
The attractive feature of this dictionary is its size. Here is a work which is nearly 800 pages in length containing more than 30,000 lexical entries and several addenda. It is printed attractively and legibly on good quality paper, but is a mere $3\times 5\,\text{in.}$ Even at $1\frac{1}{2}\,\text{in.}$ thick it can fit easily into one's pocket or purse. Subtitled "moderni slovar"/"modern dictionary", its authors have attempted to compile a work which can be used by the traveller and as a quick reference tool on one's desk. At first glance the intended audience would appear to be speakers of either English or Slovene. As we shall see below, however, the latter will benefit more from this dictionary.

Komac and Škerlj have packed the pages of this work with a great deal of information. The first part consists of 413 pages, the first 23 of which constitute introductory pages and a brief description of the phonetic and morphologic system of English. Attention is paid throughout the work to British versus American usage (cf. entries for 'lorry' and 'truck'). The next 388 pages contain approximately 15,000 English words in normalized spelling with the phonetic transcription of each supplied in brackets, British variant preferred. The latter is an important feature for non-natives who might otherwise derive an incorrect pronunciation for the chaotic spelling of English. The second part of the dictionary begins on p. 415 and provides a 19 page description of the Slovene language, its alphabet, sounds and grammar. Regrettably no attention is paid to syntax, a pressing need for speakers of English. There are 320 pages of Slovene to English lexical entries, approximately 17,000 items. This is followed by 30 pages of special lists including the most commonly used abbreviations in both languages, proper names, names of the days of the week and months, numerals and finally six pages of useful phrases and expressions.

This reviewer found certain of the addenda included at the end of the dictionary to be extremely useful. Whether or not expressions belong in a work of this sort is a matter of debate which will not be pursued here. Nor shall we belabor the question of including a compact grammar of each language in a pocket-sized dictionary. Some readers may not find such information useful. In fact, users of a dictionary of this scope in all likelihood already possess a sufficient grasp of the grammar of the respective language so as to render its inclusion unnecessary. Far more useful would be the placing of grammatical information within lexical entries or as cross-referenced items if of an exceptional nature. It is precisely here that one best sees that the bias of this dictionary is for use by native speakers of Slovene rather than of English. For example, pre-
ceeding the English to Slovene lexicon is a four-page list of irregular verbs in English which provides infinitive, past tense and past participle together with the Slovene translation. A cursory check indicates that the irregular forms are faithfully given individual entries with cross-references. Thus both lay and lain refer the reader to lie. In the Slovene to English section ležati is translated, inter alia, as ‘to lie’ with no additional grammatical information supplied. For a dictionary of this scope to be genuinely useful for speakers of English certain key forms would be required, namely: 1) for verbs the infinitive, a present tense form, imperative singular and past passive participle; 2) for nouns the nominative and genitive singular and the nominative plural; 3) for adjectives both the masculine and feminine forms as well as irregular comparatives.

Let us take, for example, the Slovene infinitive iti. The form gre appears in an idiom, but there is no separate listing or even a cross-reference to grem, greš, much less to the past tense forms. Under moći, however, the first person singular form is provided. The past tense is not. Further, under English may one finds smem and morem, while in the Slovene section the second entry under lahko is lahko greš ‘you may go’. The latter construction, including its negative form, is a difficult one for speakers of English, yet it cannot be found under can or may in English. How does this dictionary treat synonyms and homonyms? The speaker of English can discover how to say ‘to bake’ in Slovene: peći. In the Slovene section, however, peći is rendered as ‘to bake, to roast, to grill, to fry, to burn’. Going back to the English section we find that ‘grill’ in Slovene is peći na žaru. ‘fry’ is cvreti, ‘burn’ in goreti or žgati, while ‘roast’ emerges as peći, praziti and žgati, the latter specifying coffee. In addition, under the roast entry an unfortunate error creeps in: biti gospodar ‘to rule the ~’. The idiom was of course meant to have been ‘to rule the roost’! The example of peći above presents us with discrepancies vis-à-vis a verb defining a concrete action. Let us try a verb referring to an abstract idea: in the Slovene section we find osupiti with the translations ‘to astonish, to amaze, to take aback’. Two entries further we see osupniti with the translations ‘to be amazed, to be astonished at’. The semantic fields of amazement and astonishment are quite different, the former implying surprise and confusion, while the latter implies shock and helplessness. Under astonish in English we find začuditi, osupniti and amaze receives the translations začuditi(se), osupiti, presenetiti, while neither take nor aback yields any of the above lexemes. Further, začuditi receives an entry only in combination with se with the translations ‘to be astonished, to wonder’, and presenetiti leads us to ‘to surprise, to take by surprise’. Listings under surprise and wonder lead us further astray into still other semantic fields.

Turning to the question of homonyms, let us take the word saw. The single entry for saw refers the user to see followed by two definitions:
pregovor and žaga (together with its infinitive žagati). An 'old saw' in Modern English is much more likely to refer to the latter meaning. The lexical item saw with the meaning 'saying' (pregovor) is archaic and should be listed as such. In fact, pregovor provides the translations 'proverb, saying', with no mention of 'saw'. Homographs of the type récord and record in English appear under one entry, while the pair minute-minute receive two listings. In Slovene the homonyms biti 'to beat' and 'to be' receive two entries. While the former provides the first person singular form bijem, the latter indicates nothing unusual about its present tense. We see that the third person singular is apparently je by the idioms provided. Sem is not mentioned, but its homographic partner sèm 'here' is listed.

With regard to lexical items and their translations, perhaps much of the preceding is nitpicking (a word not included in this dictionary), but the list of problems encountered here could be extended considerably. To be pragmatic, preciseness in translation is an unattainable goal, but morphology is a finite category. With only a limited expansion of this dictionary’s overall size, grammatical information could be added which would render this a truly useful tool for speakers of English as well as for speakers of Slovene. The purpose of a compact work such as the one under review is presumably for handy and quick reference. As such, it is a convenient little volume, the preceding objections notwithstanding. I shall have it in my pocket when next in Ljubljana, but I shall also continue to await a new or revised work which incorporates the suggestions made above.

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This volume is the product of an international conference held at Northwestern University on 14-15 May 1980 for the purpose of reassessing the place of the Slovene scholar Jernej Kopitar in Slavic scholarship on the two-hundredth anniversary of his birth. The book includes a full baker’s dozen of the papers presented at the conference, seven of them by American scholars from seven different universities, four by scholars from Yugoslavia, and one each by scholars from Poland and Italy.

On reading through these articles all together, one cannot help being impressed by the ferment and excitement in the Slavic world during that