

1999 Dictionary Reviews

Dictionary Reviews compiled by Albert Bork

January 1999

German Dictionary of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (German to English)

Fifth revised and expanded edition. Identical to Langenscheidt's *Dictionary of Chemistry and Chemical Technology*

Edited by: Technische Universität Dresden

Publisher: Routledge, London and New York

Publication date: 1997

ISBN: 0-415-17128-8

Price and where available: \$150; Routledge, New York, NY; i.b.d., Ltd., Kinderhook, NY

Reviewed by: S. Edmund Berger

Type of work: Bilingual dictionary

Languages: German-English

No. of pages: 769

No. of entries: About 65,000 terms and 130,000 translations

Binding: Hardbound, excellent quality

Quality of paper and print: Good-quality, high-opacity, acid-free paper; excellent print

Typeface and legibility: Typeface not identified; highly legible

Convenience of look-up format: Double-column layout; headwords in boldface; very easy to use

Specialty of field: Chemistry and chemical technology, laboratory techniques, and chemical process engineering

Terms: I used this dictionary alongside the *G. Wenske Chemical Dictionary*, in my opinion, still one of the most comprehensive German-English, English-German dictionaries on the U.S. market. The following table shows a comparison of the two dictionaries after a use period of about three weeks.

Term	Found in Routledge?	Found in Wenske?
hellfarbig	No	Yes
Suchforschung	No	Yes
geruchsarm	No	Yes
Luftleinblasung	No	Yes
Diederwinkel	Yes	No
Rauschentkopplung	Yes	No
Normkleinstab	No	Yes
losnarbig	No	Yes
Störstoff	Yes	No
Eintopfreaktion	No	Yes
Fussbodenpflegemittel	No	Yes
Spaltgas	No	Yes
Vor-Ort Analyse	Yes	No

Of course, a large number of terms can be found in both dictionaries. As can be seen, however, the term coverage in the two dictionaries varies somewhat.

Contextual and encyclopedic information: The terms are usually assigned to at least one technical field. Very few abbreviations and acronyms are given. No tables or illustrations.

Percent "filler" words: This dictionary contains practically no filler words, or nontechnical words.

Additional comments: This dictionary provides good up-to-date coverage of general, organic, inorganic, applied, and analytical chemistry, analytical methodology, and to some extent also chemical process engineering. It complements the larger (but more expensive) Wenske very well.

Overall evaluation: This is a very good dictionary despite the fact that it contains fewer terms than the Wenske dictionary. The paucity of abbreviations is unfortunate. Even so, translators working in the chemical field will find it quite useful regardless of what other German-English dictionaries they already own.

Wörterbuch der Physik. Englisch-Deutsch/Deutsch-Englisch (CD-ROM version)

Authors: Walter Greulich and Dirk Meenenga

Publisher: Spektrum Akademischer Verlag GmbH (available in the United States from i.b.d., Ltd., 24 Hudson Street, Kinderhook, NY 12106; Tel: 1-518-758-1755; Fax: 1-518-758-6702, or point your Web browser to <http://www.ibdltd.com>).

Publication date: 1997

ISBN: 3-8274-0229-8

Price: \$127 from i.b.d., Ltd.

Platforms supported: Windows 3.x

Language of user interface of search software: German only

Documentation: German only

Number of CD-ROMs: One

Approximate number of entries: 30,000

Reviewed by: Thomas Hedden

Greulich and Meenenga's English-German and German-English dictionary of physics is available either in CD-ROM or in print form (\$127 each from i.b.d., Ltd.), or both together (\$195). This review covers only the CD-ROM version, and concentrates on the German-English direction.

The documentation and user interface are only in German, but presumably anyone who would want to use this dictionary would know German well enough that this should not present a problem.

Installation is easy. The manual explains what files the software copies to the hard disk, for those of us who care about such things. A "complete" installation, which copies the entire dictionary to the computer's hard disk, requires 30 MB of disk space. The documentation recommends this, pointing out that this speeds up queries. Although this is true, it is hardly necessary: I use this dictionary on one of my older PCs, which has a 4x4 CD-ROM changer, and I find the speed satisfactory. CD-ROM readers with speeds up to 40x can be purchased today for under \$100. The only real advantage to a complete installation is that this makes it possible to annotate dictionary entries. The dictionary includes a very comprehensive online help system, which, by itself, could be the subject of a separate review. However, I find the user interface of this dictionary so intuitive that I have almost never felt the need to look at the online help.

The search software offers four search functions, which are called "Suche 1," "Suche 2," "Suche 3," and "Suche 4." "Suche 1" performs a full-text search in both the German-English and the English-German dictionaries. Obviously, the matches in the opposite language directions will often duplicate one another: if we search for *beschleunigen*, the dictionary will present us with both "accelerate v beschleunigen" and "beschleunigen v accelerate." However, this function is useful to find a term which might be present in one direction but not in the other. "Suche 2" searches for English key words which contain the sought-after term. That is, searching for *force* will return not only the entry "force" and phrases beginning with "force" ("force constant," "force density," etc.), but also phrases such as "Coriolis force," among others. "Suche 3" searches for German key words which contain the sought-after term as a separate word (with a space or hyphen separating it). That is, it will find "abstoßende Kraft" and "Coriolis-Kraft," as well as "Kraft zwischen Quarks," but it will not find "Kraftkonstante." Of course, it is possible to find words like "Kraftkonstante" in addition to those previously mentioned by searching for "Kraft*," where the asterisk represents a wild card. "Suche 4" allows searching for terms which are either key words or translations, and uses Boolean logical operators such as "and," "or," among others. However, the functions "Suche 2" and "Suche 3" offer some Boolean capabilities (see below), and are powerful enough that they usually suffice.

The search functions have a number of very nice features. The most obvious one to the user is what I would describe as “search term completion,” due to its resemblance to the “filename completion” feature of some of the UNIX shells (some Web browsers offer a similar feature). As the user types a search string, the program is already looking up the term, and it tries to guess what the user is typing. Say, for example, I want to look up “Kraftdichte.” I type the letter “k,” and immediately the letters “abel” appear after the “k” to form the word “Kabel,” which is the first word in the dictionary beginning with “k.” If I wanted to look up “Kabel,” I would only need to press the “Enter” key twice (once to accept the guessed search string and once to search for it), and the search routine would display the entries for “Kabel.” However, if I want to look up “Kraftdichte,” I have to keep typing. The automatically typed letters “abel” are “selected,” so that they are overwritten by the next letter that I type. If I type a letter “r” after the “k,” then the “abel” disappears, and “ackverfahren” appears to form “Krackverfahren,” which is the first word in the dictionary beginning with “Kr,” and when I type as far as “Kraftd,” then “ichte” appears to complete the word “Kraftdichte.” Now I only have to press “Enter” twice to see the entries for this term. This description may be confusing, but it is obvious how it works once the user has used it once or twice. This feature is very convenient and user-friendly.

Another very nice feature is that Boolean “and” searches (which are almost the only Boolean searches that users ever want to perform, at least in this type of dictionary) can be performed in “Suche 2” and “Suche 3” simply by typing one word, then a space, and then a second word. Toward the bottom of the dialog box two lines appear showing the number of matches for each of the two words typed, and to the right of the two lines is a number indicating the number of matches which contain both words. It is not necessary to type any special symbols (“&,” etc.) to perform Boolean searches in this way. Hyphenated German words are searched for in the same way, using a space instead of a hyphen. For example, if I type “Coriolis,” then a space, and then “Kraft,” the first line shows two matches for “Coriolis” and the second line shows 75 matches for “Kraft,” and one match for both of them together. To display “Coriolis-Kraft,” I simply press “Enter” twice.

One minor annoyance of the dictionary is that the search string is typed into a large dialog box which disappears when the matches are displayed (it has to disappear, since it is so big that otherwise it would obstruct too much of the screen), rather fitting than into a small field which can continue to be displayed together with the matches. Since the input field disappears, the user has to click on the “Suche 3” button again (or on some other button) to perform the next search. The previous search string is cleared, so if the user wishes to search for a similarly spelled word, it is necessary to retype the entire word (although typing is facilitated by the “search string completion” feature described above).

Another shortcoming of this dictionary’s search engine, which I have seen in the search engine of every CD-ROM dictionary I have ever used, is that it is unable to handle initial wild cards in an intelligent manner. That is, if I know every letter in a word except for the first, and type, for example, “?oriolis” (the “?” is a single-letter wild card character), the search engine takes too long to find “Coriolis.” Using the variable-length wild card character “*” takes even longer, a ridiculously long time. A separate search index should be provided which the search engine can use to look words up backwards when an initial wild card is used. This is an obvious *desideratum* which would be very straightforward to implement, and it is amazing that we have not seen it yet. Keep in mind that this shortcoming is not peculiar to this dictionary, but rather is a general shortcoming of currently available CD-ROM dictionaries.

Since the dictionary is on CD-ROM, it is difficult to judge the percentage of “filler” words, although it appears to be quite good at excluding them. A few examples of terms it lacks: “Bier,” “Haus,” “Garten,” “Hund,” “laufen,” “PKW,” “sein,” and “Universität.” I did not find any words which definitely did not belong in such a dictionary. I found some which are borderline, which I probably also would have included if I were writing such a dictionary: “schreiben,” “Sonne,” “Telephon,” and “Wand.”

