* dictionary,⁵ with 250,000 entries, brings together on one CD-ROM the *New Comprehensive English-Russian Dictionary* (edited by E. M. Mednikova and Yu. D. Apresyan. Russky Yazyk Publishers, 1993); the *English-Russian Dictionary of Construction* (S. K. Kashkin, S. M. Korchemkin, S. V. Kurbatov. 1995); the *English-Russian Dictionary of*

Economics and Finance (A. V. Anikin); the *English-Russian Dictionary of Graphic Art and Publishing* (Russo Publisher, 1993); the *English-Russian Law Dictionary* (Russo Publishers, 1993); and the *Russian-English Polytechnic Dictionary* (Russo Publisher, 1996). It contains 2,300,000 English and Russian words, and, in my opinion, has a lexicographical edge over *Polyglossum*. It was compiled by converting the existing paper dictionaries into an electronic format, largely preserving the layout. The body of each entry looks almost exactly the same as you see it on paper, but is enhanced with different fonts and colors which make it pleasing to the eye. Each article details the different meanings of the keyword and provides examples of its usage, which is particularly valuable. For example:

carte blanche

карт-бланш

to give carte blanche — предоставить/дать/полную свободу действий

Multilex is also reversible and can search for both English and Russian words with equal ease, so that you can look up both *tool* and *инструмент*, for example, and the computer will give you a list of both Russian and English translations. One drawback of *Multilex*, however, is that it sometimes gives you a description rather than the actual translation. For example:

chad² кусочки бумаги или картона, выбиваемые перфоратором.

But there is an important redeeming feature. *Multilex* has a built-in user dictionary, so that if you are unhappy with its suggested translation, you can record your own version which will be the first selection to pop up the next time you select the term. For example:

haze² v

1. мор. проф. изнурять работой; в наказание поручать самую тяжёлую работу
2. амер. зпо подшучивать (особ. над новичком); тюкать (новичка)
3. диал. пугать; ругать; бить

User dictionary entry:

hazing

деловщина.

If you prefer to use the dictionary from the hard drive rather than a CD-ROM, *Multilex 3* gives you this option. This dictionary may appeal to the traditionalist who wants the new technology without losing the familiar look of a paper dictionary.

*Context*⁶ is another electronic dictionary on CD-ROM which was made available to translators at about the same time. It has the same features as the other two electronic dictionaries (i.e., it is reversible and has a user dictionary). You can also install it on your hard drive, which speeds things up significantly, and you don't have to juggle several CD-ROMs at the same time if you want to use more than one dictionary. *Context* has other important advantages. Very early on, the developers, SmartLink Corporation of Irvine, California, made some very smart decisions that now give *Context* a significant edge over its competition. For one thing, *Context* is organized as a library of specialized dictionaries, containing close to 2,000,000 entries. The sheer size of its database is staggering. This kind of modular approach allows its developers to quickly add new modules and expand its database, which now contains 37 modules, with a new module on nuclear energy pending. You can imbed it as a macro in your word processor, such as MS Word, and use its "on the cursor" feature, which will automatically retrieve the translation of the word or word combination right from the text on your computer screen. *Context* has a powerful search engine and an advanced interface program which makes working with the dictionary easy and convenient. Unlike the competition, the dictionary is almost infinitely customizable. You can choose different fonts and colors, turn off those modules which you do not expect to use, create your own user dictionary, and so on.

Like many other dictionaries, *Context* is now available online at www.paralink.com. However, its developers are now working to offer translators more than just access to their library database. They want to implement an online user dictionary, so that every translator can build his own dictionary or share one with other translators, thus keeping it alive by adding new entries to it.

Notes:

1. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. 4th ed.

2. *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged*. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 1993, p. 5a.
3. *Comprehensive English-Russian Dictionary*. Under the general editorship of I.R. Galperin and E.M. Mednikova, 4th imprint, corrected with an appendix. Moscow: "Russkii iazyk," 1987-1988.
4. *Polyglossum-II* ver. 1.20 ©ETS Ltd., 1996.
5. *English-Russian Electronic Multilex™ 2.0* Copyright MediaLingua JSC 1996, 1997.
6. *CONTEXT* for Windows. Version 3.51.24 (Win32). Copyright 1992-1997, Infromatic Corp. (Moscow, Russia).

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English-Spanish, Spanish-English Chemistry Dictionary

Author:

Steven M. Kaplan

Publisher:

Wiley-Interscience. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Publication date:

1998

ISBN:

0-471-24923-8

Available from:

IBD, Ltd., Barnes & Noble, Borders

Price:

\$44.95

Number of pages:

530

Reviewed by:

M. Gabriela Nanni

Chemistry is such a vast topic that it could easily fill several dictionaries, and it is clear that every effort went into the making of Kaplan's latest work in his series of Spanish-English dictionaries. It is well organized and formatted as a glossary. Source words are indicated as boldface entries next to the target language pair, which results in a user-friendly lookup system. There is no grammatical or phonetic information provided, nor does it contain illustrations, abbreviations, or appendices. The quality of the binding and paper is good and holds up to heavy use.

The dictionary does a good job of covering terms from both organic and inorganic chemistry, as well as the general field itself, but, with few exceptions, does not include chemical compounds from the biochemical or the pharmaceutical fields.

The publisher claims that the dictionary contains over 40,000 essential words. However, I found that there is an excess of entries unnecessary for a professional translator. For example, in the English section, we find the word "critical" used as an adjective in 13 separate entries. Instead of examples of the word's use, these entries list the word as a modifier of 13 separate nouns where there is no difference in grammatical construction or meaning with each noun, except for the meaning of the noun itself. These nouns are also included as separate entries elsewhere in the dictionary. Thus we see:

critical coefficient	<i>coeficiente crítico</i>
critical conditions	<i>condiciones críticas</i>
critical density	<i>densidad crítica</i>
critical humidity	<i>humedad crítica</i>

The same holds true for the adjectives: "chemical," "homogeneous," "radioactive," and "molecular," to mention a few.

In the Spanish section, something similar occurs with the entry "**método de XX**" (XX being the last name of the person that method is named after). We find 21 entries with 21 different last names with no difference in spelling or grammatical construction, except for the repetition of the same last name before the word "method."

The same occurs with the entry "**reactivo de XX**," perfectly translated as "XX reagent," but there are 52 entries. The possible list of reagents named after a scientist could be endless. The spelling is the same in both languages. The composition of each reagent is obviously not explained, therefore, the list is long and unnecessary.

In my review, I found a number of inaccuracies that would be unacceptable in a high quality translation. I will mention here just few of them:

Boyle's law is not "**ley de Boyle**" in Spanish, but "**Ley de Boyle y Mariotte**."

Cannabis should not be translated as "*cannabis*," but as "*cáñamo*." Also, its derivatives should not have a double "n" in Spanish.

Carbonize should not be translated as “*carbonizar*,” but as “*enriquecer con carbono*,” “*convertir en carbono*,” or “*reaccionar con carbono*.” The word “*carbonizar*” in Spanish means “to burn out.”

Chlorination is not “*clorinación*,” but “*cloración*.”

There is a discrepancy between both sections regarding the meaning of **Fluor**, which is translated as “fluor” in the English section (and is missing the accent mark), while in the Spanish section it is translated to English as “fluorine.”

In conclusion, this comprehensive bilingual dictionary covers essential words and phrases found in chemistry literature, from which students and others working in the chemistry field could certainly benefit. The work falls short of meeting the expectations of a professional translator as a main reference source. Nevertheless, it could serve as an acceptable secondary source.

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June 2001

Dictionary of Medicine, French-English with English-French Glossary

Author:

Svetolik Paul Djordjevic

ISBN:

1-887563-53-9

Price:

\$179.50

1,150 pp., cloth, 8½ x 11

Available from:

Schreiber Publishing, Inc. (301) 424-7737 ext. 28

Reviewed by:

Sharlee Merner Bradley

Three cheers for a new French-English medical dictionary on the scene! While principally a French-to-English medical dictionary (989 two-column pages), there is also an English-to-French glossary at the end (158 three-column pages—shorter because only headwords are indexed and there are no definitions). If necessary, a translator can look in the main index for clarification.

What to Expect

Some terms are defined, for example, *absence d'albumines dans le sérum sanguin* (under *absence*) is translated as *albuminemia* and then (unnecessarily?) defined as “absence of albumin from the serum.” A more useful example is *campimètre*, translated as *diopsimeter* and defined as “a device for measuring the field of vision.”

Phrases are run-on, but bold, with an * replacing the headword. The pages have a clean look with wide margins, which are good for annotations.

Some pharmaceuticals are included and identified, for example, *Abrisor®*: trademark for a preparation of ascorbic acid (vitamin c).

Abbreviations are included in the alphabetic index, for example, *P.E.R.S.* (pouls égaux réguliers synchrones): *equal regular and synchronous pulse*. Another example: *Pz; PZ: PZ* (pancreozymine—endocrinology, gastroenterology, and laboratory).

Only a few terms are cross-referenced for the purpose of saving space. For example, *Siris*: see *Coffin (et Siris), syndrome de*.

Proper names are identified, as are abbreviations, parts of speech, and the gender of nouns.

Alternate translations are indicated with a slash (/) and semicolon (;). For example, *site de départ*: *startpoint; start point/site; startsite*.

Quality

As for the quality of the medical terms, this reviewer is not an M.D. and cannot vouch for accuracy. However, a check was made against an article by Henri Van Hoof in the ATA Scholarly Monograph Series *Translation and Medicine* entitled “The

Table 1: Seven Terms Needed

Cervicobrachialgie	Y	cervicobrachialgia
HD [hernie discale]	Y	herniated disk
atteinte (medullaire)	Y	(medullar) involvement
medullaire	N	(medull-) [compounds only]
discoïdectomie	Y	disc/ectomy
laminectomie	Y	laminectomy
F.R.C.S.(c)	Y	(Found as FRCS[C]) Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada

Language of Medicine: English and French,” which basically compares the French to an English base (the reverse of this dictionary). Several terms checked out well. However, in Van Hoof’s section on synonyms, *maladie de Bouillaud* is said to be a synonym for the more common *rhumatisme articulaire aigu*, but that in English *Bouillard’s disease* stands for “bacterial (or infective or infectious) endocarditis.” For the French term the Schreiber dictionary gives “Bouillard’s disease; rheumatic endocarditis,” with no indication of when which is which or whether or not the two English terms are synonyms.

Checking on another term cited by Van Hoof, for the English translation of *granules pigmentaires*, this reviewer found no entry under *granules*, and *pigmentaires* is not listed. According to Van Hoof, English uses a noun instead of an adjective form to make *pigment granules*.

Only two minor misprints were noted (publication was delayed for another proofreading): *Laboraotry* on p. 730 and *dilue* for *dilué* on p. ix.

Only one of the seven terms (*medullaire*) was not found in the Schreiber, but that term could be deduced and its spelling verified in Dorland or Stedman. Such easy cognates are specifically omitted from this dictionary, which concentrates on terms that require user knowledge of the two languages and the subject matter fields.

