

Laura Tyysteri & Kaisa Lehtosalo, eds. (2013) *Hyvä sanakirja: Tieteellisiä, käytännöllisiä ja eettisiä näkökulmia leksikografiaan* [A good dictionary: Scientific, practical and ethical points of view on lexicography]. Turku: University of Turku. Pp. 212.

Reviewed by Kimmo Granqvist

(Meta)lexicography is rarely brought up in Finnish academic discourse. Not much theoretical research is conducted in Finland nor is there university-level lexicographical training. Commercial publishing houses employ no specialized dictionary editors. Thus, the book reviewed here, whose title translates to “A good dictionary: Scientific, practical and ethical perspectives in lexicography” in English, is the first account to introduce basic insights into lexicography in Finland. Written in Finnish, the book is intended for professional lexicographers and language students as well as everyone interested in lexicography. The volume consists of ten peer-reviewed articles dealing with principles of lexicography and the choices made in undertaking practical dictionary work. The articles, authored by lexicographers and researchers of lexicography, concentrate on ethical questions, including professional ethics, responsibility for quality, and societal issues.

The book is organized as follows: the first contribution, by the editors Kaisa Lehtosalo and Laura Tyysteri (pp. 8–20), discusses the different choices a lexicographer needs to make in the practical work as well as questions of professional ethics. It also outlines the topics to be taken up in the book. This introductory contribution is followed by three pieces discussing the planning of dictionaries, normativity, and prescriptivity, as well as special issues related to compiling historical dictionaries and the history of dictionaries in Finland. The following three contributions discuss dictionaries of minority languages. The last three deal with dictionaries in Finnish society and ethical questions.

In his piece, Igor Kudashev (pp. 21–34) examines the planning of dictionaries and related issues. He demonstrates the importance of thorough preparation and the need to have an ability to make compromises. The findings are based on his Ph.D. thesis (Kudashev 2007) and the experiences of different dictionary projects. The themes cover the structure of dictionaries (both micro and macrostructure) as described in several recent

accounts on lexicography (e.g. Svensén (2009), Béjoint (2010), and Atkins & Rundell (2008)), and various lexicographical and external factors that affect how a dictionary is planned. Although the author's point of view is predominantly Russian, the observations are of general significance and noteworthy for anyone planning to compile a dictionary.

In the next article (pp. 35–52), Eija-Riitta Grönros discusses the choices and the demarcation between normativity and prescriptivity in dictionaries. Central to her discussion are dictionaries of standard Finnish and, in particular, *Kielitoimiston sanakirja* [Dictionary of the Language Office], a publication of the Institute for the Languages of Finland of which Grönros is the editor-in-chief. Yet, her contribution also provides more general discussion of normativity and prescriptivity and of the solutions adopted in other monolingual dictionaries. She takes up the broad issue of stylistic dictionary definitions and their possible normalizing effects. The normalizing nature of dictionaries is even more pronounced in minority languages with a late and limited functional expansion than in majority languages with a long established written usage (Halwachs 2012; Granqvist 2014).

Kaisa Lehtosalo and Pirkko Kuutti (pp. 53–76) discuss issues of compiling historical dictionaries as well as the history of Finnish lexicography. Most of their examples come from *Vanhan kirjasuomen sanakirja* [Dictionary of old literary Finnish], which has been underway since 1985 at the Institute for the Languages of Finland, and *Mikael Agricolan sanakirja* [Mikael Agricola's Dictionary], in preparation at the University of Turku during the years 2008–2010, but subsequently suspended. Both dictionaries describe the same period of time (1540–1810), and both have in common the exclusive use of written sources. The article also deals with special ethical questions encountered by lexicographers in compiling historical dictionaries, such as the effect on the editorial work of the lexicographer's personal attitudes and values and the image of past generations as mediated by the lexicographer.

The following three articles discuss dictionaries of minority languages used in Finland and outside the country. Kimmo Granqvist (pp. 77–93) deals with dictionaries of Finnish Romani from various ethical points of view, including language ownership, linguistic communality, the status of Finnish Romani as a secret language, the role of dictionaries in standardizing the language, and, finally, handling linguistic taboos of the Roma people in compiling a dictionary. Some of the issues addressed are culturally embedded; some are related to the role of non-Roma scholars.