Apparently Greek letters are always handled by spelling them out. This has the advantage of simplicity and avoids code-page problems. But it does require that the user know the names of the Greek letters and how to spell them.

The dictionary does include the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective) and the gender of all German nouns, which is sometimes helpful for German-English translators. (Gender is not provided for nouns if the noun is part of an adjectival phrase, but the gender is clear from the form of the adjective, so this is sensible.) However, there are almost no subject or usage labels, such as those used in Ernst, to steer the user to the right term for a particular context. I consider this to be the biggest shortcoming of this otherwise excellent dictionary.

Another shortcoming which this dictionary presents for translators (less so for physicists) is that the translations include seldom-used terms and terms which are not recommended. Since the translations for a term seem to be listed in alphabetical order (more on this below), and especially since there are almost no subject or usage labels (see above), this means that the first definition given is sometimes wholly inappropriate. For example, the definitions for “Dichte” are, in order: “denseness”; “density”; and “specific density.” Clearly, the first definition should be “density,” and “denseness” should not be included (personally, I would also exclude “specific density”).

Returning for a moment to the order of the translations for a given term, which I alluded to above, the alphabetical order of the translations is not helpful to the user, since the translator will not know what word s/he is trying to find. However, in all fairness to the authors of this dictionary, this appears to be a stumbling block for all dictionary editors. The order of definitions which is used in *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* is historical (!), that is, the oldest meaning is given first. The editors of the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* (1976) use what they describe as a "psychologically meaningful order" (!!). I consider the best order to be the statistical frequency of usage, with the most frequently used term coming first.

This dictionary does not contain any other encyclopedic information, such as explanations of the terms, nor does it contain appendices, illustrations, or tables. These are of less use to translators than to physicists. However, it would be highly desirable if terms representing concepts with precise meanings included their units of measurement. For example, translators sometimes have difficulty distinguishing concepts such as *resistance* and *resistivity* or *thermal conductance* and *thermal conductivity*. If the SI units were provided, translators could be certain that the translation chosen is truly an equivalent.

On the whole, this dictionary's content is good, and it is very easy to use. I occasionally find myself reaching for Ernst to look up words I cannot find in this dictionary or whose definitions I find unsatisfactory. But, on the whole I recommend it to German technical translators.

I feel that it deserves a rating of "very good." At the very least, subject and usage labels have to be added to the translations before it can be given an "excellent" rating; we expect them in the next edition. Please send comments to Thomas Hedden; thomas@hedden.net.

Canadian Quaternary Vocabulary, Terminology Bulletin 209 Vocabulaire canadien du Quaternaire

Author: Chantal Cormier

Publisher: Secretary of State of Canada

Publication date: 1992

ISBN: 0-660-57486-1

Price: \$25.95 (U.S.)

Available through: International Specialized Book Services, 5804 NE Hassalo Street, Portland, OR 97213; Tel: 1-800-547-7734, (503) 287-3093 (in Oregon); Fax: (503) 280-8832; and Accents Publications Services Inc., 911 Silver Spring Avenue, Suite 202, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Tel: (301) 588-5496; Fax: (301) 588-5249; and in Canada: Canada Communication Group - Publishing, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0S9; Tel: (819) 956-4802

Reviewed by: Patricia Bobeck

Type of work: French-English geological glossary

No. of pages: 154 with approximately 2,200 entries (reviewer's estimate)

Binding: Paperback

Size: 8.5 inches X 5.5 inches (22 cm x 14 cm)

Paper Quality: Good

Typeface: Approximately 14 characters per inch, regular and bold, good use of white space.

Convenience of look-up: Adequate; see comment below

Grammatical information: Parts of speech are noted.

Pronunciation: Not provided

Synonyms: Noted

Appendices: Two charts

Illustrations: None

Accuracy: Very good. No errata page was provided, and no typographical errors were caught by this reviewer.

List of terms expected to be found: The following entries were

Found = F

Not Found = NF

Found, But Not Defined = ND

ablation	F
diamicton	F
drumlin	F
esker	F
firn	F
frost heaving	NF
glacial polish	F
horn	ND
ice stream	F
kame	ND
kettle	F
névé	F
nunatak	ND
pluvial	F
scabland	NF
stoss & lee	ND
till	ND
tillite	ND
valley train	ND
ventifact	ND

Overall Evaluation: Very Good

Reviewer's Comments: First of all, if you are not a geologist, you may want to know how to pronounce "Quaternary." Most geologists in the U.S. accent the second syllable: "Qua 'ter na ry."

This work is a French-English glossary of geologic terms relating to the Quaternary Period, the most recent period of geologic time. The Quaternary began 1.6 million years ago (mya) and continues to the present. It is divided into the Pleistocene (1.6 mya until 10,000 years ago) and the Recent, or Holocene, which began 10,000 years ago.

The Quaternary is a very small slice of geologic time (less than 0.05 percent—yes, five hundredths of a percent—of earth's history), but it is important to us because during this time the surface of the earth assumed its present shape and human beings evolved. The main event of the Quaternary is glaciation which covered all of Canada and much of the U.S. (and, of course, much of the other temperate zones on earth). The formation of glaciers took up so much water that sea levels were lowered enough (about 300 feet) to create land bridges permitting human migrations from one continent to another. Not surprisingly, most of the terms in this dictionary relate to ice and glaciation, although terms from geology, geomorphology, stratigraphy, sedimentology, and geochronology are also included as they pertain to glaciation.

Glaciation vocabulary has come into English from many languages, including Irish Gaelic, German, Swiss French, Scottish, and Eskimo. Most of these words first appeared in English texts around the middle of the 19th century as the field of glaciology was born. The origin of the words reflects the nationalities of glaciologists and the countries where glacial landforms were observed.

The English-to-French section of the glossary covers 90 pages. Here, entries are listed in bold and defined in a normal font. Phrases are alphabetized by English first word. The French-to-English section fills 43 pages. It is a glossary only; no definitions are given. For a definition the user must refer to the English to French section, but this is easy to do because the dictionary is small.

Definitions are in French and English where provided, but they are provided for only a third of the entries, where the author considered them important and/or complex, or necessary to distinguish one term from another. Entries are cross-referenced in several ways. Synonyms are listed together, separated by a semicolon, as a glossary entry. Other synonyms are listed as a note at the end of the definition, and equivalent colloquial terms are noted in the same way.

Notes are added to some definitions to provide different kinds of information. In some cases, they provide equivalent European terminology for the North American glacial stages (e.g., Mindel = Kansan). Notes also clarify terms, such as a note about "glacial stage" specifying that it is not a true stratigraphic stage, but rather a time period in which certain climatic conditions prevailed. Other notes provide geologic background information about the term defined, e.g., the relationship between a "stadial moraine" and a "recessional moraine."

The appendix contains two charts, in English and French, showing the time scale of the Quaternary in North America. A bibliography of about 100 entries lists monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual dictionaries and scientific treatises used in compiling the glossary. For more information, the introduction refers the reader to the *Quaternary Geology of Canada & Greenland, Vol. 1 of The Geology of Canada*, published in both French and English. More useful (to the truly desperate translator) is a reference to the Geoscience Information Division of the Geological Survey of Canada, to whom a phone call might solve a particularly difficult translation question.

This is probably one of few glossaries on this specialized subject matter. Its usefulness extends beyond academia; translation of engineering and environmental reports in glaciated areas will be immensely aided by this glossary.

Dictionary of Canadian Place Names

Author: Alan Rayburn

Publisher: Oxford University Press, New York

Publication date: 1997

ISBN: 0-19-541086-6

Price: \$37.50

No. of pages: 461

Binding: Cloth

Reviewed by: Sharlee Merner Bradley

For a Canadian, it is both a pleasure and a revelation to browse through this well-written *Dictionary of Canadian Place Names* by the distinguished geographer Alan Rayburn. The 20th century has seen three earlier toponymic volumes, and each, although valuable, exhibited shortcomings, which the latest is meant to remedy as well as update. Of course, it will also soon be behind the times when:

on 1 April 1999 the misnamed Northwest Territories (a single territory since 1905) will be divided in two. The new territory of Nunavut, extending from the border of Manitoba to Cape Columbia at the north end of Ellesmere Island, will have a larger land area than any of Canada's provinces. The rest of the Northwest Territories, based on the Mackenzie River valley, has not yet decided on a suitable name for itself, although there seems to be a consensus to continue using the name Northwest Territories.

The diversity of administrative terminology is noted in the dictionary's introduction, for "each of the provinces and territories has a different set of municipal and territorial designations. For example, Ontario stands apart from the rest by being the only jurisdiction with municipalities known as boroughs...; only Québec uses regional county municipality..."

Do not bog down, do not despair—this is not a dry, learned tome. Here are a few amusing names unearthed in the alphabetical arrangement, each with a brief (five to ten lines on the average) history: Punkeydoodles Corners (Ontario); Qu' Appelle, town and river (Saskatchewan); Wycliffe (after the translator), in British Columbia; Joe Batt's Arm (Newfoundland); and Great Slave Lake (Northwest Territories), named for the Slavey, an Athapascan tribe.