There was a term in the handwritten test document that could be a variant or an error, deciphered as *tentens*, but not found in the Schreiber (or anywhere else, for that matter). However, *TENS* (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation—neurology and physical therapy), was included. From the context, this was a likely candidate.

These results show the excellent coverage by the Schreiber for this tiny one-page test of a handwritten diagnosis. In actual fact, for this document, instead of a single source, the translator had to look in two editions of *Flammarion**, the Canadian databases on CD-ROM *Termium** and *Le Grand Dictionnaire**, and the Internet, not to mention English sources such as *The Merck Manual**, *Dorland’s Medical Dictionary**, and *Stedman’s Electronic Medical Dictionary**. The obvious conclusion is that the Schreiber will henceforth be the first place to look.

About the Author

Although it is shorthand to refer to the dictionary as “the Schreiber,” lexicographical credit goes to its translator author, Svetolik Paul Djordjevic. He has worked as a translator in French and English for over 30 years. For the past 20 years he has served as medical translator for the U.S. Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Maryland. He studied in Yugoslavia, France, England, and the United States. He received two masters’ degrees, and a Ph.D./abd in Slavic linguistics.

Regarding the dictionary, the author comments: “What prompted me to embark on this long and arduous project, which took me practically two decades to complete, was the frustration I experienced as a French medical translator. I found it incredible that there were no adequate single-volume French-English medical dictionaries, general in nature, that I as a translator found even remotely satisfactory. I translate medical evidence daily, and in the course of my work I would come across various terms which the existing dictionaries failed to help me with.... Intimately familiar with the published French-English reference works in the market, I am firmly convinced that there is absolutely nothing out there in print that can even remotely compete with this project.” Djordjevic, an ATA member, lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

*** The Reviewer’s Brief Bibliography for French Medical Translators**

Dictionnaire de médecine Flammarion. Paris (1975 and 1994), ISBN: 2 257 15399 5.

Termium, Québec (1999), CD-ROM.

Le grand Dictionnaire terminologique. Québec (1999), CD-ROM.

The Merck Manual. 15th ed. Rahway, NJ (1987), ISBN: 0 911910 07 7.

Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary. 26th ed. Philadelphia (1985), ISBN: 0 7216 1645 3.

Stedman’s Electronic Medical Dictionary, v. 5. Baltimore (2000), CD-ROM.

Stedman’s Abbreviations Acronyms & Symbols. Baltimore (1992), ISBN: 0 683 07926 3.

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The LINGVO 6.5 System of Electronic Dictionaries

Publisher:

ABBYY Software House, Moscow, Russia (www.abbyy.ru)

Publication date:

2000

ISBN:

n/a

Price and where available:

\$30, Russian Shopping Club (www.russianshopping.com)

Reviewed by:

Galina Raff and Boris Silversteyn

Technical Review

By Galina Raff

The minimum computer requirements for Lingvo 6.5 are fairly low. It works on a Pentium PC 133 MHz or higher, Windows 95 or higher, with 16 MB RAM and 80 to 120 MB of free space on the hard drive.

The installation is straightforward. If you plan to install Lingvo 6.5 on a laptop, it is important to know that the computer must have a 3.5" floppy drive and a CD-ROM drive accessible at the same time. Some laptops (for example, IBM ThinkPad) have a removable module with interchangeable floppy and CD-ROM drives. This hardware configuration makes installation very complicated, if not impossible. The two-disk installation routine is designed to limit common Russian software piracy.

While the installation screen appears with several options, the default installation is recommended because every option can be, if needed, modified later via the Tools/Option feature in the main program window. English must be selected for the interface. The program was created for a Russian user working with localized Russian Windows and localized applications, so some functionality is lost when it is installed on U.S. Windows: for example, the Russian-language interface and copy-and-paste function are not supported on the computer with a typical OS configuration. The user manual is in Russian only. The activation of the Cyrillic portion of Multilanguage Windows Support is mandatory (Control Panel>Add/Remove Program>Windows Setup), as is the installation of the Russian keyboard included with Windows or one of the commercially available Cyrillic keyboard drivers. Lingvo 6.5 installs its own Cyrillic fonts.

I had no difficulty installing Lingvo 6.0, but installation of Lingvo 6.5 stalled, so I had to write to technical support. It took almost a day to fix my problem, which was caused by a well-known anti-virus software, McAfee. All correspondence was in Russian, and at the end I received instructions on editing system files.

I have been using Lingvo electronic dictionaries for about two years and can attest to the software stability. It does not cause system crashes and does not interfere with other applications, including other electronic dictionaries.

Content and Usability

By Boris Silversteyn

Lingvo 6.5 is a collection of several English-Russian and Russian-English dictionaries listed in Table 1 on the following page. While using Lingvo 6.5, I couldn't help comparing it to another family of electronic dictionaries, Multilex 2.0 (1997)*, also developed in Russia (see Table 2 on page 12). I've been using Multilex for about three years now.

I've been comparing the two systems in terms of convenience and ease of use, and the extent to which they are comprehensive and up-to-date. In my opinion, Lingvo is the winner, but not by a landslide—in certain areas, Multilex has advantages. Several reasons Lingvo scores higher are obvious: it has more dictionaries, they are more recent, and, hence, include more new terms and expressions.

Here is the low-down. In fact, I will begin with the term "low-down." Lingvo translates it (in the sense that I'm using this word here) as *информация, сведения, факты*, and lists *ins and outs* as a synonym. Multilex, on the other hand, translates it as *полная информация* and provides a couple examples: *to get the low-down on smb.—вывести всю подноготную* and *to give the low-down on smth.—раскрыть полную/истинную картину чего-л.* The Lingvo version corresponds to the

* For a detailed review of Multilex-2, see Galina Raff, *Multilingual Computing & Technology*, #24, April/May 1999.

Table 1

Title	Copyright, Author, Year	No. of Entries
LingvoUniversal-E. <i>Universal English-Russian Dictionary</i> (Англо-русский словарь общей лексики)	ABBY, 1999-2000	100,000
LingvoUniversal-R. <i>Universal Russian-English Dictionary</i> (Русско-английский словарь общей лексики)	ABBY, 1999-2000	85,000
LingvoEconomy-E. <i>English-Russian Dictionary of Economics</i> (Англо-русский экономический словарь)	ABBY, 1995-2000	50,000
LingvoEconomy-R. <i>Russian-English Dictionary of Economics</i> (Русско-английский экономический словарь) (reverse LingvoEconomy-E dictionary)	ABBY, 1995-2000	35,000
LingvoComputer-E. <i>English-Russian Dictionary of Computer Science</i> (Англо-русский словарь по вычислительной технике и программированию)	ABBY, Ye.K. Maslovskiy, 2000	50,000
LingvoComputer-R. <i>Russian-English Dictionary of Computer Science</i> (Русско-английский словарь по вычислительной технике и программированию) (reverse LingvoComputer-E dictionary)	ABBY, Ye.K. Maslovskiy, 2000	35,000
LingvoScience-E. <i>English-Russian Scientific Dictionary</i> (Англо-русский научно-технический словарь)	ABBY, 1999-2000	150,000
LingvoScience-R. <i>Russian-English Scientific Dictionary</i> (Русско-английский научно-технический словарь)	ABBY, 1999-2000	145,000
Polytechnical-E. <i>Comprehensive English-Russian Scientific and Technical Dictionary</i> (Большой англо-русский политехнический словарь)	RUSSO Publishing House, 1997	200,000
Polytechnical-R. <i>Russian-English Index to Comprehensive English-Russian Scientific and Technical Dictionary</i> (Русско-английский индекс к Большому англо-русскому политехническому словарю)	RUSSO Publishing House, 1997	120,000
Oil and Gas-E. <i>English-Russian Dictionary of Oil and Gas</i> (Большой англо-русский словарь по нефти и газу)	VNIIGAZ, RAO "Gazprom," 1998	50,000
Oil and Gas-R. <i>Russian-English Index to English-Russian Dictionary of Oil and Gas</i> (Русско-английский индекс к Большому англо-русскому словарю по нефти и газу)	VNIIGAZ, RAO "Gazprom," 1998	35,000
LingvoThesaurus-R. <i>Russian Business Lexicon Thesaurus</i> (Тезаурус русской деловой лексики)	ABBY, 1997-2000	16,000
LingvoSound-E. <i>Concise English-Russian Sound Dictionary</i> (Краткий англо-русский озвученный словарь)	ABBY, 1997-2000	5,000

Webster Collegiate Dictionary definition of *lowdown*, while the Multilex version is obviously more restrictive.

In terms of ease of use and convenience, Lingvo wins hands-down. First of all, it resides on the hard disk, so the start-up time is very short, and term access is practically instantaneous. Not so with Multilex: it can only be used with the CD-ROM in the CD-ROM drive.

Another Lingvo advantage is that it performs a search in all dictionaries simultaneously **and** instantaneously. Multilex searches all its dictionaries as well, but the search takes longer and an extra step is required if the word is not found in the open dictionary. Here is an example: *interoperability*. Lingvo comes up immediately with a translation from the *LingvoEconomics*, and points to another dictionary, *LingvoComputer*. Multilex's response: "The word is not found. Search in other dictionaries" (hereinafter, "Not found"), even though in this case none of the dictionaries contain the desired term.

If one makes a minor typo, Lingvo displays the nearest closely spelled word. This sometimes helps. For instance, when I typed *dinghie*, Lingvo responded with *dinghy*. Typing *nimblr* instead of *nimble* elicited *nimble mind*—*живой, гибкий ум*. Multilex doesn't do this: it displays the irritating "Not found." Another example: Multilex responds to *stand-off*, but not to *standoff*; Lingvo responds to both.

If a word has two different spellings—for instance, with and without a dash—and you type in one version, neither Lingvo nor Multilex point you to the other. At least Lingvo provides a term with the closest spelling; Multilex does not. Thus, when searching for *standoffish*, Lingvo came up with *standoff insulator* (the next closely spelled word, which doesn't help at all in this case), while Multilex displayed the "Not found" message. Both, though, responded to *stand-offish*.

Table 2

Title	Author, Publisher, Year	No. of Entries
<i>New Comprehensive English-Russian Dictionary</i> (Большой англо-русский словарь)	Apresyan et al., “Russkiy yazyk,” 1993-1994	250,000
<i>English-Russian Dictionary of Economics and Finance</i> (Англо-русский словарь по экономике и финансам)	Anikin, “Ekonomicheskaya shkola,” 1993	75,000
<i>English-Russian Dictionary of Law</i> (Англо-русский юридический словарь)	Andrianov et al., “Russkiy yazyk,” 1993	50,000
<i>English-Russian Dictionary of Construction</i> (Англо-русский строительный словарь)	Korchemkin et al., “Russkiy yazyk,” 1995	55,000
<i>English-Russian Dictionary of Graphic Arts and Publishing</i> (Англо-русский словарь по полиграфии и издательскому делу)	Vinogradskiy et al., RUSSO Publishing House, 1995	30,000
<i>Russian-English Polytechnic Dictionary</i> (Русско-английский политехнический словарь)	Kuznetsov et al., “Russkiy yazyk,” 1980-1996	35,000

This feature of Lingvo (providing a closely spelled alternative) can be helpful. Even when it does not have an exact match, it can give the translator an idea. Example: *duff*, as in *get off one’s duff*. Multilex offers four translations of *duff*, two as a noun and two as a verb, but none of them fits here. Lingvo’s translations aren’t any better, **but** it provides a synonym (another useful feature Multilex doesn’t have), *slack*, and several of its Russian equivalents (*расхлябанный, небрежный, нерадивый, ленивый, неорганизованный*) point the translator in the right direction. Incidentally, major bilingual paper dictionaries, including Galperin, Apresyan (reproduced in Multilex), Katzner, and the *Oxford English-Russian Dictionary*, do not list this meaning of *duff*. Luckily, *Webster’s Collegiate* does have *buttocks* as one of *duff*’s meanings, and gives *get off your duff* as an example.

