

Daša Komac and Ružena Škerlj. *Angleško-slovenski in Slovensko-angleški slovar*. 5th ed. Ljubljana: Cankarjeva Založba, 1981. 787 pp.

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" × 5". Even at 1 ½" 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-

ceding 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 *moči*, 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: *peči*. In the Slovene section, however, *peči* 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 *peči na žaru*. 'fry' is *cvreti*, 'burn' in *goreti* or *žgati*, while 'roast' emerges as *peči*, *pražiti* 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 *peči* 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 *recórd* 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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*Papers in Slavic Philology 2: To Honor Jernej Kopitar, 1780-1980.*

Edited by Rado L. Lencek and Henry R. Cooper, Jr. Ann Arbor: Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, 1982. 234 pp.

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