Another native word gave rise to the country's name, Canada. You won't find it in its alphabetical position, but at the beginning, where it rates a whole bordered page. Our neighbor's name, which became official in 1867, goes back to Jacques Cartier, who, in 1585, "learned from his two young aboriginal companions... that the *chemin de Canada* (route to Canada) lay beyond..." The Indians were Iroquoian-speaking and were referring to the present-day site of Québec.

The National Toponymic Data Base comprises some 450,000 official place names, of which the 6,225 mentioned in this dictionary comprise less than 1.5 percent. Even so, that total is more than twice as many as in the previous books written on Canada's toponymy. The bibliography is selective and there is a comprehensive index at the end.

February 1999

Spanish Dictionary of Environmental Technology / Diccionario Inglés de Tecnología Medioambiental

Author: Miguel A. Gaspar Paricio, Instituto Papelero Español

Publisher: Routledge

Publication date: 1998

ISBN: 0-415-15265-8

Price and where available: \$140 from Routledge

Field: Environmental technology

Type: Dictionary, bilingual

Languages: Spanish - English, primarily British (American spellings given)

No. of pages: 261—123 Spanish to English; 132 English to Spanish

Type and quality of binding: Hardcover (5-1/2" x 8"), perfect binding.

Quality of paper and print: Acid-free paper, entries in sans-serif bold, translation in serif medium, labels to distinguish usage in small caps, grammatical and other information in italics - three pages on how to use this dictionary with the "petrol" example having an error in the Spanish "... para recuperar de los vapores de gasolina." I probably wouldn't have caught it for years as I would not have had to look up petrol!

Typeface and legibility: Good, somewhat too busy with so many typefaces, but certainly legible.

Format/arrangement: Very good. Cross-referencing when needed. Like most bilingual dictionaries, it does not give descriptions of terms.

Reviewed by: M. Eta Trabing

This dictionary, as the title indicates, emphasizes technology, particularly air and water technology. It is also geared more for use in Europe (U.K.) or when working with United Nations (UN) agencies, as British terminology and information far outweighs any used in the United States.

The back cover states "over 20,000 terms in each language." This, no doubt, includes six entries for "environmental impact assessment..." (as a dependent procedure, evaluation, investigation, procedure, report, and study) after "environmental impact assessment" (seventh entry) was already given and translated. This makes the numbers look good, but such redundancy is surely not necessary for translators doing highly technical work. On the other hand, environmental pollution is not included, although environmental polluter is.

The back cover also states that there are "detailed abbreviation entries," maybe detailed for the U.K. (I don't know), but almost all acronyms used by the Environmental Protection Agency are not included, such as LDPE (low-density polyethylene), LOD (limits of detection), MGD/mgd (millions of gallons per day), or DNAPLs (dense non-aqueous phase liquids). These and so many others do not even appear in their full form.

I was surprised not to find entries for wetlands, surveys, or even environmental survey, although strictly speaking, I suppose, wetlands is not environmental technology; but neither are the Friends of the Earth and the Greens, which are entries. There is, however, an entry for "ADSOX process," translated as "proceso ADSOX"; personally, I would like to know what ADSOX is.

Throughout, the author gives no options for translation, that is, only one word seems to be acceptable: i.e., for settling, only "decantación" is given, not even a nod to "sedimentación o asentamiento," especially when labeled GEN (general). I worry about ozone shield being translated literally as "escudo de ozono" when "capa de ozono" or "ozonofera" describes the shield so much better. I personally have a problem with those who use "eliminación" for disposal [of wastes] because elimination means "to cause the disappearance of" something, while disposal has to do with the long-term handling of wastes only, usually by sanitary landfilling or deep-well injection, the wastes are never "eliminated" nor do they disappear, except from public awareness.

In summary, this is a good little dictionary if you are working in Europe (U.K. particularly) or with UN agencies in the high-tech end of the "environment," since then it might well be worth the money. In the U.S., I believe it is less useful, particularly for translators who just want some environmental terminology without the high-tech water or air terminology, or whose environmental specialty leans more towards any of the myriad of other "environmental" topics.

**Routledge German Dictionary of Information Technology / Wörterbuch Informationstechnologie
Englisch-CD-ROM**

Publication date: 1997

ISBN: 0-415-13963-5

Price: \$160 in the U.S. through i.b.d. Ltd., 1-800-343-3531, or www.ibdltd.com

Reviewed by: Claudia Kellersch

Willkommen zum Routledge-Setup. Dieses Installationsprogramm installiert zweisprachige Fachwörterbücher von Routledge auf Ihrem

This is how your friendly introduction suddenly stops in German. The rest of the German-language installation runs smoothly and quickly. The system requires a Windows-compatible PC; minimum 486 with 8 MB of RAM (16 MB strongly recommended); Microsoft Windows 3.1 and higher, Windows 95 recommended; hard drive with a minimum of 15 MB free disk space; VGA monitor, color screen recommended; mouse; and CD-ROM drive. The CD-ROM arrives with a neat, 26-page booklet in English, size A5.

The conditions of use of the CD-ROM are still governed under British law. You have the option of installing the complete dictionary on the hard drive, or, in case you wish to save disk space or if the dictionary will not be used very often, installing only the browser, choosing the browser language, and accessing the dictionary on the CD-ROM or network. Restarting your system is not necessary after installation. No icon is created. You can do that yourself later, if you wish. If installed in German, the CD-ROM is not called "Routledge" or the like, but I found it after a while at the very end of the selections from the programs under the START bar as "Zweisprachige Fachwörterbücher von Routledge," truncated somewhere along, depending on the display size of your monitor.

When opening the dictionary from the PROGRAMS under START as described, the main window opens. By clicking on one of the three tabs (English, German, and Appendix), the user can type in the search word. With each additional letter of the term being typed, all entries starting with the first, second, third, etc., letters are displayed in the navigation frame on the left, which makes it convenient to search for words with unknown spelling or word families. In the content display frame on the right, all terms are listed alphabetically in the order of their first element. Each term is followed by one or more labels indicating the technological area in which it is used. The display size is large and easy on the eye. The source language term/phrase appears in bold type, and the target language equivalent is in regular type. There are no references to pronunciation, but the usual other grammatical markers. No references are made as to the appropriateness of certain entries in different German-speaking countries.

When you look up a word where the spelling is different in British English, the user finds a cross-reference to the British spelling entry, since this is a British dictionary. You are best advised to use the British spelling in the more sophisticated search-function mode, since, for example, *color* is found only once in compounds, ("*primary color*"), but 20 times when spelled "*colour*." The search mode shows the number of hits.

There are three types of annotation, *bookmarks* (no text), and *notes* and *hyperlinks* (your own cross-references between different entry terms). Keyboard shortcuts speed up all functions in all menus.

This specialty dictionary aspires to cover "*the whole range of information technology and the scientific knowledge that underlies it.*" It also includes electrical engineering, electronics, mathematics, and physics, as well as emerging terminology such as online services, client-server systems and tools, processes, and management. And here is my list of words I expected to find, but did not: *base memory*, *build*, *IR* (as in *infrared port*), *out-of-memory*, *posting*, *reverse engineering*, *uninstall*; some of which were presented with entries in other fields only.

I found this product excellent, and the search engine worked flawlessly. I would strongly recommend purchasing it, if you travel a lot, and are slowly building up a digital library. It certainly impressed me much more than the first CD-ROM product from the same publisher.

March 1999

German Dictionary of Philosophical Terms / Wörterbuch philosophischer Fachbegriffe Englisch

Authors: Elmar Waibl and Philip Herdina
Publishers: K.G. Saur Verlag and Routledge
Publication date: 1997
ISBN: 0-415-17890-8 (Routledge); 3-598-11329-3 (Saur)
Hardcover, two-volume set, 885 pages
Price: \$280 (also available separately at \$140 per volume)
Reviewed by: Ann C. Sherwin

“At last!” I hear some of you saying, “a technical dictionary for us humanities people.” Or was it just I who said it? At any rate, philosophy is a broad topic. According to the publisher, this dictionary covers “all areas of philosophy including topical and philosophically relevant terminology from related disciplines such as art, religion, psychology, natural sciences, economics, law, politics, feminism, and ecology.” I get work in those fields, too. Sounds promising.

Each volume contains the same 27 pages of bilingual front matter (with the language order reversed), so you can buy only one volume and get it all. From the introduction I sensed that the authors—both professors at the University of Innsbruck (Waibl, Department of Philosophy; Herdina, Department of English)—are meticulous, proud of their accomplishment, and even a little defensive of it. They have taken great pains not only to produce a work that is complete and accurate, but also to explain the reasoning behind their judgment calls—in considerable detail, with examples. It was clearly a labor of love, and we translators can identify with that.

The dictionary was intended to fill a gap that is undisputed—in the authors’ words “to provide an instrument for the acquisition of foreign language competence in the field of philosophy.” The authors envision users that are already familiar with the field of philosophy (philosophers, students of philosophy): “It is generally assumed that the user of a technical dictionary is sufficiently acquainted with the term he or she is looking up,” and therefore the dictionary does not attempt to define, but only to provide the equivalent in the other language. Though the assumption is not always true of translators, we can live with it.