When asked to translate *jawboning*, Lingvo displays *jawbone*, but instead of giving a direct translation it refers to *jaw-bone*, which requires an extra click (a minor irritation). In this search, Multilex was better—it translated the noun *jawbone* as *нажим, палка, дубина*, and the verb as *нажимать, оказывать (грубый) нажим сверху*. When asked to translate *Aurora boreal*, Lingvo responded with *aurora borealis—северное полярное сияние*; Multilex displayed the “Not found” message.

But there are “opposite” examples as well. Neither dictionary recognizes *tailspin* (according to *Webster’s*, the word *tail-spin* has been in existence since ca. 1917). Multilex recognizes *tail spin* and shows *tail-spin*. Lingvo only responds to *tail-spin*. For *tailspin*, it shows *tails* and its synonyms, *tail-coat* and *dress coat*, and for *tail spin*, *tail spring of casing spear*. Multilex clearly wins here, and also in a number of other cases, e.g., *heads-up, cum laude, shockheaded, hands-down* (Lingvo only understands the latter term without the hyphen), to name a few.

Along with the translation of a term, Lingvo provides examples of its usage, including idiomatic expressions and proverbs.

Lingvo’s *Russian Business Lexicon Thesaurus* is also a helpful inclusion. A nonnative speaker of either language might find the *Paradigm* feature, which displays all forms of the word from the Edit line, useful.

Another area where Lingvo has an advantage over Multilex is that it searches Russian terms as fast as English ones. Multilex is much slower with Russian than with English (my experience here is different from Alexandre Mikheev’s [*ATA Chronicle*, February 2001, p. 63]), and sometimes it offers completely unexpected translations. A couple of glaring examples: for *мур*, it comes up with *all*; *сегодня* is translated as *specifically*, with *today* as a second choice; it offers 95 entries for *документство* (some of them as odd as *mancus*), but the first choice is *desert*, while *advantage, merit, virtue, denomination* are not included. This is probably due to the fact that Multilex does not have separate Russian-English dictionaries (with the exception of the *Russian-English Polytechnic Dictionary*).

Lingvo is also much better with abbreviations: it has more of them and translates them more accurately. For instance, Multilex responds to *FAA* with translating *Federal Aviation Administration soil classification system*, but not *Federal Aviation Administration*. Incidentally, Lingvo is not entirely without “blame” with this particular abbreviation either: LingvoUniversal translates it as *федеральное авиационное агентство*, while Polytechnical-E provides *федеральное управление гражданской авиацией (США)*.

There are some “points against” Lingvo. It has occasional typos: *there* instead of *their*; *доведен* instead of *доведём*, etc. (but the user better present the correct spelling—a *pair-of-hands* inquiry produced *pair-oar*; the desired answer came up after eliminating the dashes). And at least in one case Lingvo’s response bordered on ridiculous: asked to translate *computer dictionary*, it translated *computer diagnosis* instead (it does not have a *computer dictionary* entry).

Should one conclude from this review that Lingvo is the ultimate answer to the translator’s prayers and that Multilex is not needed anymore? Not at all. **Both** are helpful. They do not overlap 100 percent, neither in composition (refer back to the tables), nor in entries within the same-type dictionaries. I search Lingvo first and if I don’t find or am not satisfied with the

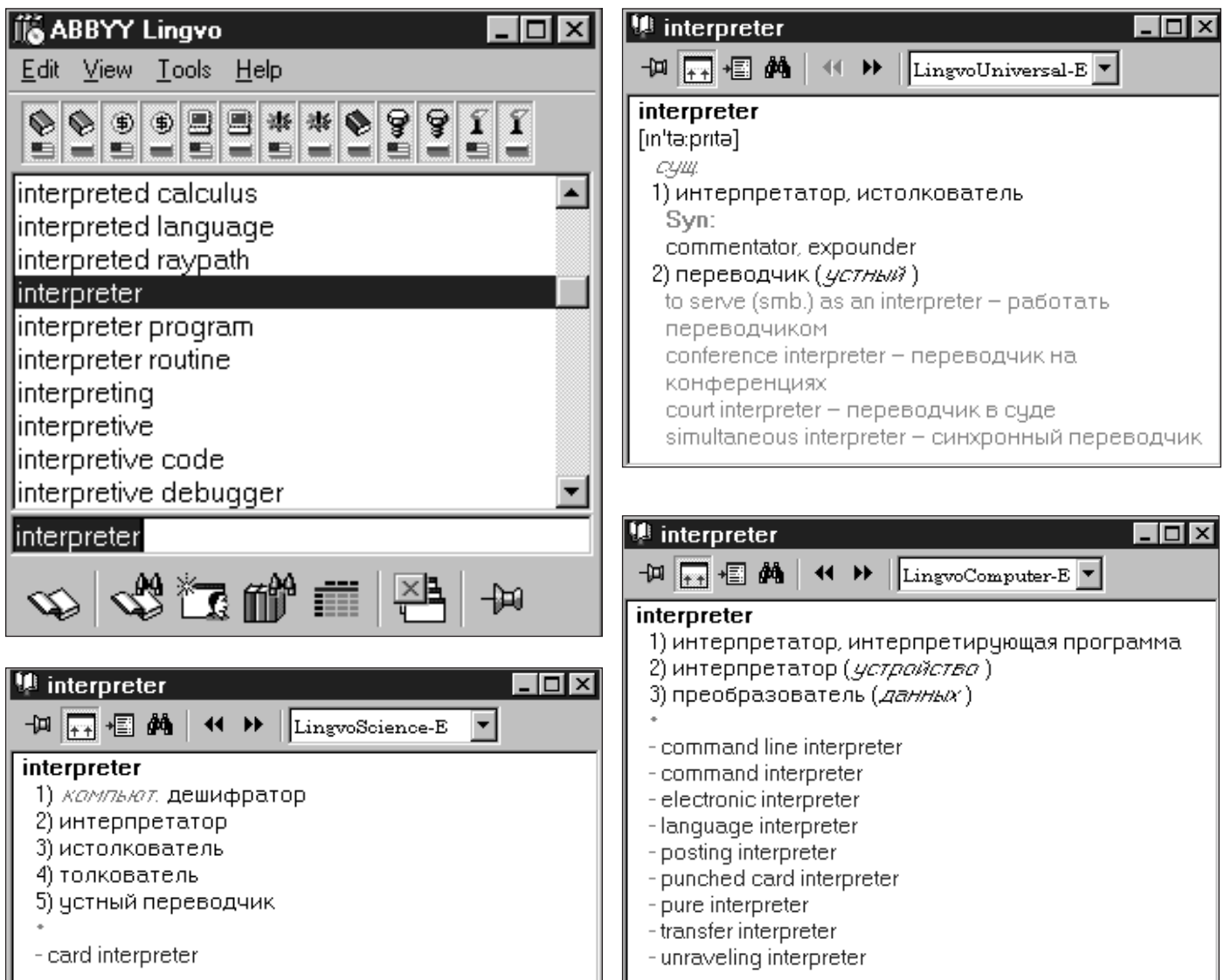
answer, I turn to Multilex. If I am still not satisfied, I go to my paper dictionaries. Incidentally, numerous reports on the death of the latter are greatly exaggerated. Do not discard them just yet!

Conclusions

Lingvo 6.5 offers an instantaneous search of almost a million terms in several general and specialized dictionaries. Its interface is user-friendly, and most of its Cyrillic features are supported on the U.S. version of Windows. It is not expensive and does not require the latest model PC. Lingvo 6.5 comes with an editable user dictionary and a utility (DSL Compiler) that converts text files into a Lingvo-compatible dictionary. We recommend it for English<->Russian translators as a valuable addition to other paper and electronic dictionaries.

As we were writing this review, Abby Software released a new version of the dictionary, Lingvo 7.0, which includes two additional dictionaries: the 70,000-entry *Russian-English Medical Dictionary* (with a 52,000-entry English-Russian index) and the 50,000-entry *English-Russian Legal Dictionary* (with a 22,000-entry Russian-English index), published by the RUSSO Publishing House. In addition, the new version of the software provides better support for Windows ME and Windows 2000.

Figure 1: An example of a word search in Lingvo 6.5 main window and card windows (LingvoUniversal, LingvoScience and LingvoComputer dictionaries)



Harrap's Computers & the Internet Dictionary
English-French/French-English

Publisher:

© Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd.

Publication date:

1999

ISBN:

0-245-50387-0 (FRANCE)

0-245-606653 (U.K)

Reviewed by:

Françoise Herrmann

The *Harrap's Computers & the Internet Dictionary French-English/English-French* is part of a small paperback series of dictionaries called "La vie des@ffaires" (@Business Life). All of the entries for these dictionaries were developed and expanded from the database used for the *Harrap Dictionary of Business*. This small (5,000 entries) paperback was thus designed as a practical resource for all business people, students and translators included, in response to the tremendous amount of new terminology now found on the Internet.

Of particular interest in this dictionary is an acute sensitivity to occurring language uses, such as *netspeak*, and a welcome mindfulness of the forces at play: inventiveness, borrowing, and standardization of terms in the fast-moving domain of computers and the Internet. That is, entries are glossed to include terms used in France and Canada, in the U.S. and Great Britain, as well as according to the *Journal Officiel*, a French government publication listing new laws and new French terms, developed in response to the import of Anglicisms. A few "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) boxes are also included to highlight further controversies of usage.

The cover of this paperback dictionary, and all of those in the series, sporting "HARRAP'S" in bold red letters on a black background, is also identical to the *Harrap's Shorter Bilingual Dictionary French-English/English-French* design, which perhaps explains why it is presented as an "indispensable" companion to the *Shorter*.

In the ever changing and lightning speed world of the Internet, which has been characterized as an innovative supply chain (Vijayaraghavan, 1998), it is an exercise in futility to find a dictionary in print that has successfully kept up with the terminological frontier in this domain. With the exception of the TERMIUM™ database perhaps, whose teams of translators and terminologists input terms on a continuous basis, fighting "fire with fire," there is simply no way to keep up, especially in the print medium. Consequently, rather than focusing on what this small paperback inevitably does not include (and it "lacks-a-lot" in terms of, for example, RIPs (Routing Information Protocols), raster files, Internet telephony, and even "mouseovers"), I'll emphasize what this wonderful little resource does supply. That is, *a lot* that you will not find in your *Shorters*, or in other large, French-English/English-French institutional giants, such as the Robert & Collins, or the Larousse.