All are ethically sensitive and trigger strong opinions within the Roma community. Klaas Ruppel (pp. 94–112) discusses dictionaries of migrant languages based on a related project launched at the Institute for the Languages of Finland in 2011, which is intended to support the integration of migrant populations in Finnish society, thereby sharing goals with the Scandinavian LEXIN projects.<sup>1</sup> The languages to be described as part of the Finnish project were selected on the basis of the availability of dictionaries of those languages in Finland and the size of the immigrant populations. The first such dictionary was for the language pair Finnish and Somali. Not many bilingual dictionaries of Somali have been published. In Finland, Somali has a large speech community: 14,769 speakers in 2012. Owing to politically determined practical goals, dictionaries of migrant languages are primarily descriptive and attempt to cover issues in Finnish society. They are also subject to various ethical issues more often than other types of dictionaries, such as when it comes to selection of lemmata, for instance. Differences in religious and moral taboos between the Finnish and Somali communities play a significant role here. Ruppel also brings up the importance of the ethics of grammar, i.e., the relevant comparative issues of language structure between Finnish and the migrant languages, in facilitating Somalis' learning and use of Finnish.

Sirkka Saarinen's article (pp. 113–153) discusses four dictionaries of Finno-Ugric languages used outside Finland. Of these, *Tscheremissisches Wörterbuch* (2008) is based on old lexical material; there are two bilingual dictionaries of Udmurt and Finnish (2008 and 2013), and a *Reverse Dictionary of Mari (Cheremis)* (2002). These volumes exemplify both the problems and the solutions involved in compiling dictionaries of Finno-Ugric languages used in Russia. A few of Saarinen's methodological observations are particularly important (p. 130): First, in the compilation of a historical dictionary, the importance of advance planning is accentuated, owing to the length of the work and the scarcity of resources. Second, in the compilation of a bilingual dictionary, the selection of lemmata is a key stage of the work. An ethical problem is how much information is provided to the user of the dictionary and in what form.

The last three contributions deal with dictionaries in Finnish society and ethical questions. Laura Tyysteri's (pp. 131–153) article takes up value-connected words in synchronic explanatory dictionaries, thereby problematizing the choices made by lexicographers in their attempt to

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://lexin.nada.kth.se/lexin/>>

provide an objective and neutral image. She raises three main questions essential for both lexicographers and users of dictionaries: 1) What kind of vocabulary is value-connected? 2) How is this lexicon described in dictionaries? and 3) What reasons and consequences can different methodological choices have? Her examples of value-connected lexicons are mostly political or ideological; as she aptly points out (p. 138), the line between a value-connected lexicon and a neutral lexicon is drawn in water, and it is not easy to recognize a vocabulary related to other people's political, religious, and equivalent experiences. Nor do dictionaries represent ultimate truth (p. 153).

Nina Pilke and Jaana Puskala's article (pp. 154–173) discusses dictionary users' ethics as part of language expertise. They point out how wide is the spectrum of dictionary users, from novices to professionals. Their emphasis is on central meta-lexicographical concepts such as "example" and "definition." In my view, this kind of discourse is highly welcome. In addition, the authors point out the collective responsibility of the research community for the future of lexicography.

In the volume's last article, Raimo Jussila (pp. 174–187) takes up copyright issues from the point of view of dictionaries. The focus is on correct quotation, with attention given to such questions as to what extent dictionaries should be based on previous ones, how sources are reported, what copyright regulations have to say about archival materials, how much and what can be copied. In addition, Jussila discusses the rights of dictionary editors, all of which have ethical dimensions. He gives a timely reminder (p. 187) that copyright laws do not provide dictionaries any kind of privileged or special status; the laws, in fact, do not even mention dictionaries, nor do they distinguish between different types of dictionary content or quality, whether a volume be hoax, propaganda, or research. Issues related to the quality and production of information belong to the domain of research ethics.

In sum, *Hyvä sanakirja: Tieteellisiä, käytännöllisiä ja eettisiä näkökulmia leksikografiaan* is a valuable resource for lexicographers, other scholars and anyone interested in lexicography. It undoubtedly constitutes a significant step in the study of Finnish lexicography.

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