Another author assumption is that “a bilingual technical dictionary is only used by people with some command of the target language,” and therefore the “relevant information is presented to the user as succinctly as possible.” Fair enough. So let’s look at a sample German-English page through the eyes of a person already familiar with philosophy and with English, but who doesn’t know a word of German. Opening the book at random, my eye falls on the following sequence of entries (I’ve omitted grammatical and other supplemental information to make a point):

Physiognomie – physiognomy, anthroposcopy
Physiokraten – Physiocrats
Physiokratismus – physiocratism
Physiologie – physiology
... [two possibly useful entries]
Physische, das – the physical
physische Teleologie – physical teleology
Pietismus – pietism
pittoresk – picturesque

Now let’s look at another sequence through the eyes of an English-speaking second-year German student who doesn’t know much about philosophy:

Politik – politics
Politik der Differenz – politics of difference
Politik der Wahrheit – politics of truth
Politik des Körpers – politics of the body
Politikberater – political advisor, policy consultant
Politikberatung – political advice, policy consulting
Politikwissenschaft – political science
politisch korrekt – politically correct

Finally, let's look at a couple randomly chosen pages through the eyes of a professional translator. The first one I open to contains 55 entries ranging from **sprachlicher Code** to **Staatenbund**. All but five entries are words or phrases whose translations you could guess at, assuming you know the meanings of *Sprache*, *sprechen*, *Sprung*, *Spur*, and *Staat*. Another page begins with **Beschränkung der Regierungsgewalt** and ends with **bestätigbar in T**. Here I tested myself to see how many "correct" translations I could arrive at without peeking. I passed with no major errors and six to eight minor ones, depending how exacting the graders are and whether they know the field. There were five entries on this page that I would have looked up to be on the safe side (like real life, this is an open-book test), but they are all in my Collins general dictionary, with similar definitions, except **beseeltes Wesen**. And since **beseelen** was there, I might have come up with "animate being" eventually.

Yes, **bestätigbar in T** did give me pause. Predictably, the dictionary under review said "confirmable in T," but it also clued me in that I could read up on Carnap to learn more. This is one of the good things about the dictionary. If you don't want to just translate blindly with cognates and easy guesses but really want to know what you're writing about, you do get some help. Terms associated with a particular philosopher or school are so labeled, and you can follow up on them if the author of the text you're translating drops them in without explanation.

Another potentially useful feature is the index of philosophical titles (1,371 in all) in the appendix. Each volume contains the index in one direction, German-English or English-German. Original titles are identified as such, and if the original was in a third language, that title is given as well. Most of the title translations are those actually used in published works and bibliographies (exceptions are flagged), so it behooves translators to use these rather than invent their own.

The front and back matter were obviously written in German originally. The translation is adequate, but could have benefited from a discriminating editor's blue pencil. I noticed the following lapses that were not in the original: "The article is found in initial position but ignored in the alphabetical sorting process. *Other* [my emphasis] prepositions do, however, affect the position of the entry." "Due to the particular character of any language many expressions can only be rendered by approximation, according with the Italian play on words: *traduttore traditore*." Also parentheses are confused with brackets, but maybe that's British. In any case, British spelling is used throughout "for pragmatic reasons."

The dictionary is printed on acid-free paper, and the binding, while not as handsome as that of the Routledge technical and business dictionaries, seems sturdy enough. Legibility and ease of look-up are excellent. Most entries are nouns or noun phrases, for which gender is given (or number, in the case of plurals). Each term is also tagged with a three-letter code designating the philosophical discipline from whence it comes. These codes are based on English, even in the German-English volume (e.g., *env* = Ökologie, *min* = Philosophie des Geistes, *sci* = Wissenschaftstheorie).

Maybe there is a market for this dictionary in academic libraries. I'm sure the authors and publishers know this better than I. Would I buy this dictionary? Not after seeing it. But if philosophical treatises or documents containing philosophical terms cross your desk with regularity and you want assurance that the cognate terms and other guesses you come up with are really the ones used by experts in the field (an admirable goal, seriously!), and if this peace of mind is worth \$280 to you (or half that if you work only in one direction), buy!

Diccionario bilingüe de terminología jurídica inglés-español, español-inglés tercera edición ampliada y revisada

Authors: Patricia Olga Mazzucco and Alejandra Hebe Maranghello

Publisher: Abeledo-Perrot, Buenos Aires

Publication date: 1998

ISBN: 950-20-1119-8

Reviewed by: Tom West

When deciding whether to purchase a new bilingual dictionary, a translator should ask himself three questions: (1) Does the dictionary contain many of the terms I am looking for? (2) If so, does it translate the terms correctly? and (3) Assuming that the terms are there and are translated correctly, is it easy to find them? In the case of a dictionary of legal terms in a language with as much regional variety as Spanish, the first question can be broken down into two additional ones: (a) Does the dictionary contain many of the legal terms that are used throughout the Spanish-speaking world?, and (2) Does it contain legal terms that are only used in a certain Spanish-speaking country?

The dictionary under review was written in Argentina by Argentine translators and is based on Argentine Spanish. Therefore, a translator struggling with an amparo decision from Mexico need not take this book off the shelf, because it contains no specifically Mexican terminology. That is in no way a criticism of the dictionary, because it was not intended to contain Mexican terms, but it does explain why a translator's legal library will not be complete if he buys this dictionary and none other. On the other hand, because the dictionary was written in Argentina, it can reasonably be expected to contain terms specific to Argentina. Table 1 on the following page shows a number of Argentine terms and indicates whether they are included in the dictionary under review or in the Buttersworth (Cabanellas/Hoague) dictionary, which is also from Argentina.

This chart shows that the two dictionaries complement each other, even though there are quite a few specifically Argentine terms that are missing from both. The flip side of the coin is that translators using the dictionary for translation into Spanish should be aware that some of the Spanish translations included in it will not be understood in other countries. A good example of this is "piercing the corporate veil," an American concept that has been adopted in Argentine law and given the name "corrimiento del velo societario," which is how it is translated in this dictionary. No such concept exists in Mexican law, and this Spanish phrase is meaningless there, where the concept would be better translated "desestimación de la personalidad jurídica de la sociedad."

Now that we know how the dictionary handles regionalisms, we can see how it fares with respect to "universal" legal Spanish. Although it obviously does not contain as many terms as Cabanellas/ Hoague (which to some extent is padded with non-terms and filler), I think that this dictionary is worth purchasing because it contains translations of common phrases that you won't find elsewhere: "atento a lo socilitado," "autos y vistos," "se me tenga por presentado," "fundo el derecho que me asiste en," "en los autos caratulados," etc. It is also superior to Cabanellas/Hoague in giving translations rather than explanations that will not fit into the translation of a document. For example, for "over-the-counter market," Mazzucco/Maranghello give "mercado extrabursátil." Cabanellas/Hoague give "mercado informal de acciones y títulos, en el que las operaciones no se efectúan a través de una bolsa institucionalizada sino directamente entre los operarios." Try fitting that into a translation! Similarly, for "attorney-client privilege" M/M give "secreto profesional," but Cabanellas/Hoague give "relación de confidencialidad entre el abogado y su cliente, que da origen a la obligación de no divulgar la información obtenida como consecuencia del vínculo entre esas partes, y al derecho de no revelar tal información, cuando sea solicitada por terceros." These entries suggest that Cabanellas/Hoague intended to write a legal encyclopedia rather than a dictionary to assist legal translators, while Mazzucco and Maranghello, both of them translators, set out to help their colleagues in writing this book.

As good as this dictionary is, I did find a few items that could stand correction: (1) incorrect plurals, e.g., "commercial papers" instead of "commercial paper," "mistreatments" (for malos tratos) instead of "mistreatment," "wages increase" (for aumento de salarios) instead of "wage increase"; (2) typos, e.g., "voir dir" instead of voir dire, ofensa premeditada as "over act" instead of the correct "overt act," foreign corporation spelled "foreingh corporation," and "void on its face" given as "void in it's face" (wrong spelling, wrong preposition—although the translation given, "nulo en sí mismo," strikes me as much better than Cabanellas/Hoague's: "nulo de nulidad manifiesta"); and (3) awkward English, e.g., in the Notes: "It happens the same with the expressions 'acuerdo preventivo' and 'acuerdo resolutorio.'" "Entidad unipersonal con personería jurídica" is translated as "corporation sole." I am not sure what to make of that.

Finally, there were a few things that struck me as completely wrong. For example, both "obra registrada" and "obra susceptible de protección legal" are translated as "copyrightable material," but I would think that the former actually means "copyrighted material." "Mejor postor" is correctly translated as the "highest bidder," but "mejor pos-

tura” is mistranslated as the “best bid.” “To take the stand” is translated as “comparecer ante el tribunal,” but I would think that a person could appear before the court without taking the stand. “Clear and present danger” is translated as “peligro actual e inminente,” which strikes me as contradictory. Either something is “actual,” or it is “inminente.” I don’t see how it can be both.