In a humorous anthropological study of the dot.com world called *A Field Guide to the Yettie: America's Young Entrepreneurial Technocrat*, Sam Sifton notes that "The New Economy is an ARE; it is an Acronym-Rich Environment..." (p. 3). Hence, the next time you are seriously contracted for a translation assignment of *netspeak* (language use arising in online chat communication), you are going to wonder how to translate all the "TLAs" (three-letter acronyms). That is, all "this lingo [...] jargon and slang—a patois made up of business-speak and geek idiom and pop cultural expression" (p. 127), as Sifton puts it. Worse still, if you embody more French-language attitudes than American ones, you may even think that French simply does not lend itself to the following telegraphic style: AAMOF (as a matter of fact); BFN (bye for now); IAC (in any case); IWBNI (it would be nice if); FOLL (following...); FYI (for your information); LOL (laughing out loud); and EOD (end of discussion).

Well, you are in for a surprise, because the *Harrap's Computers & Internet Dictionary* not only supplies you with a bilingual glossary of the aforementioned acronyms and abbreviations (and many more), but it also supplies you with a similar bilingual glossary of TLAs in French: AMHA (À mon humble avis [In my humble opinion]); AMA (À mon avis [In my opinion]); Quoi 2/9 (Quoi de neuf [what's new?]); K7 (cassette); WE (Weekend); STP (S'il te plaît [Please]). Thus, this little paperback companion not only supplies you with expansions for abbreviations and acronyms you may have never suspected existed, it also supplies you with enough to see that TLAs abound in *both* English and French, according to the same rules of abbreviation, contraction, and the pressures of thinking far *fster* than you can type. And in this manner it also supplies sufficient material for you to inventively and successfully complete your translation assignment of the Internet chat expressions in *netspeak*.

Alternatively, as a student of AREs, you will begin to truly understand what everyone else is talking about on Tchatche@Yahoo.fr. Though, for that *netspeak* experience, you will also need an index of "Souriants" (Smileys)—these ASCII character expressions of emotion, which the *Harrap's Computers & Internet Dictionary* also supplies for both languages:

- :-) Content, je plaisante (Happy, I'm joking)
- :-o Choqué (Very surprised, shocked)
- :-((Très triste (Very sad).

Beyond this accurate, perceptive, and welcome inclusion of Generation-X+10 Internet language usage, this small companion is most useful for *general* terms in the domain of computers and the Internet, and as a carefully researched source of translations. That is, a resource where there is a pervasive awareness of the unknown forces of accepted language usage: of the *push* to standardize, the *pull* to create, and the winner-takes-all *breakthrough* into usage. Both *JO* (*Journal Officiel*) translations and occurring translations are listed, for example, for the terms “Firmware” (firmware, *JO*: microprogramme) and “mail” (courier électronique, *JO*: mé!, Canada: courriel). Additionally, for the term “mél” (mail), there is an FAQ box highlighting and explaining the controversial *JO* analogy of the abbreviation “mél” with “tél” (telephone), though usage includes the use of “mél” as a noun. Similarly, you will discover, in the French to English direction, the *JO* terms “Butineur” and “Brouteur” both referring to a “Browser” (navigateur). Thus, when there are many possible translations, or when you are unsure whether to use a direct borrowing, you may want to consult this companion.

You will also want to consult this companion because the careful glossing will sort out some of your options and the nonprescriptive approach will supply you with possibilities grounded in usage, in contrast to random inventiveness or blind and uninformed principle. For example, you will find translations for terms such as “to zip” (zipper), “zipped” (zippé), “zip disk” (cartouche zip), “zip drive” (lecteur zip), which supply useful confirmation regarding direct borrowing into French, in contrast to a more conservative translation such as “compresser” (also listed) and its derivatives (non-listed). Similarly, the glossing will help you target an appropriate translation, among many, for a term as common as the verb and noun forms of “chat,” depending on your context.

You will also find translations for very common terms such as “bullet” (puce); “Internaute” (Netizen]), in a rare instance of common usage in the opposite direction from French to English; and all the different types of brackets: “square” (crochet), “curly” (accolade), “round” (parentheses), “angle” (signes inférieur et supérieur), supplemented by figures of both the French (AZERT) and the English (QUERTY) keyboards, glossed for all function keys, including the special Macintosh function keys. In addition to these figures you have glossed desktops for *both* PC and Macintosh and translations glossed according to Mac or Windows operating systems (e.g., “corbeil” [trash] in Mac, [recycle bin] in Windows). All these features add up to a wonderful reference to mundane, everyday language use in the domain of computers and the Internet, which may have previously sent you on some long, indeed very winding, searches.

The *Harrap's Computers & the Internet* dictionary is a *small* paperback companion, but it is a most useful resource because it supplies carefully researched terminology and useful glossing, a perceptive inclusion of occurring Internet language uses, and translations for the mundane basics of computers and the Internet. Even if its size and medium do not for a single second match the daunting speed of innovations and corollary vastness of language developments, you may want to consult it first, for the obvious.

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2001 DICTIONARY REVIEWS Compiled by Albert Bork

August 2001

Harrap's Shorter CD-ROM Dictionary (English-French/French-English)

Publishers:

© Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd. 1997-2000

Havas Interactive 2000,

Larousse/HER 2000

Reviewed by:

Françoise Herrmann

If you ever thought that the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM bilingual (French-English/English-French) dictionary was just a featherweight digital version of your seven-pound *Shorter* in hard copy format, think again! And be prepared for some wonderful surprises. Based on the full text of the 2000 edition of the Harrap's *Shorter*, the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM is the fruit of a collaborative effort between Harrap's in Edinburgh (for the editing of the hard copy version) and Havas Interactive in Paris (for the development of the software and production of the CD-ROM). Thus, the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM offers the full text of the hard copy *Shorter* and much, much more in terms of harnessing some of the unique properties of the electronic medium to deliver new support features for translation.

Prior to outlining each of the novel translation support features offered by the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM, the following program specifications are of importance. The Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM runs on a PC system and requires a Pentium 100 MHz processor, a CD-ROM drive, 32 MB of RAM, Windows 95/98/2000 or NT, speakers, and a 640x480 pixel, 256-color display. No Macintosh-compatible version is currently available. Installation of the program on your system occurs via a standard installation wizard. Installation takes about five minutes to complete, after which the dictionary is stored on your hard disk for future access.

Once you have performed the installation (and restarted your computer) you will have two options for using your Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM. You can open the program from the Windows Start menu to use the complete set of features offered by the Harrap's *Shorter* application. The second option consists of using the application in *pop-up mode* from the Windows task bar, directly from the text on which you are working, in desktop applications such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, or Outlook. Simply highlight the search word in your text and click on the Harrap's task bar icon for a translation and the article entry of your search word.

This *pop-up mode* is the first media-specific feature you will encounter. It will introduce you to the first major difference between your paper dictionary and the application you have installed. This is a popular feature which has been discussed in informal online communications (Northern California Translators Association, 2001), commenting on the use of the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM in particular, and elsewhere (Mikheev, *ATA Chronicle*, Feb. 2001). This feature is popular considering that it overcomes the somewhat effortful searching process in both traditional flip-page hard copy modes and less mature electronic modes where the search word must be typed into the application from outside of the text on which you are working.

Out of *pop-up mode*, working from within the full version the Harrap's *Shorter* application, launched from the Windows Start menu, the second new, and major, media-specific feature that you will discover consists of the audio recording of 60,000 words. This feature will enable you to listen to a recorded pronunciation of the words listed in the main index that have a small loudspeaker icon next to them. This is an immensely useful feature for all learners of French or English, and further for all nonnatives who may, for example, experience occasional trouble with the rules of word stress in English or the articulation of certain vowels in French (for example, nasal vowels and [y], as in "mur" [wall]).

The pronunciation supplied for these terms is referred to as received pronunciation (RP) for English and standard Parisian (SP) for French, with some intra-standard variations included for both languages. For example, Intra-standard variations for English include the famous two pronunciations for the term "controversy" (CON-tru-versee, and con-TRAH-ver-see), as well as pronunciation for terms where grammatical variation is marked phonetically. For example, for terms such as "convict" and "contest," which can function as either verbs or nouns, and conversely where morphological variations are unmarked (the unmarked plural and singular of ombudsman/ombudsmen, or Orangeman/ Orangemen). Intra-standard variations for French include pronunciations for marked morphological variation (e.g., the feminine and masculine forms of "plan") or for pronounced/unpronounced final consonants (e.g., chantant/chantante; dépliant/dépliante).

You will enjoy the new audio dimensions of your Harrap's *Shorter* application for the support these lend to the articulation of terms, and perhaps for the striking and enchanting difference of this feature in comparison to the silence of your hard copy

Shorter. And once you have used this function you may also find yourself “stealing” it: that is, you may want to hear more pronunciations of major cross-regional variations of English (Australian, American, and Scottish), and French (Belgian, Canadian, and Swiss). You may even want to hear a few additional variations, such as Jamaican and Caribbean English or Senegal and Luxembourg French. In an era where globalization is no longer a myth and the localization of translations is a requirement, this feature is especially useful, since it is precisely in the domain of pronunciation that the most salient differences between major cross-regional variations exist.

Additionally, your propensity for stealing this design feature may also be cued by the design of your Harrap’s *Shorter* application, where cross-indexing functions allow you to direct your searches according to a total of six index options, each corresponding to sub-lists culled from the complete body of entries. These six search options include: the main index, phrases and examples, the full text, regional language variations (Australian, American, Scottish for English; Swiss, Belgian, and Canadian for French), abbreviations, and labels (language registers). Thus, for example, you may want to verify whether a term belongs to a particular register, such as literary, old-fashioned, slang, or pejorative, each of which appear as options in the labels index. Or you may want to search for a phrase such as “option on shares” or “place an order” without having to consult the whole article on “option” or “place.” And conversely, you may want to simply immerse yourself in one of these semantic spaces for an overview of their lexical horizon. Together with the supra cross-indexing of searches according to French, English, and bilingual indices, and the speed at which all this occurs, this is media-specific virtuosity and excellence at its best. Compared to the linear rigidity of your hard copy *Shorter*, the flexibility of cross-indexing stands as another major difference. And there is still much more.