The final issue to examine is the ease of access to the terms. This dictionary is divided into four parts: (1) English-Spanish, (2) Spanish-English, (3) Notes, and (4) Translator’s Notes. The English-Spanish and Spanish-English sections are further subdivided into areas of law (e.g., bankruptcy, constitutional law, etc.). Obviously, this makes look-up extremely complicated. There is an alphabetical index at the back, but it suffers from being poorly edited. For example, after a long indented list of collocations with “juez” is given (e.g., civil, competente, and de alzada), seven terms beginning with “juez” are indexed separately and thus could easily be overlooked. The good news, however, is that every copy of the dictionary comes with a free CD-Rom, which essentially makes these concerns moot. The wonderful thing about the CD-ROM is that it can be searched alphabetically and textually, i.e., the CD-ROM can locate the word you’re looking for no matter where it is contained in the text of the book. It is very easy to use and will certainly convince legal translators looking for an electronic reference to buy this book (as long as they bear in mind the reservations noted above).

Table 1

	Mazzucco/Maranghello	Cabanellas/Hoague
abogado patrocinante	X (letrado patrocinante)	
acciones cartulares		
acciones escriturales		
adopción simple		X
afloramiento de activos		
agente del mercado abierto		
apelación en relación	X (recurso concedido en relación)	X
apelación libre	X (recurso concedido libremente)	X
asignación familiar	X	X
astreintes		
beneficio de litigar sin gastos	X	X
bienes de cambio	X	
bienes de uso	X	
blanqueo de capitales		X
camarista		X
cedear		
cédula verde		
corrimiento del velo societario	X	
cuarto intermedio		
cuerda floja		X
Inspección General de Justicia	X	
mala praxis		
obra social	X	X (but mistranslated)
Patronato de Liberados		X
pase pasivo		

April 1999

English—Hungarian Dictionary

Editors: László Országh and Tamás Magay

Publisher: Akadémia Kiadó, 1117 Budapest, Prielle Kornélia u. 19-35. Hungary

Publication Date: 1998

No. of pages: 1,779 pages, hardbound with clear, easy-to-read type

ISBN: 963-05-7514 0

Reviewed by: Catherine Bokor

Hungarian—English Dictionary

Editors: László Országh, Dezső Futász and Zoltán Kövecses

Publisher: Akadémia Kiadó, 1117 Budapest, Prielle Kornélia u. 19-35. Hungary

Publication Date: 1998

No. of pages: 1,583 pages, hardbound with clear, easy-to-read type

ISBN: 963-05-7515 0

Reviewed by: Catherine Bokor

I never thought I would see a term like “World Wide Web” in the Országh dictionary. The old version was a survivor that stood the test of time amazingly well, but an update was long overdue. The long-awaited *Hungarian-English/ English-Hungarian Dictionary* was published by Akadémia Kiadó in 1998 as part of their *Classic Dictionaries* series. The English-Hungarian volume is based on the 1960 edition of the Országh dictionary, which was revised in 1976. Since, in my opinion, this “revision” was more like a mere reprint, the present edition had to bridge more than 30 years of changes in the two languages. The Hungarian-English volume is built on the 1963 edition of the Országh dictionary which was revised (reprinted) in 1969. Tamás Magay, founding professor of the Department of English of the Gáspár Károli Reformed University in Budapest, headed the editorial staff of the English-Hungarian portion while Dezső Futász and Zoltán Kövecses led the editors of the Hungarian-English section. The English-Hungarian volume contains 120,000 headwords and 150,000 illustrative phrases. The editors of the Hungarian-English volume did not provide any comparable figures.

The importance of these dictionaries is tremendous in view of the fact that the Hungarian language has undergone unprecedented change due to the political and economic reform that has resulted in a Western-type economy. With the influx of modern technology and Western products and ideas, new terminology had to be created at breakneck speed. Pre-World War II terms have been revived, restructured, and sometimes discarded. English terms (especially in the field of computer technology) have been Hungarianized, living side-by-side with new Hungarian terms in an effort by some to keep the language pure. The task of the editors was not only to weed out the obsolete in the old dictionary, but to wade through a morass of myriad terms meaning much the same thing and decide which ones should “live.”

The word “computer” appears as *számítógép* and *komputer*; the latter representing the choice of the lazy, but, nevertheless, a part of the Hungarian language now. Then there are the terms that cannot be translated but have to be explained, such as “public relations,” an old challenge for most of us, and one of the first terms I looked up in the dictionary which gave the explanation “*a nagyközönséggel való kapcsolatok (ápolása)*,” (tending to) the relationship with the public. In addition to thousands of new technical terms from a wide variety of disciplines, the dictionaries include the most important European Union legal terms. For me, it was especially valuable to see how the meaning of old words and expressions have changed, expanded, or (more rarely) shrunk. In this way these dictionaries are a gold mine of information not only of a semantic, but also of a political, social, and etymological nature.

There are considerably more slang words included in this update. The editors lament the lack of such expressions in the old dictionary. I think there were plenty of slang words in it, but they have now become part of common speech. It is entirely possible that an update of these dictionaries will be subject to the same criticism, since today’s slang will someday become mainstream. I did find, though, that some of the slang terms in these new dictionaries are obsolete, such as “scratch” as slang for money and “scratch man” (English-Hungarian) or “rumble the flat” for *zsugázik* (Hungarian-English) which have not been used in American English for ages, if ever. These should not take up room when important phrases are left out. For example, I would have loved to have seen the translation for “systems engineer” or “competitive edge” in the English-Hungarian volume, the latter was listed under *versenyelőny* in the Hungarian-English volume.

There is a little aid for translators in the Hungarian-English volume. When an exact equivalent is not found for a term, an explanation is included in brackets <> with the warning that these should not be used in translation, or a “kb” is added to denote that it is an approximate translation, i.e., use it with caution. I didn’t notice these clues in the English-Hungarian version, however, which makes me wonder how much cooperation there was between the two teams. The lack of collaboration is quite obvious also from the translation of the subheads in the introductions of the two dictionaries. For example, *címszóanyag* is translated as “the entries” in one and “vocabulary” in the other, while a *szócikkek felépítése* is translated as “the structure of entries” in one and “layout of entries” in the other. But that is more of a curiosity than a fault. It was more surprising that *elektronikus levél/posta* was not listed in the Hungarian-English volume while all possible spelling variations and translations were present in the English-Hungarian volume. Cross-referencing the two dictionaries would have been really beneficial (it is standard practice for other dictionary publishers).

The hardcover dictionaries represent a welcome typographical change from the old ones. They are much easier on the eye, and the bold subcategories make it a pleasure to navigate the complexities of the two languages. The print is small enough to accommodate a lot of entries (6-1/2 points), while large enough to make it easy to read.

There has been a shift toward listing more compound words as headwords that is sure to facilitate a translator’s work. The decisions regarding which set word combinations should be listed as headwords and which ones should be listed under adjectival or attributive compounds are somewhat arbitrary, but work for me. An excellent collection of abbreviations (from BBS to ELISA) is integrated in the English-Hungarian dictionary instead of appearing as an appendix at the end, facilitating easy location of the expansions. They are much more sparse in the Hungarian-English volume. A great improvement in the new English-Hungarian volume is the listing of the American spelling of a word as a headword with an arrow cross-referencing the British term as the main listing, although this is implemented somewhat inconsistently. The Hungarian-English volume lists both spelling variations next to the Hungarian headword.

You can always find items you can take issue with, such as the fact that *arculatterv* is translated as “design” in the front matter, but the term does not appear in the dictionary itself under “design” and only a derivative, *arculattervezés*, appears in the Hungarian-English dictionary translated as “design of corporate image.” Or, when I looked up the word *rendezvény*, it listed only one translation, program (me), when this word covers quite a range (function, undertaking, and affair, to name a few). But there are also a lot of entries that I applaud, such as the term *fogyatékos* that not only lists the word “handicapped,” but also the more politically correct “challenged.”

In addition to the entries in both languages, synonyms are given in parentheses, explanations in brackets, and expressions facilitating understanding of the terms in guillemets, e.g., “answering service” *hangposta [telefonos üzenetrögzítő szolgáltatás]*. Even if one does not agree completely with these aids, they help clarify the terms.

I was very impressed by the careful editing. I have perused these dictionaries day after day, and have yet to find a typo. As the publisher of the English-Hungarian volume says in his foreword, “A good dictionary is, however, not a closed unit at all. Its samples and references serve as pointers for the user for a long time.” For Hungarian translators these dictionaries are a worthwhile investment, and I think many will agree that they succeed in bringing the authoritative Országh dictionary up-to-date.

Elsevier’s Dictionary of Hydrological and Hydrogeological Environment

Russian—English, English—Russian

Authors: R.G.Dzhamalov, I.S.Zektser, and R.A.Kamenetsky

Publisher: Elsevier: Amsterdam—London—New York—Tokyo Elsevier Science Publishers B.V.

Publication Date: 1992

ISBN: 0-444-88419-x

Price: \$190

Reviewed by: Vadim Khazin, Ph.D.

Type of Work: Specialized dictionary “in the areas of hydrology, hydrogeology, environmental science, and related disciplines” (the authors’ definition).

Volume: Two parts in one book (223 pages, Russian-English and 280 pages, English-Russian), about 10,000 terms, and no illustrations.

Typographic Quality and Arrangement: Hardcover, good paper, two columns/ page; bold typeface for the source language entries and normal for the target language ones.

Grammatical Information and Pronunciation: None.

Appendices: None.

Evaluation: Although the scope of this dictionary seems too narrow and specific, it actually isn't: water is probably the most important element of the environment, and this dictionary embraces multiple water-related scientific and technical terms. As it happens probably in many areas, English and Russian terms related to water are quite often inadequate or overlapping in meaning, starting with the title term hydrology. This comprehensive science refers to all types of water (surface, subsurface, and atmospheric), and includes both descriptive and calculation/design parts. Meanwhile, the Russian гидрология has traditionally acquired a much narrower meaning: only surface water, and only a descriptive part. So, while other water-related sciences in Russian, such as гидрогеология (about subsurface water), гидрометеорология (about atmospheric water), гидравлика (about laws of water movement and corresponding calculations), are regarded as independent ones, their analogs in English are parts of hydrology. Thus, "hydrological and hydrogeological" in the dictionary's title sounds inappropriate in English, while in Russian it would be OK.

Entries in both languages are either nouns or phrases. In the latter case, they are placed in alphabetical order regardless of the main noun, giving advantage to adjectives. There is no grouping of phrases around a key word, which may appear inconvenient to those who got accustomed to the opposite structure of dictionaries. On many occasions, too many variants of a translation are given, particularly in the Russian-English part. Without additional explanations and/or illustrations, this will confuse translators who are unfamiliar with this field. For instance, there are: eight translations of верховодка, where just one would be enough (i.e., temporary perched water); 10 translations of отстойник without distinguishing for different applications; seven translations for водоем which are far from identical; and eight translations of водохранилище where, again, just one would be enough: reservoir (this simple translation is missing, but you can find storage reservoir, water reservoir, and man-made reservoir, which is excessive. By the way, in the English-Russian part, there is reservoir for водохранилище).

Sometimes the translations are misleading, as in soil retirement for ветровая эрозия, or phreatic water for фреатическая вода (in these examples, the first English term and the second Russian one are not in use). The term межпластовые воды is translated as confined ground water, although they can be unconfined as well. There is no land reclamation for мелиорация земель, but for мелиорировать a non-existent English word appears: reclamate.

Among the terms that were not found, but are needed in such a dictionary, I can mention plume of contamination; storativity; grouting; slurry wall; site investigation; bioremediation; and магазинирование подземных вод. A number of terms can be considered "filler" or irrelevant such as air, water, deep, вред, and водоизмещение, etc.

Still, the above shortcomings notwithstanding, this dictionary fills the gap in specialized bilingual English-Russian dictionaries and will find its user, though the price seems too high.

May 1999

The Changing Scene in World Languages: Issues and Challenges (ATA Scholarly Monograph Series, Volume IX)

Editor: Marian B. Labrum

Publisher: John Benjamins, Amsterdam

Publication Date: 1997, 156 pages.

ISBN: 1-55619-628-8 U.S.; 90- 272-3184-2 Europe

Price: \$30 for ATA members, \$75 for nonmembers. Prepayment is required for individuals. (Checks should be payable to John Benjamins Publishing Company.) Corporations will be invoiced. Orders should be sent to: John Benjamins Publishing Company, P.O. Box 27519, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0519; (800)562-5666

Reviewed by: Fritz Hensey

Labrum's prologue states that translators see themselves as involved in a complex and changing world scene where language is viewed as evolving property and where the very nature of translation is challenged. Complexity, change, and challenge are brought into sharp focus by the nine essays that make up this collection.

The book is organized into three sections, the first of which includes Eugene Nida's essay, "Translation in the Information Age." Nida points out that translators are increasingly constrained by cultural and political factors. Modern translator training has brought about a more balanced view of theory and practice and greater technical competence, but the cultural dimension of translation is still neglected in most training programs.

Roberto Mayoral Asensio and Dorothy Kelly's essay on translator training in Spain addresses the need for changes in T&I training curricula as a consequence of Spain's entry into the EEC and the European Union. With the result-

ing immigration has come increased enrollment of T&I students whose primary or “A” language is not Spanish. The trend in training has been for students to translate from their secondary or “B” language into Spanish, but this approach should be modified to meet the needs of such students.

María del Camino Gutiérrez-Landa discusses official film censorship and cultural patronage in Spain. In translation for TV and film, legislation dating from the Franco era mandates dubbing rather than subtitling. Exclusion of the original languages and their possibly subversive messages is seen as a restriction on freedom of speech and information. Given the Spanish public’s long exposure to dubbing rather than subtitling, the authors doubt that this practice will change in the foreseeable future.

A second section consists of three essays that help define the issues informing the book’s title, namely, the changing linguistic situation and its impact on translators and translation. Cay Dollerup’s essay reviews the evolving status and function of major languages and the rise of “minor” ones since World War II. At that time, translation began a rise toward its current sociopolitical relevance when international organizations agreed to admit languages of lesser diffusion like Dutch and Danish. The European Parliament now uses 11 official languages, whose users insist on using them and being understood via translation or interpretation.

English, according to Dollerup, will not dominate Europe nor become a vehicle for cultural or commercial imperialism; the burgeoning of translation and interpretation shows that Europeans insist on using their traditional languages, major or minor. Rather, it confirms the fairly safe bet that English will be the lingua franca of the 21st century.

Teresa Cabré Castelví’s essay compares two potentially conflicting terminological trends: 1) standardization of technical terminology attendant on globalization and instantaneous communication, and 2) harmonization of such terminology as a defense against linguistic and cultural dependency in nations who need to “update” their languages.

Cabré argues that standardization should yield to harmonization, that a natural diversity and variation is preferable to single possibilities. There may well be an international standard, but local alternatives should be acceptable in given spheres. Otherwise, one speech community submits to another’s language and may fall into a pernicious form of diglossia. Translators are active participants in the process of both standardization and harmonization of terminology.

Oscar Díaz Fouces discusses current attempts to standardize Galician (galego), one of Spain’s co-official languages, in relation to the historically superordinate Portuguese. There are two conflicting tendencies, which Díaz discusses in the light of the *Ausbau/Abstand* model developed by Heinz Kloss and other scholars. *Ausbau* is the standardization of a hitherto subordinate vernacular or local variety into an independent language recognized as such. Development of a standard language is a sociopolitical process. Such occurs in Canadian French vis-à-vis Continental French and is being attempted in Galician. *Abstand* languages, like Breton or Basque (Euskera), are recognized as distinct languages by their unique features rather than their standardization. The Galician linguistic conflict involves two camps, termed reintegrationalists and isolationists. To judge from samples of their proposed (mostly orthographic) reforms, the first apparently look toward Portuguese and the latter toward Castilian. The consequences of isolationism (“linguistic secession”) for translators can be serious ones, since they may have to remedy lexical or phraseological gaps that were hitherto dealt with under the aegis of supranational norms.

In the final section, Peter Bush points out some of the practical realities of literary translation in terms of the interaction of translators and editors of translation. He describes the editorial changes undergone by his English version of a Spanish-language novel. The translator had to negotiate the handling of sexual and racial references in the original. Bush advocates a training of literary translators which includes the need for the translator to be aware of his/her status and rights and to belong to strong professional organizations. He argues that translators can no longer limit themselves to the role of “solitary wordsmiths.”

Julie and David Smart’s “Disability issues in translation/interpretation” focuses on the need for competent interpreting to enable disabled persons who lack adequate English to have access to rehabilitation services. The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) provides for such access, but T&I services are often quite inadequate. Not only are better trained interpreters needed, but service providers must better understand the role of the interpreter as a potential cultural consultant. Much more professionalism is needed in this area.

The final section closes with Daryl Hague’s bibliography of U.S. doctoral dissertations on translation topics published from 1973 to 1996. Thirty dissertations relate to Asian languages. Most titles relate to machine translation, literary translation, and translation theory. Topics least represented include interpretation theory and pedagogical applications. *The Changing Scene in World Languages* provides translators with an insightful, mostly Eurocentric overview of language and translation in the closing years of the 20th century.

*Proceedings of the Conference on Financial Translation Held in Paris, June 1997, Organized by SBF—
Bourse de Paris*

Edited by: Robert Blake, Agnès Deleuse, Christine Durban

Publication Date: December 1998

Description: Six papers in French or English on financial translation, with transcripts of occasionally macaronic open discussions.

Price and Availability: \$26 postpaid within the United States. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Copies can be ordered from the Northern California Translators Association, P.O. Box 14015, Berkeley, CA 94712-5015;

Tel: (510) 845-8712; Fax: (510) 883-1355,

Reviewed by: Scott Brennan

This set of six papers presented at the Fifth Paris Workshop for Financial Translators, coordinated by Paris-based translator Chris Durban, offers you a seat at a forum with financial experts from the Place de Paris. This time, the workshop focused on new developments in French financial markets and the introduction of the euro. Past workshops have featured detailed discussions of topics as thorny as France's dual systems of corporate governance and the sensitive task of translating their respective hierarchies of corporate and management titles. But the variety of topics covered, interesting speakers, and input from the audience give the proceedings a breadth of appeal that extends beyond hardcore financial translation circles.