You will discover yet another major media-specific novelty in your Harrap’s *Shorter* application with the Converter. This Converter includes conversion functions for weight, temperature, surface area, volume, length, speed, size, and currency (from or into French, Belgian, and Swiss Francs, and Irish Pounds; from or into Euros). In the complete absence of such conversion tables in the hard copy *Shorter*, do you remember looking for tables in your supplemental references and pondering the conversion formula for degrees Celsius to degrees Fahrenheit? The formula may have appeared as follows for a conversion from Fahrenheit to Celsius:

$$59^{\circ} \text{ F} = (59-32) \times \frac{5}{9} = 15^{\circ} \text{ C}$$

and as follows for the reverse, from degrees Celsius to Fahrenheit:

$$20^{\circ} \text{ C} = (20 \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32 = 68^{\circ} \text{ F}$$

You may have simplified these formulas slightly by converting fractions to decimals prior to proceeding with your own computations. In any event, you may now forget these complicated calculations for any text that requires these conversions, since you can, with the Harrap’s *Shorter* CD-ROM Converter, simply click in your data, including the direction of the conversion, to obtain the answer. And once again, as you begin to use this function and to enjoy and discover its possibilities you are going to want to fly with it. For example, you will wonder why the Converter does not include more currency conversion possibilities (e.g., from U.S. dollars to Euros). Or why, given that these are fluctuating rates of exchange in contrast to fixed conversion rates, the Converter is not linked to the Web for all kinds of exchange rates, just as there are hyperlinks for selected terms in the main index. Similarly, if you do scientific translations, you will want to steal some more of this design feature so that it includes, for example, conversions for catheter and urethral sound sizes (in addition to the current limits of shoes and shirts), or Réaumur temperature (in addition to Celsius and Fahrenheit), or decimal fractions in millimeters and microns of the British inch, or apothecary units such as the drachm and the scruple for conversion to grams. The Harrap’s *Shorter* CD-ROM points to such possibilities without exploiting them, suggesting directions for future updates. And as innovative possibilities, especially considering that this a general bilingual language dictionary in contrast to a scientific or specialized one, these features are a far cry from shortcomings.

A fifth media-specific feature of the Harrap’s *Shorter* CD-ROM consists of hyperlinks to the Web. Several thousand terms listed in the main index appear with an @ icon, which function as hyperlinks to 600 Internet sites. This means that when you click on the @ icon above the article displaying the definition and translation of a tagged term, you will be connected to a Website that is related in content or activity to the term in question. Thus, for example, when you click on the @ icon corresponding to the term “Hypertext” in the English-French direction of the dictionary, one of the sites to which you will be connected to is the University Paris XIII Hypermedia Program of Studies. From there you can peruse the site, which includes course lecture notes and course materials. Clearly, the advantage of such links consists in the gateway that is opened to an *unprecedented* wealth of source materials and contextualizations, all of which complement in a uniquely “live” encyclopedic mode the traditional definitions and examples of the term searched. Again, it is easy to steal this feature and to wonder why such links

are not far more numerous or perhaps exclusive of sites in the U.S. and worldwide. But then again, it seems only fair to consider this a well-harnessed electronic feature at the service of the translator's tasks, filled with the quantum leaps of future versions and updates

A sixth media-specific feature of the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM consists of the Conjugate function. This function allows you to search the syntactic form of any verb in English or French. Considering that your hard copy *Shorter*, in typical hard copy tradition, only points you to the main patterns of the verbal system of either French or English, this feature comes as another welcome addition. You will no longer have to remember, for example, that although the verb "acquérir" (to acquire) ends in "-ir," it does not belong to the second group of verb conjugations, but to a subcategory "-érir" of the third group ending in "-re." Much less that this subcategory is defined in terms of its present participle ending in "-ant" in contrast to "-issant." Similarly, for English, you will no longer have to gear into a cognitive overload mode to recite "bereave, bereaved, bereft; draw, drew, drawn." Just type in your verb and, presto, the conjugate function will list all the forms you need but never had the opportunity to query. Add to the conjugate function a grammatical search function (a seventh media-specific highlight), and your typical hard copy grammatical compendium will be strikingly enhanced with the navigational flexibility of click and search, or type and search, and the inclusion of a few hyperlinks within the grammatical explanations for nonlinear consultation.

The Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM is a superbly designed application, precisely because instead of replicating the print mode, it surprises you with that extra dimension of novel features that pertain exclusively to the digital domain. The features that have been reviewed (the *pop-up mode*, audio pronunciation of terms, multiple indexing, the Converter, links to the Web, the conjugate and grammar functions) are unique to the digital medium that supports this tool. And, just as we have witnessed the wondrous and explosive development of software versions such as the trajectory of Microsoft Word version 1 to Word version 2000, there is a fabulous new set of possibilities that opens up in the world of tools in support of translation. These are hinted and stolen possibilities, where all that has been harnessed for the first time in the Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM will continue to mature in ways that will amaze and surprise us further. Legitimately, we can always gripe at the current immaturity of cross-referencing. That is, for example, the fact that it is not yet possible to click within an article entry and be connected to another, or cannot gain direct access to a conjugated form without having to invoke a separate function. But, in the research and development tradition of software trajectories, we should somehow rest assured that version 1 is its infancy, and that we are merely participating in a design conversation that will propel updates and enhancements.

Before letting you discover for yourself all of the new media-specific highlights of your Harrap's *Shorter* CD-ROM, there is one more surprise worth mentioning. The interface is just beautiful, replete with multicolored and enchanting icons, elegant mouseovers, lightning speed results, and ever so slick and smooth navigation. I guarantee that you will enjoy this application, and further, that you will find it immensely useful, far beyond the impracticality of lugging heavy hard copy dictionaries under the palm trees, at 95°F (*click* 35°C).

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Mikheev, Alexandre (2001). "New Tools for New Times." *ATA Chronicle*, 30 (2), February 2001, pp. 63-65.

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2001 DICTIONARY REVIEWS Compiled by Albert Bork

September 2001

Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche

Compiled by:

Douglas M. Robinson

Publisher:

St. Jerome Publishing: Manchester, U.K.

Publication Date:

1997

ISBN:

1-900650-00-2

(Hardcover, xxi +337 pp.; 124 texts by 90 authors with biographical headnotes, footnotes, capsule biographies of all persons mentioned in the texts, a preface, a bibliography of references, a bibliography for further reading, and name and subject indices)

The Translation Studies Reader

Edited by:

Lawrence Venuti and Mona Baker (advisory editor)

Publisher:

Routledge: London and New York

Publication Date:

2000

ISBN:

0-415-18747-8 (paperback, but also available in hardcover)

(xiv +524 pp.; selected 20-century articles on translation with an introduction, five overviews of the main trends in translation theory during various time periods, a bibliography, and an index)

Reviewed by:

Mark Herman

The short review of these two books is: Yes, add them to the list of books essential for anyone interested in knowing what Western translators and non-translators have been saying about translation for the past 2,500 years. It is probably fortuitous that the time spans covered by the two books join exactly without overlapping. Robinson includes extracts from texts by Herodotus (484?-430/20 BC), Nietzsche (1844-1900), and 88 others in between, while Venuti includes 30 more or less complete texts spanning the 20th century.

Robinson includes “theory” in his title, but there is no “translation theory” in the contemporary sense, because all the documents in his book were written before “translation theory” was invented. Therefore, readers need not worry that they will encounter arcane phrases that require translation out of academese before they are comprehensible. And Venuti, whose authors are obviously concerned with modern and post-modern themes, has largely managed to avoid writings that drown their arguments in the semantic terrorism that sometimes characterizes contemporary literary studies.

One thing that strikes the reader upon opening Robinson’s book is the sheer number of people not usually associated with translation who have had something to say about it. These individuals include royalty (not only King Alfred of England, who has long been known for his interest in translation, but also Queen Elizabeth I of England and King Duarte of Portugal) and poets famous for work in their native languages (Dante Alighieri, Samuel Johnson, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Robert Browning). Another fact made clear by Robinson’s book is that the same ideas about translation come up again and again across the centuries. The same arguments are fought over and over, including the argument over whether literary translation should be undertaken at all.

It is also obvious that, when actually translating, many translators pay absolutely no attention to anybody’s theories, including their own. For example, Shelley wrote *A Defence of Poetry* in 1821, a year before his death, in which he stated:

“...the language of poets has ever affected a certain uniform and harmonious recurrence of sound, without which it were not poetry, and which is scarcely less indispensable to the communication of its influence, than the words themselves, with-

out reference to their particular order. Hence the vanity of translation; it were as wise to cast a violet into a crucible that you might discover the formal principle of its colour and odour (quoted in Robinson, 244).”

Yet, despite these words, Shelley was “an avid translator—from ancient Greek especially, but also from the German of Goethe, from the Spanish of Calderón, and from the Italian of Dante” (Robinson, 244).

Goethe’s view of translation was very different from Shelley’s. Shelley was a romantic, believing that each language has inherent in it a unique national genius. Goethe, a man of the Enlightenment, believed the point of great literature and poetry is that it illuminates what is universal. Therefore, Goethe, in one of his statements on translation, almost contradicted Robert Frost’s 20th-century pronouncement that “it is the poetry that gets lost in translation”:

“I honor meter and rhyme, for that is what makes poetry poetry, but the part that is really, deeply, and basically effective, the part that is truly formative and beneficial, is the part of the poet that remains when he is translated into prose (Goethe, in *Dichtung und Wahrheit/Poetry and Truth* [1811-14], translated by Robert R. Heitner, quoted in Robinson, 222).”

The above passage appears in Robinson’s book *in translation*, as do many other documents, which requires certain assumptions *about* translation on the part of the reader before anything is read.

Such assumptions remained largely implicit until the 20th century, but the very first article in Venuti’s book calls them into question. This article, Walter Benjamin’s “Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers/The Task of the Translator,” was written in German in 1923 and translated into English in 1968 by Harry Zohn. Venuti follows Zohn’s translation (15-23) with a piece by Steven Rendall called “A Note on Harry Zohn’s Translation” (23-25). Rendall diplomatically calls Zohn’s translation “pioneering” (23) and states that his (Rendall’s) “notes examine certain problems raised by Zohn’s version” (23). The “problems,” somewhat masked by Rendall’s polite phrases, are that Zohn’s translation is dead wrong in spots, and, at least twice, states exactly the opposite of what Benjamin actually wrote. Since, because of copyright restrictions, (23), Venuti could neither simply correct Zohn’s translation nor commission an entirely new one, he had to print Zohn’s faulty translation and then follow it with Rendall’s “translation” of the translation.

An especially interesting issue discussed in Venuti’s book is the intentional distortion introduced by translators into a text to make it acceptable to the target culture. This is taken up by André Lefevere in a fascinating article on “Mother Courage’s Cucumbers: Text, System, and Refraction in a Theory of Literature” (233-49), the title of which is more off-putting than anything in the article itself. According to Lefevere, there were three successive translations by three different translators from German into English of Bertolt Brecht’s play *Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder/Mother Courage and Her Children*, published in 1941, 1967, and 1972. Each translation distorted what Brecht actually wrote to a lesser extent than the translation preceding it. This, says Lefevere, has little to do with the competency of the translators and much to do with the fact that, between 1941 and 1972, Brecht’s reputation among English speakers was transformed from that of an unknown German playwright to that of a theatrical icon. To a certain extent, this transformation occurred because of the first two translations. Therefore, by 1972, Brecht could be translated more on his own terms and required less distortion to make him culturally acceptable.

The wide-ranging documents in both Robinson’s and Venuti’s books include much of interest for cultural historians in general as well as for those specifically interested in translation. And both books, plus several others I could name, should be required reading for anyone attempting to review a work of literature *in translation*.