The first paper, "In the Front Line," is a good example. *Financial Times* writer Andrew Jack relates his experience covering French business and finance, with an interesting detour into stylistic differences between French and U.S./U.K. corporate-speak. While English strives to be a "purely pragmatic tool to communicate the underlying ideas," Jack explains, stylistic beauty is often equally, and sometimes more, important in French business culture, hence the emphasis on short-question-and-long-answer interview formats. This is an important touchpoint for "adapting" French business materials in a variety of contexts, and recalls a related discussion in the 1993 workshop proceedings on cross-cultural differences in how managers behave in meetings. *Financial Times* stylistic conventions are touched on briefly (avoid jargon words like "massive, major, giant, huge, key"; "firm" is reserved for limited partnerships, whereas a listed company or standard limited company is called a "company" or "business"), and anecdotal insight is offered into how and why mistranslations sometimes make their way into the English-language press.

Part I of "*L'Union Monétaire Européenne et l'Euro*" (Martine Aubert, Crédit Commercial de France) is dated by now, or is common knowledge to anyone who follows European business and finance (the Maastricht criteria, the timetable for transition, and plays being made by the French and other governments in the run-up to the single European currency).

However, Part II of the same article—subtitled "*Concept et Terminologie*," by Patricia Rouast, a member of the euro team at MATIF S.A., the clearing and supervisory institution for France's financial futures market—is a very useful account of the past, present, and future of derivatives in France, how they will be affected by the introduction of the euro, and how MATIF is adapting. The article concludes with a brief list of basic euro-related typographical conventions.

"*L'Organisation des Marchés Financiers en France depuis l'Entrée en Vigueur de la Directive sur les Services d'Investissement (DSI)*" (Marc Outin, Information Officer at SBF-Bourse de Paris) offers an overview of the sweeping structural changes to French financial markets since July 1996, when a law was enacted to bring French financial activities up-to-date and into line with the European Investment Services Directive. Under the old system, the charter or bylaws of a lending institution, brokerage firm, or portfolio management firm had to specify which financial products could be handled on which market. Over-the-counter markets were banned. The new system breaks things down by function, regardless of product or type of establishment, so any investment services provider with the proper license can offer portfolio management services, collect and transmit orders, and act as dealer or principal, or underwriter and primary distributor. Thus, securities firms have been granted a passport to conduct cross-border operations anywhere in the EU. The implications for high-level financial translation needs are intriguing.

"*Les Entreprises et Leur Site Web/Adapting Corporate Websites*" is a roundtable discussion moderated by Gordon Golding of International Corporate Communication in Paris, with Jean-Marc Ménant, head of Multimedia at EuroRSCG, and Tim Jackson, who writes the "On the Web" column in the *Financial Times*. The conversation covers a lot of ground, from what companies look for in choosing a translator for their Internet presence and practical pointers on adapting corporate Websites (such as "Web-friendliness" and spoken style), to the advantages of doing business over the Internet, and tips for translators on developing their own Websites. The roundtable culminates in

a lively and open discussion of where the translation industry is headed and what effect the Internet may have on pricing and the translator/client relationship.

Finally, "*Le Capital Risque: Le Nouveau Marché et EURO.NM*" (Pierre-Yves Jousselin, Société du Nouveau Marché) is a primer on Le Nouveau Marché, the new stock exchange set up in Paris on the NASDAQ model and in direct competition with EASDAQ. EURO.NM is a GEIE set up to promote the European network of growth stock exchanges, including Le Nouveau Marché, EURO.NM Belgium, the German Neuer Markt, and the Netherlands' NMAX. The paper covers admission criteria, members, the double listing system, and the trading day. Although prospectuses and reporting in English are not yet compulsory, there is a strong trend in that direction.

The workshop's formal presentations are core background reading for the French-to-English financial translator, but some of its gems come almost as an afterthought. For example, an interesting point came up in discussion, in relation to the problem of comparing trades on the Bourse de Paris and other stock exchanges: "*A la Bourse de Paris, on fait une différence entre le nombre de transactions et le nombre de négociations: une opération à l'achat et une opération à la vente. C'est notre façon de compter... Cela signifie qu'il faut bien souvent multiplier les statistiques françaises par deux pour les comparer aux statistiques anglaises ou américaines*" (Marc Outin). Another example from Marc Outin: "*lorsqu'on dit 'volume de transaction' on devrait dire 'value,' puisque pour nous c'est en capitaux, alors que pour les anglo-saxons 'volume' signifie en nombre de titres.*"

For those of us who could not make it to Paris for the workshop for financial translators (and the list of participants does include several U.S.-based ATA members), these proceedings are an excellent way to stay plugged in to developments over there, and add to the specialized knowledge that is essential for good financial translation.

June 1999

Hamel's Comprehensive Bilingual Dictionary of Spanish False Cognates

Author: Bernard H. Hamel

Publisher: Bilingual Book Press, Los Angeles CA

Publication Date: 1998

ISBN: 1-886835-06-3 (paperback)

Price: \$29.95

Reviewed by: Andrew Hurley

This general-purpose dictionary should find a home not only among new and even seasoned translators and those of us who find ourselves writing into a second language from time to time, but also (it is fervently to be hoped) among those would-be translators in offices across the country who make those gaffes in advertising and corporate correspondence that make the rest of us look bad. And it could also be the best friend a candidate for the ATA accreditation examination ever had, as many candidates fail the exam on the basis of the careless use of false cognates.

Hamel's dictionary of *faux-amis* justifies itself this way: "These seemingly friendly words offer an easy but deceiving translation, and contribute in no small way to the inducement of what aptly could be called spontaneous or instantaneous translation.... Most frequently this will happen when dealing with false cognates such as *library* (*librería* instead of *biblioteca*)... or when translating abstract words for which a number of options exist (and which the translator fails to explore thoroughly). These are the areas in which particular translation skill is required.... Unfortunately, even the most authoritative bilingual dictionaries are not immune to the misleading easiness that the similarity of the words offers."

I'm sure that all of us reading this review have mental lists of *faux-amis* to be avoided, and that some of us have even made up lists of false and near-false cognates for our students, employees, contractors, etc. But this dictionary has gone us all one better: it brings together a *comprehensive* list of these troublemakers, separates them out from the "normal," "safe" words in the two languages, and gives thorough definitions, translations, and examples. This is the principle of selection: "We have omitted those cognates which we feel would not likely be misused, notwithstanding the close similarity between them and regardless of the level of proficiency of the speaker. Such translations [as 'He bought some new rope' for 'Se compró ropa nueva'] are not likely to occur in our opinion." Indeed, I found no filler-words in this dictionary.

In my characterization of the breadth of the dictionary, above, I use the word "comprehensive" advisedly, of course; there's no way, short of years of use, that I could actually check to make sure that there are none of those

pesky false cognates left out, especially on the English side, where I do less work than on the Spanish side. But after an intensive week of grading student papers and revising some dozen texts, plus a check against recent ATA examination texts, all filled with potential traps for the unwary, the only omissions I found were *casualidad* (which indeed can be inferred from *casual* [included]), *casualty* (which cannot be inferred from *casual*), *atentar/atento*, and *intentar/intento*. That is remarkable, to say the least. And certainly I found all the other most common, and therefore most problematic, words: *aceptar*, *editar/editor/edición*, *introducir*, *elaborar*, *proyectar*, *representar*, *someter(se)*, etc.

The dictionary is organized bilaterally, but it makes no attempt to be symmetrical in the two word lists. Rightly so, for false cognates, like the lexicons of all natural languages, are not always one-for-one. The dictionary simply alphabetizes the problem words for each language-direction (English-to-Spanish; Spanish-to-English) and gives a very full and helpful gloss or detailing of the various non-cognate *meanings*—that is, it breaks down the meanings of the word in the source language (SL) just as any monolingual dictionary would, except that in this bilingual dictionary, clear (sometimes multiple) equivalences in the target language (TL) are given for each meaning, and are almost always accompanied by clear and language-natural examples. The sequence of information in the entries is as follows: 1) SL headwords, 2) TL false cognate to avoid, 3) part of speech of the SL word, 4) first domain tag, if necessary (publishing, law, chemistry, biology, railways, religion, etc.), 5) the first meaning of the SL word, 6) translation into TL, 7) SL-to-TL example(s), and 8) repeat 4-7 for as many domains or distinct ranges of meaning as necessary.

Thus, like the *BBI Combinatory Dictionary*, that other brilliant dictionary for non-native users (of English only, in the case of the *BBI*), this is a wonderful teaching dictionary, or the perfect place for all of us to check our sudden doubts about word usage in both Spanish and English. Because the entries use natural-language examples, and because whenever they are needed, multiple TL equivalences or translations are given for a single SL domain-meaning, the danger of word confusion is almost nonexistent.

The dictionary is well-bound in an easily manageable trade paperback size. Legibility and ease of look-up are excellent. Entry organization is very intelligent and clear, and the lexicographic detailing is exemplary. But there are small problems. The introduction, fragments of which I've quoted (and silently corrected) above, has a number of irritating typographical *and* *syntax* errors—subject-verb agreement problems, for example. And I have caught two non-fatal typographical errors in the entries themselves (transparent enough, I think, for easy correction by the user). I admit that when I read the introduction before using the dictionary, I was put off by this carelessness in either writing or proofreading, but I have found that the body of the dictionary has been much more carefully checked, and that none of the examples or suggested translations suffer from the problems of the introduction. I also feel that the price is a bit high: \$29.95 (plus shipping; even if you order from the author/publisher, who thereby doesn't have to give the usual 40 percent discount to the bookstores, he still charges shipping, which I consider a rip-off—so I bought mine from Amazon.com. Take that!). But the truth is, I suspect the price-to-value ratio will justify this book to its target users. I'm making it a requirement for my translation classes, in the hopes that my students, over a relatively short time, will internalize the word-list or at least gain a sense of when they need to *really* look up a word.