Svensk-engelsk fackordbok för näringsliv, förvaltning, undervisning och forskning
(Swedish-English Specialized Dictionary of Technical Terms Used in Business, Industry, Administration, Education, and Research)

Author:

Ingvar E. Gullberg

Publisher:

Norstedts Ordbok (not P.A. Norstedt)

Publication date:

January 2000 (third edition)

ISBN:

91-7227-093-4

Available from:

Almqvist&Wisell International (or other local Swedish bookstores, and some bookstores abroad).

Price (recommended):

SEK 1790 (\$180)

Number of Pages:

2,158

Scope:

About 200K words and phrases, 300K+ translations, with some 25K new words added in the third edition.

Reviewed by:

Yngve Roennike

The third edition of Ingvar Gullberg's classic and comprehensive specialized dictionary is finally here, or rather has been here since January 2000, following a lapse of some 23 years since its second edition in 1977. That edition was either not reprinted or reprinted only once, but since it was done on lead-type composing machines, which quickly became obsolete, no presses were available for further reprinting. Also, reprinting efforts, for instance by way of photocopying, were abandoned, in part because some of the content had become outdated. It has been an absence sorely felt, especially by those who were unable to secure a copy before it vanished early on from the shelves, and seemingly ubiquitously so.

The present edition comes in two volumes, whereas the first "vintage" edition in 1964 was one very hefty book. Contributing to the reduction in bulk per volume is the paper grade, Munken Book 70g, which is high-grade, wood-free (free from mechanical wood pulp—source: Gullberg), and environment-friendly paper, but with a slightly fallow appearance and without the previous glossy sheen and smoothness. It has also been given a new tricolor, striped jacket, streamlining it with the rest of Norstedt Ordbok's publications.

The preface has been culled and curtailed from the previous editions. Luckily, it still contains the serendipitous quote from an unspecified Danish source defining the lexicographer's laborious task thus: "By A, at the start of the lexicon, Mr. Brandt is young, slender, and elegant; by Z (or Ø), he drives around in a wheelchair with a trumpet in his ear (of course, it rhymes in Danish)." You can also find the memorable quote: "*Vieles ist bekannt, aber leider in verschiedenen Köpfen,*" by Werner Kollath.

The new edition has been expanded with new material gleaned by Ingvar Gullberg, himself. However, he was precluded from participating in the actual work on the third edition due to his advanced age. A project group of editors and freelance collaborators was subsequently co-opted.

The dictionary covers a wide spectrum, indeed, as was always its hallmark. Moreover, it is not restricted specifically to Swedish-language users, as it purports to be "for all those in the Nordic countries having contact with the English-language field." For instance, there is a liberal sprinkling of names of institutions, establishments, foundations, and the like, of the other Nordic countries and their English translations. British (American, etc.) institutions, in all their manifestations, are also translated, or rather back-translated, which raises the question as to why there is not a Gullberg dictionary going from English to Swedish, per se, as that is where you would naturally look for such entries. The publisher's response is that they have been looking to compile just such a dictionary, but efforts were hampered by several factors. For example: the lack of financial backers; the fact that Ingvar Gullberg's assiduously collected material is stored on approximately one million machine-typed, business-card-sized manuscript cards that cannot easily be scanned; and the inadequacy of fabricating an English-Swedish volume by simply turning around or mirroring the Swedish-English volume in its present digital format, which would likely create a vacuum of essential and desirable English terms that would then have to be added.

Despite its wide range, which is also apparent from a full seven-page listing of abbreviations of the areas covered, I have always felt that Gullberg's forte was within the fields of business, economy, industry, and society. And true to that tradition, a list of countries, their currencies, and respective three-letter abbreviations have been added at the beginning of the first volume. Even when looking up a technical term, one should be able to find the approximate, or nearly approximate, social or cultural term it relates to. Example: After *pappersmassa* (pulp, paper [wood] pulp) and *pappersmassfabrik* (pulp mill), we find *Pappersmassförbundet* (the [Swedish] Pulp Employers Federation, now part of Sveriges Skogsindustriförbund or SSIF [the Swedish Association of Skin and Leather Goods Manufacturers]). Needless to say, collocations on such a massive scale are rare or nonexistent in other comparable works from the other Nordic countries, or anywhere else for that matter. If we compare with Jyrki K. Talvitie's and Ahti Hytönen's *Finnish-English Technical and Business Dictionary*, there is a large slate (slugs) of terms for pulp ([*paperi*] *massa*), as could be expected, but they are all technical. Gullberg looks atrophied here by comparison. However, we do have three solid pages elsewhere in Gullberg showing various Finnish establishments in their English renditions.

What Gullberg lacks in quantity in certain less-covered areas is often made up for by quality and thoughtful triage. We have field indications, U.S. versus U.K. English usage, contextual examples, and sometimes an explanation of what is actually meant by a certain Swedish term if no concise translation match exists. Examples: The term *sjukvård* (medical attendance, nursing, public health) unfolds in a fan of further expressions, such as: *allmän sjukvård* (public health nursing [abbreviated PHN]²; gen-

eral nursing care); *allmän hälso- och sjukvård i Sverige* (public health and sick care in Sweden); and, almost de rigeur, *Svenska Hälso- och Sjukvårdens Tjänstemannaförbund* (abbreviated SHSTF—historically the Swedish Federation of Salaried Employees in the Hospital and Public Health Service, now part of Vårdförbundet, the Swedish Federation of Salaried Employees in the Hospital and Public Health Services); and *open sjukvård* (out-patient medical service [care]). *Vårdbiträde*, short for *sjukvårdsbiträde*, has nursing aid (esp. U.S. usage), nurse aid, nurse's aide, nursing auxiliary (esp. British usage), even practical nurse, hospital attendant, nursing (nurse's) assistant (esp. male [hospital] orderly), and also stretcher-bearer and nonprofessional aid (also U.S. usage). What, no guernsey-bearer? Even so, the cup is brimful!

Another work of comparable scope in the business field is *Affärslexikon (Business and Commerce Dictionary)*, compiled by, and only available in electronic format, from Wordfinder, a Swedish software producer. This dictionary also contains nonspecialized, everyday words. Let's compare the two for a moment, and look at the Swedish word *lagerinventering*. *Affärslexikon* lists stock-taking, stock check, and inventory-taking. Gullberg lists stocktaking, U.S. stock check, and inventory. Not much difference, but *fysisk inventering* (physical inventory) is only listed in *Affärslexikon*. Nevertheless, I remain partial to Gullberg, as it often seems more meticulous and precise. I have been painstakingly avoiding Engström's technical dictionaries, even though they were reputedly upgraded not too long ago from a deplorably low level. Therefore, I am unable to make any comparisons with that particular work that would be fair.

Sometimes arguably fancy and newfangled expressions occur, looking slightly out of character with mainstream Gullberg. For example, *forsök-och-misstag* (trial and error) in the field of science and education. Perhaps "peer review," kept untranslated in Swedish, could also be expected, but it is not to be found.

In addition to the above-mentioned works, versatile Scandinavian translators will benefit from consulting Langkilde and Høedt's various Danish/English specialized dictionaries. A note of caution, though: If you have these in electronic format from Textware, a Danish software producer, be aware that they are incompatible with the electronic versions of Gullberg and other dictionaries from Wordfinder. Task-switching between the two often means heading for a "crash and burn," due to an alleged illegal function call. This is highly annoying, but neither software company has yet proposed a remedy for this problem, which they strangely decline having any knowledge of.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the publisher for kindly providing me with the requisite background information.

Notes:

1. Ø used to be the last letter of the Danish alphabet, as it still is in Swedish, prior to the introduction of Å from Swedish, which replaced AA.
2. Some of this probably bears a Web-search comparison/affirmation.

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2001 DICTIONARY REVIEWS Compiled by Albert Bork

October 2001

Le Petit Larousse 2001 CD-ROM

Publisher:

Havas Interactive France

Publication date:

2001

Reviewed by:

Françoise Herrmann

If you are a fan of *Le Petit Larousse Illustré*, a French monolingual dictionary and encyclopedia with marvelous illustrations, you will delight in knowing that this institutional giant is now available on CD-ROM: “*The first of the century. Landmarks for a world in motion!*” (as the subtitle of the CD-ROM specifies). At first, and in echo to the deletion of the term “*Illustré*” [Illustrated] in the title of the CD-ROM, you will perhaps miss the crisp and colorful pages of the printed version (with its laser-sharp graphics and truly wondrous figures, plates, and diagrams) that served to enliven and add further clarity to the definitions. However, you can trust Havas Interactive France, the software developers, to supply you with a set of innovative and outstanding features, unique to the new medium of the CD-ROM, that will assist you in unprecedented ways.

Le Petit Larousse 2001 CD-ROM requires the following minimal configuration: a Pentium 133 microprocessor with 32 MB of RAM, Windows 95/98/2000 or NT 4.0, a CD-ROM, a 1 MB video card, a sound card compatible with Sound Blaster 16, and a modem. Using a standard installation wizard, three different kinds of installation options are available: minimal, partial, and complete. These options are useful since, depending on the amount of memory available on your hard drive (possibly very little, especially with all your other digital dictionaries), you can choose to install a version that will either work directly from your hard drive or the CD-ROM. Once *Le Petit Larousse 2001* has been installed, you can use it in *pop-up* mode by clicking on the Larousse task bar icon in applications such as Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint. Then all you have to do is highlight the term you wish to define. You can also open the application from the Windows Start Menu, and then type in the words you wish to look up.

No doubt that the minimal configuration requirements just mentioned (including both sound and video cards and an Internet connection) have already alerted you to some of the special media-specific features of this application. However, prior to reviewing these new highlights, there is one super feature incorporated into this application that warrants announcement. Navigation of *Le Petit Larousse 2001* CD-ROM is completely hypertext-enabled!

Hypertext-enabled navigation means design modularity and flexibility. Finally, you can simply double-click on any obscure or unknown word within a definition to have it defined as well. For example, suppose you are looking up the term “Polka.” The definition indicates this is a popular form of dance in the “Bohème” (Bohemia) region, but you are unfamiliar with this area. Double-clicking on “Bohème” will give you its definition (a region of Czechoslovakia), as well as a brief history of the region. This hypertext function allows for an infinite number of double-clicks within, and across, definitions. Hence, this feature alone defies the linearity of print modes, and you will love using it for all the ease of clarification, flexibility of manipulation, and page-flipping economy it supplies, upon one double-click.

Even if the term “*Illustré*” (Illustrated) no longer appears in the title of the CD-ROM, the immediately visible and fabulous graphics of the printed *Petit Larousse Illustré* have not completely disappeared. In fact, the transformation that has occurred in the graphical interface is quite sophisticated. *Le Petit Larousse 2001* CD-ROM not only supplies the same (though in lesser quantity) beautiful maps, photos, flags, and drawings as the printed version, it also includes a sound library, video animations, and links to the World Wide Web. These media components, functioning to clarify and illustrate the meanings of dictionary terms, appear indexed by their corresponding icons when a dictionary entry is called up. They can also be searched separately in the media search module of the application. For example, when you request a definition for “*planète*” (planet), in the dictionary search mode, this term will be displayed with its dictionary definitions and two media icons: a drawing and a video icon for viewing and playing of the linked media contents. When you click on the media icons, these are displayed next to the article entry in a split screen.

Alternatively, you may consult the media content separately in the media search mode. This mode contains lists of terms that have been indexed according to different media formats (photos, flags, maps, videos, sounds, drawings, Internet sites, and even a combined media listing). For example, in the sound search mode, rather than a pronunciation key, you will find a library of animal and music sounds. Say you want to hear the difference between the sounds of various string instruments, such as those of the

banjo, the sitar, the mandolin, and the guitar; or between bird calls, such as those of a “tourterelle” (turtledove), a “pinson” (chaffinch), a “rouge-gorge” (robin), and a “rossignol” (nightingale). By entering the name of the instrument or bird, a sound file will play so you can hear the differences; sometimes a drawing of the specified term will also be displayed to accompany the sound. Further, you can be certain that the quality of the digital sound is true to life. (By way of anecdote, my usually lethargic cat, RockStar, slept soundly through all the crickets, owls, and rhino sounds, but headed like a lightning bolt directly to the door—perhaps thinking, “Lunch!”—when the garden variety “alouette” [lark] and “roitelet” [wren] bird call sounds played.)

Additionally, you may be enchanted and illuminated by the short (30–to–60 second) animated video definitions of terms. In the dictionary search mode, terms appear indexed with their corresponding video icons. For example, when you call up the definition of the term “magnéscope” (video recorder), the term appears with its definition along with two icons: a video icon for viewing of the video definition, and a drawing icon for viewing a graphic still of the workings of the video recorder. The short video definitions can also be accessed directly in the video search mode. For example, you can find short, animated video definitions for various organ functions such as those of the heart, ear, and muscles. You will find these animated definitions strikingly similar to the graphic still definitions found in the printed version of the dictionary, with an additional *outstanding* increase in clarification supplied by animation and sound. Perhaps the only shortcoming is that so few video definitions (20 in all) are included, no doubt because of memory capacity restrictions. All of the useful manufacturing and process diagrams of the printed version, some of which appear in the CD-ROM, are particularly well suited to animation, and could only further enhance the quality and usefulness of the tool. Similarly, the quantum list of composers included in the corpus of the dictionary could be enhanced with corresponding sound files to illustrate the types of musical compositions these individuals created, instead of only providing a limited sound library from the most famous composers (though here again the limited amount of musical composition files may be due to exorbitant licensing fees).

Add still more to the media content of *Le Petit Larousse* 2001 CD-ROM in the form of links to the World Wide Web for 2,000 terms, and both the visual and encyclopedic dimensions of the printed *Le Petit Larousse* have been deeply transformed.

Beyond the super modularity of word searches and the new transformed treatment of graphics in the multiple media module, *Le Petit Larousse* 2001 CD-ROM also incorporates a series of search processing tools. These allow the user to collect and regroup articles in user-defined files using the notepad icon that is displayed for each dictionary definition; or conversely, to search for articles and definitions by theme or topic (either user-defined or pre-set). For example, if you are translating for the wine industry and want to familiarize yourself with the extensive information concerning winemaking that is included in the corpus of *Le Petit Larousse* 2001, you can define a “wine” topic search. You can then regroup and annotate all the articles you find, including media definitions (whether animated or still).

No edition of *Le Petit Larousse*, whether digitized or not, would be complete without its famed “pink section,” containing lists of proverbs and quotes, which you will find listed separately. Add to this a conjugate function that displays all the forms for every verb that is searched, and abundantly sprinkle the whole application with the enchanting allure of a slick interface coupled with magnificent access speed, and you will have completed this tour of *Le Petit Larousse* 2001 CD-ROM.

Le Petit Larousse 2001 CD-ROM, with its fully hypertext-enabled navigation system, its expanded and transformed treatment of graphics (including an extra sound library and outstanding video animations), and its thematic search processing tools, offers a wonderful new digital dictionary tool for translators. Page-flipping economy and flexibility, expansion and enhanced clarity of media definitions (with sound and video), topped with convenient search processing functions, are the new useful features you will discover in *Le Petit Larousse* 2001 CD-ROM. All this, in addition to what you have already come to expect from this small institutional giant in terms of fine, accurate, rigorous, and complete lexicography. Enjoy!

Context 4.0 (Electronic Dictionaries System for Windows)

Publisher:

Informatic, SmartLink Corp.

Publication date:

2000

ISBN:

n/a

Price and where available:

SmartLink Corp. 1-800-256-4814

Entire Context \$495, Any Five Russian Dictionaries \$125

20% discount for ATA members, quantity and site licensing discounts

Reviewed by:

Robert F. Taylor and Galina Raff

This software comes on CD-ROM and supports Windows 95 or later, including Windows 2000. The installation is very easy and no additional Cyrillic utilities are required aside from those included with the operating system: Multilanguage Windows Support and Russian keyboard. In the unlikely event you need technical support, it is provided by phone free of charge by the publisher. According to the license agreement, Context may be installed on two computers as long as they are substantially used by the same person. Once open, the software is nonreturnable, so before you purchase it, you should download and test a full-featured trial version of Context (www.smartlinkcorp.com).

The first thing you will notice after installing Context is the huge array of dictionaries available—Version 4.0 actually comes with 37 dictionaries. These include the following large volumes:

Dictionary of Common Words (180,000 terms, based on Muller)

Dictionary of Economics and Finance (110,000 terms, based on Anikin)

Dictionary of Law (110,000 terms, by Andrianov, Bergson, Nikiforov, 1993)

Dictionary of Mechanical Engineering Terms (200,000 terms, by B. Voskoboynikov, V. Mitrovich Russo, 1997)

Dictionary of Modern Computer Terms (110,000 terms, combined dictionary by Maslov and Microsoft)

Polytechnic Dictionary (400,000 terms, by D. Stolyarov, U. Kuzmin, Russo, 1997)

Dictionary of Radio Engineering (120,000 terms, by F. Lissovsky, I. Kalugin, Russo, 1997)

Russian Heritage Dictionary (90,000 terms, based on the dictionary by Ozhegov, *Dictionary of Foreign Words* by Fedorov, and *Dictionary of Russian Phraseology*)

Dictionary of Technical Terms (180,000 terms, technical dictionary by Chernoukhine, 1971).

The other smaller volumes (ranging from 6,000 to 90,000 terms each) cover specialized areas such as international fishing, music and sound engineering, biological terms, metallurgy, telecommunications, the environment, perfumery and beauty care, space medicine, etc. (a list of all dictionaries can be found at www.smartlinkcorp.com by following the links to PC products and the English-Russian electronic dictionary at that site). In all, the dictionaries include some 2,000,000 terms, which is an impressive knowledge base to have on your computer. However, if you choose the option to fully install all these dictionaries on your hard drive, about 200 MB of space is required.

Having established that this is an enormous resource, the next question is whether it comes in a usable form. Finding a new term is easy. Simply enter the English or Russian term on the entry line and press ENTER. A word completion function in both Russian and English shows lists of potential words as you are typing. The program searches for terms in all dictionaries loaded, or if you prefer, in a single, user-selected dictionary. You can also easily change the order of a search in installed dictionaries by merely dragging the buttons on the toolbar. If a term or collocation is found in a given dictionary, that dictionary's icon is marked with a dot (a yellow dot indicates the whole phrase entered for translation was found; a red dot indicates the "word on the cursor" is listed as an entry in the dictionary, and a blue dot indicates the "word on the cursor" was found during the full-text search).

As noted, collocations as well as individual words may be entered. However, there is no Boolean logic or "wild card" feature for searches, but if the exact term is not found or misspelled, a tab showing suggested words is provided. Another tab shows a list of words in the current dictionary selected. Clicking on any term brings up its translation and/or definition (in fact, double-clicking on any English or Russian word in the dictionary windows brings up that entry in the dictionary).

A major advantage of Context is the ability to input inflected forms of words. Thus, the program recognizes "is," "человек-ом," "continuing," "идет," "представляющего," among others, and brings up the uninflected forms of the related nouns and verbs. This is especially useful for anyone who comes across an irregular declension or conjugation and cannot figure out the base noun or verb.

A useful feature of Context is the ability to install a macro provided with the program, which displays an icon on the MS Word toolbar to make it possible to look up any words highlighted by merely clicking the Context icon. The program also makes it possible to highlight words and use a "hot key" combination to look up words in Context.

A word on "Russification" is in order here. The macro process described above works flawlessly from English to Russian, but not the other way around. Since the term input line of Context is geared for Code Page 1251, and text written in Word is in Unicode, any Cyrillic characters from Word or other Unicode applications must first be converted to Code Page 1251. This is easily accomplished with the use of Fingertip Software's Character Converter. Without this tool, copy and paste functions from Russian to English do not work. Alternatively, for words found directly on the Web or in other Unicode applications, use a Web-based dictionary such as the ABBYY Lingvo-Yandex dictionary (at <http://lingvo.yandex.ru/>), which allows for copy and paste functions for inflected Russian and English word forms.

There is also a fairly basic user dictionary option in Context which allows you to create your own custom dictionary and access it directly from Context's button bar. Another useful feature is a user-defined supplemental dictionary that allows a simultaneous search of a term in two dictionaries (see Figure 1).

This set of dictionaries is largely targeted at the English-Russian user. Most of the dictionaries included in Context are English-Russian, so Russian-English searches are merely a reverse of the dictionary entries. This reversal is useful and relevant for certain technical and unambiguous terms (such as геология, микроскоп, телефон, врач, etc.), but renders some contextual peculiarities for terms with multiple shades of meaning (such as заключать, идти, стол, etc.). This can produce some unusual equivalents (as is also the case with Multilex, another CD-based dictionary). For instance, even with options set for relevance rather than alphabetical order in the program, looking up “говорить” gives the following list in the *Dictionary of Common Words*: purport, say, speak, talk, tell. Clicking on the *Dictionary of Common Words Professional* for “говорить” gives

Figure 1

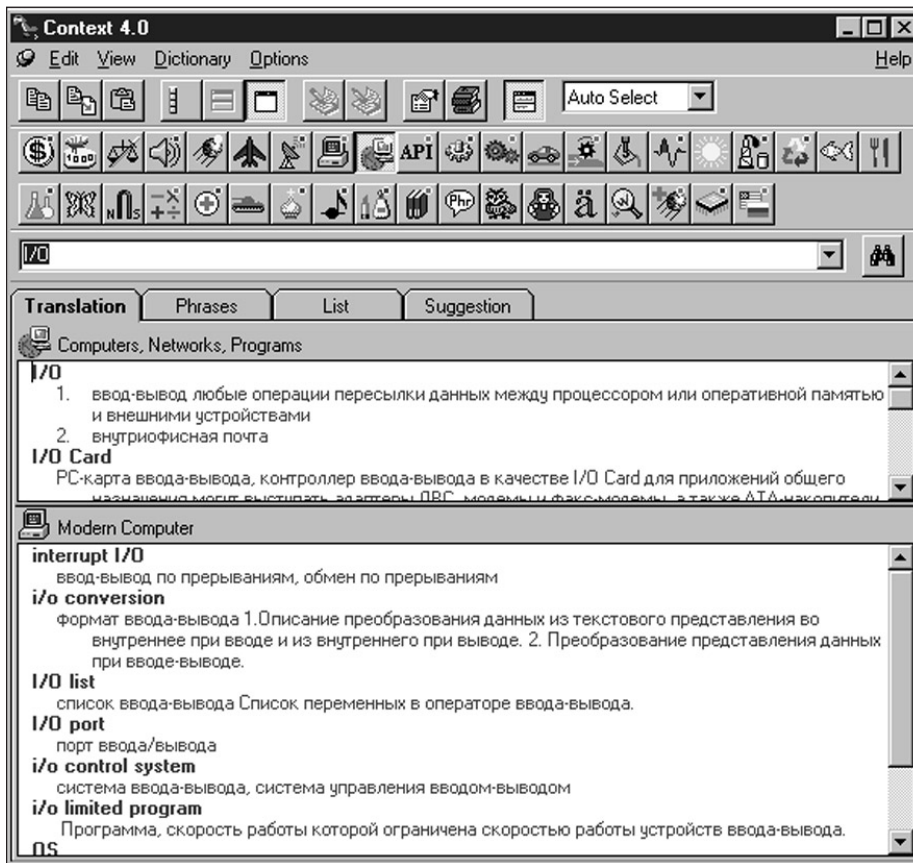
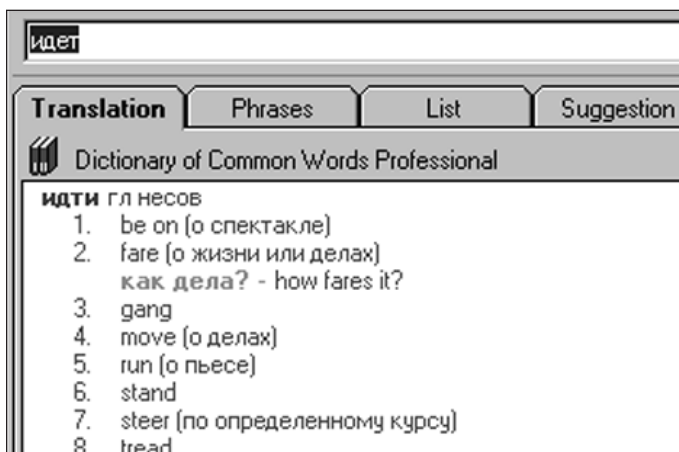


Figure 2



the following: breathe, colloquy, jaw, lip, parley, point, proclaim, protest, put, refer, say, spit it out, talk, tell. Contextual notes are given for several of these in Russian. As you can imagine, typing in the word “идет” provides some very interesting (and amusing) translations (see Figure 2). The translation “to go” is listed as the 14th translation for this term.

An English speaker expects to have the most relevant uses of the term first, followed by a list of the more obscure. For instance, for “говорить,” Katzner’s *English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary* shows: to speak, talk; to say, tell; to make, deliver a speech; to indicate; among others.

Thus, to use a dictionary of this sort for words with multiple, broad meanings, you need a good idea of what you’re looking for at the outset. In other words, it may only point you in a direction that needs to be confirmed in a good Russian-English dictionary.

Moving on to more specific applications, I tested the dictionaries with some fairly common business and financial terms (my area of specialization) with the results given in Table 1.

So, is this a good dictionary for Russian-English translators? The answer is a qualified yes. First of all, this dictionary, like any other, should be used in combination with other dictionaries for the purposes of further confirmation and clarification. The wealth of information is impressive, but the occasional odd translations for common words, as noted above, can be annoying. The speed of access, ability to look up inflected terms, and the easy-to-use interface make this a dictionary worth having. An adapted version of Ozhegov, along with numerous Russian definitions for Russian terms, provide valuable support for Russian-English translators who are unsure they have found the right English equivalent for the intended context. So, in the final analysis, we would recommend purchasing the “light” (“any five”) version of this dictionary (allowing for a customized product including only five user-selected dictionaries at the lower price). However, there should be no illusion that this is the only dictionary you will need for a good translation. Keep your trusted, dog-eared dictionaries close by to confirm any inconclusive or ambiguous search results

Finally, a word about bilingual CD-based dictionaries in general. We have used many of these for both Italian-English and Russian-English translation. None of them is perfect, but they definitely speed up your work, and we always use them as the

Table 1

Russian term	English equivalent and or definition provided by Context	Comments
Расчеты с кредиторами	None	The program had the following entry for кредиторская задолженность : “creditor indebtedness, trade liabilities Денежные средства предприятия, организации или учреждения, подлежащие уплате соответствующему юридическому или физическому лицам” The American English equivalent is not entirely correct (it should be “payables” or “accounts payable”), and the Russian definition is somewhat vague.
Уставный капитал	1. authorized capital, authorized fund 2. equity capital Первоначальная сумма капитала фирмы, определенная ее уставом и формируемая в основном за счет выручки от продажи акций.	Acceptable translation (except for “authorized fund”) and definition
Налог на добавленную стоимость	VAT, value added tax, value-added tax Система налогообложения продуктов на сумму стоимости, добавленной на каждом этапе их производства и обмена.	Acceptable translation and definition
Отчет о прибыли	None	There was also no entry for “Финансовые результаты” which is another common way to express “Income Statement” in Russian
Акционерное общество	1. corporation 2. joint-stock company, stock-company Предприятие, капитал которого составляется из взносов пайщиков (акционеров); учредители акционерного общества выпускают на рынок акции.	Acceptable translation (#2) and explanation
Незавершенное производство	1. inventory 2. work-in-process inventory 3. work-in-process 4. work-in-progress	Translation 1 is too general, and would not be appropriate. The following definition was also given in the business terms dictionary: “частично готовая продукция, требующая дополнительной обработки перед ее реализацией.”
Основные средства	1. capital assets 2. fixed assets 3. permanent assets	Acceptable translation
Хозяйственное общество	None	

starting point for a term we wish to translate. The ideal product should provide high quality, reliable translations using an easily understood interface and input system. One of our tests is to install the dictionary and attempt to start using it without manuals. If this works, we feel we at least have a tool that is easy to operate. We believe that operationally (from the standpoint of interface and input methods) Context fits the bill perfectly, but with regard to dictionary content, as noted above, it is not as reliable as text-based dictionaries for a Russian-English translator.

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2001 DICTIONARY REVIEWS Compiled by Albert Bork

November/December 2001

Dictionary of Foods and Cookery

Author:

M. Eta Trabing

Publisher:

M. Eta Trabing

Publication date:

2001

ISBNs:

08-843-15606 (Book)

0-88431-561-4 (CD-ROM)

Price:

\$60 (Book)

\$40 (CD-ROM)

Available from:

ibd Ltd. or from Eta Trabing

Reviewed by:

Lilian Novas Van Vranken

Specialty or field:

Foods (fruits, vegetables, herbs, fish, seafood, meats, etc.), international cooking, and nutrition terminology

Language(s):

English into Spanish dictionary with Spanish to English reference section with Latin binomials

No. of pages and/or entries:

290 pages, plus 77 pages (Spanish to English reference section); 367 pages

Type and quality of binding:

Soft cover, spiral binding

Quality of paper and print:

Regular white paper with legible print

Typeface and legibility:

Garamond; entries are in bold and subentries are indented in bold.

Overall evaluation:

Excellent

The *Dictionary of Foods and Cookery* is not only for the translator specializing in the food industry, but also for the translator who loves to have all kinds of reference materials at hand—don't we all?

It is a very thorough compilation of a large variety of fruits, vegetables, beef cuts, fish, pork, poultry, side dishes, international cuisine, pastas, cooking aids, spices, beverages (wines, hard liquor, beer, cocktails), food industry acronyms, and cooking techniques, among other exciting subjects.

Eta Trabing worked as an interpreter for the beef industry for several years, and the entries on beef, veal, lamb, and pork cuts are the result of her tireless efforts to gather terms from native speakers and industry specialists during her trips. A large part of her investigation was conducted when Internet resources were not readily available, so she spent countless hours double-checking and researching entries.

I was very fortunate to have Ms. Trabing's first draft of the *Dictionary of Foods and Cookery*, so when I got the new printed edition in the mail, I quickly looked up the terms that had been missing in the first draft and was very glad to see they had been incorporated (e.g., "baked beans" and "black-eyed peas").

After the translation for each entry, there is a listing of the different varieties. For example, "green bean/string bean/snap bean: n. *judía verde, habichuela verde, alubia tierna, frijol verde*, (Mex.) *ejote*, (Arg.) *chaucha*; *es la vaina comestible verde; algunas variedades son: Kentucky Wonder, Blue Lake, Derby, Empress, Romano, Italian Roma* \\ *véase también winged bean y wax bean.*"

Even though not all the entries have country-specific references, most have their Latin binomials in parentheses. This is especially useful because many species do not have an equivalent in Spanish, and it is another source to cite when there is no "official" trans-

lation. For example, “gafftopsail catfish/sea catfish: *bagre marino* (*bagre marinus* or *Felichthys felis*).”

In some cases, entries are cross-referenced. For example, “lima bean,” is also listed under “beans.” I like this feature since dictionaries never seem to agree on how to list terms.

I did not see any filler words since there are so many entries specific to the food industry in this work. I only stumbled upon “nightclub,” but, after all, it is related to food and drink.

The appendices include very useful information such as conversion tables, weight and measures, oven temperatures, contents of cans in the U.S., and cooking temperatures.

It also contains a Spanish into English section, which is not a comparable dictionary, as Ms. Trabing explains, but a quick reference to the main entry in the English portion.

Even if I do not translate menus and recipe books full-time, food-related terms seem to crop up quite often in my daily work. Translators are very curious people by nature, and this dictionary fuels my desire to know interesting terms such as *konjak*, *chirashi sushi*, *bladderwrack*, *pai chiu*, *garbure*, *greenling*, and *pipérade*.

If you ever wanted to know everything about squash and potatoes, or if you ever woke up in the middle of the night wondering about the different types of grapes or wines from around the world, you will be satisfied with this dictionary. In most cases, the listing of food and drink varieties takes up a whole page! The *Dictionary of Foods and Cookery* is an exhaustive and trustworthy volume that is worth the not-so-pricey investment.

But the perfect conclusion to my enthusiastic search through this dictionary came when I found a term that once made my life miserable while translating a restaurant procedure manual: *rarebit*. When I found it in the *Dictionary of Foods and Cookery*, my joy was indescribable!

To cite Ms. Trabing’s own words in the foreword: “The dictionary writer is not the ultimate authority nor a prophet, but only a *recorder* of words and of present usage, thus a dictionary should be used only as a guide and not as an authoritative statement of inflexible fact. [...] More than anything, the author hopes this work is useful to all who read and use it and to those who just browse through it—enjoy!”

I’m certainly having a good time with it, and I enjoy it daily. Well done!

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