The great usefulness of this dictionary lies in the fact that it has selected out of the general lexicon those words that present a particular problem for relatively inexperienced translators and second-language writers. Whether that particular audience will use it is, of course, another matter. But at least now they will have no excuse for their howlers.

July 1999

The Welsh Learner's Dictionary

Author: Heini Gruffudd

Publisher: Y. Lolfa, Wales

Available from: In North America: ISBS (International Specialized Book Services, Inc.), 5804 NE Hassalo Street, Portland, Oregon 97213-3644; Tel: (503) 287-3093; e-mail: mail@isbs.com

Reviewed by: Tony Ellis and Yam Linford

A dictionary for people who want to learn Welsh (now that sounds like a good idea!), and who better to do the job than Heini Gruffudd, a man well-known in the world of Welsh studies. The 1998 top 10 list of language learners' books has Heini there in a big way! (*Welcome to Welsh*, no. 1; *Get By in Welsh*, no. 2; *Welsh is Fun* (with Elwyn Iona), no. 5; *Welsh is Funtastic*, no. 7; and *It's Welsh* at no. 10). If anyone knows what learners want, here's the man.

This dictionary has recently been published (July, 1998), which is a point in its favor. In all languages words and usage change over time, and Welsh is no exception. Learners want to study the language that is being spoken today, and a dictionary is most useful when it reflects this. Here you'll find words like computer programmer, word processing, jeans, unleaded petrol, national lottery, etc.

Of course, there are words that you won't find in the dictionary, but Heini has chosen well. In all, there are over 20,000 Welsh words and phrases, so whether learning the language seriously, or simply looking up occasional words, there's enough to keep you going for a long time. More than that, it tells you how to pronounce the Welsh words (in the Welsh-English section). This is a real godsend if you can't easily ask someone, or if you're learning on your own—perhaps far from Wales itself where you can't go to classes or readily hear the language being spoken. And it's easy to use, too.

It's nice to see examples given where words have different meanings (e.g., lead = metal; lead = dog lead) and where prepositions have many different uses (e.g., "for" might be "i," "am," "dros," "at," etc.). There is also plenty of material for those who are beyond the language basics. For example, it is perhaps idioms that present the greatest challenge once the basics have been grasped, and many of these are scattered through the pages.

When learning the language, finding or checking plurals and genders is unavoidably part of the process, so it's pleasing to see that these are given in both the English-Welsh and Welsh-English sections, which can save a lot of time.

But is there help given with word mutations, I hear you ask? Well, wherever a given word causes some sort of mutation, the dictionary tells you so. In addition, there are some 15 introductory pages covering basic grammar and pronunciation, with more hints scattered through the book. Lists of place names and people's names are also included. Heini has also given examples of regional word usage. On occasions you'll hear different words being used in different parts of Wales, and although this would never cause you to be misunderstood, you'd find common examples, such as key (agoriad/allwedd) and grandad (taid/tad-cu). Learning Welsh or merely interested in the language? This is a handy-sized paperback, and frankly there can't be a better way of spending \$6.95.

NINNAU's Guide to the Use of the Welsh Language for Beginners and Others

Author: Robert A. Fowkes

Publisher: NINNAU Publications, 11 Post Terrace, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Price: \$8.50

Reviewed by: Welsh learners Tony Ellis and Kim Linford

This thin booklet is written for beginners, and is designed to help you find words in a Welsh dictionary. But why should you need help simply to look up words? Well, unlike English, some of the Welsh words that you encounter are in a mutated form (i.e., a word's initial letter has changed), and in most Welsh dictionaries you simply won't find them in this form.

It's common enough to hear the words: "don't worry about mutations, people will still understand you, and they'll come in time." Certainly this is true enough when you're speaking or writing, but people learning Welsh are both-

ered by such mutations, especially when it comes to looking up words and their meanings! We've all encountered the frustration of being unable to find a word in the dictionary, probably because we're looking up the wrong thing, or are looking in the wrong place—not because it's not in there! That's where this book comes in!

And even if you're not learning the language, and don't intend to, but still have occasional cause to translate Welsh, then this is the booklet you will need alongside your dictionary. These are the "others" referred to in the title!

Let's give a couple of examples. The word "cath" (cat) might appear in the language as "gath" (soft mutation), "chath" (aspirate mutation), or "nghath" (nasal mutation), depending on its context. If you haven't learned the rules of mutation yet, you may not know that the original ("radical") form of the word is "cath," so you won't know to look that form up. But look up any of the forms in this booklet, and it'll refer you back to "cath!" What's more, verbs can mutate too, so look up these in their mutated form, and again you'll be directed to the radical form.

Of course, you'll still need a dictionary, of course, since the book doesn't tell you what the words mean or whether they're masculine or feminine, nor does it claim to be a grammar book, but until you're *au-fait* with mutations, it'll come in dead handy. At least when you turn to your dictionary you'll know what to look for!

Naturally a slim booklet can't contain every mutated form of every word, but by the time your vocabulary has exceeded what's here, you'll not need it any more anyway! Try reading the foreword—it's a no-nonsense account of what the booklet aims to do. And there are other points to commend it:

- It contains irregular forms of verbs - e.g., look up "daeth" and it'll direct you to "dod," "ai," "mynd," "gewch," and "cael." These sort of things are always outfoxing someone trying to learn the language.
- It uses the English order of the alphabet rather than the Welsh. This is unusual for a Welsh book, but the beginner wouldn't know to find "ng" after "g," so it really isn't that unusual! Again, in Welsh "chi" would come after "cymorth," but here it comes where the beginner would expect to find it.
- It contains irregular plurals - e.g., look up "feibion" (a mutated plural) and it refers you back to "mab."

But whilst it uses the English order of the alphabet, it would have been useful to see the Welsh alphabet printed somewhere between the covers—after all, it needs to be learned sometime, and the differences aren't that great.

And whilst the book makes no false claims about its limited use, it might have also been useful to include at the end of the book a simple "guide to looking up mutated words" which could take the reader on further on in his study of the language (for example, an initial "F" might be a soft-mutated "M" or "B"; an initial "G" might be a soft-mutated "C"; an initial "NH" will be a nasal-mutated "T"; etc.). And these few basic rules, once learned, would allow the reader to depend on the book less—surely a target the author would approve of.

Like the booklet says, it's aimed at beginners, and as such it's indispensable. But if its contents seem obvious to you, then be glad that your Welsh is already quite good!

Editor's note: Many thanks to ATA member Arturo Roberts for arranging for these reviews, which appeared in his newspaper, NINNAU—The North American Welsh Newspaper®.

August 1999

Diccionario de los usos correctos del español, María Luisa de Serrano Redonnet and Alicia María Zorrilla de Rodríguez

Editor: Silvia Jaúregui

Publisher: Editorial Ángel Estrada y Cía., S.A.

ISBN: Text: 950-01-0602-7; CD-ROM: 950-01-0703-1 (1997)

Price: \$79.95 (text)

Available from: Schoenhof's Foreign Books at (617) 547-8855; Fax: (617) 547-8551; Website: www.schoenhofs.com (CD-ROM). For price and availability, please call i.b.d., Ltd. at (518) 758-1755, ext. 14.

Type of Work: Monolingual Spanish usage

No. of pages: 1,221

Dimensions: 6 1/2"x9 1/4"x17/8"

Typographic Quality and Arrangement: Hardcover edition, good paper, two columns/page; boldface for Spanish entries, normal for definitions. Examples for usage are in italics. Specific correct word usage is in boldface.

Reviewed by: Dan Mac Dougall

Grammatical Information and Pronunciation:

While engaged in a recent translation from English to Spanish of several children's stories, a colleague recommended the above dictionary to me. It is fair to say, in my opinion, that when properly utilized, this volume can assist in making the difference between a mediocre and an excellent translation. The bibliography lists more than 160 contemporary works, including several top-notch peninsular sources. The hardcover volume is well-conceived and easy to use, and the usage guide and abbreviations list enhance its value. Appendix I encapsulates verb conjugations and usage, while Appendix II offers a unique listing of many *gentilicios* (names given to people of a different region or country)—both a great aid to professional translators.

One of the most important features of this reference is the listing of common errors of usage, which appear within the definitions, thus helping non-native speakers of Spanish avoid pitfalls. There are 22 separate labels for usage, all carefully explained in the user's guide.

The fact that many irregular verbs are fully conjugated and accompanied by explanatory prepositional usage is most helpful. This can assist in ascertaining specific nuances of meaning. This work is replete with detailed examples of correct usage. When appropriate, explanations are given regarding proper pronunciation. In many instances, when a word has more than one spelling or meaning, mention is made of the usage preferred by the Real Academia Española. This information can be most helpful to translators needing to verify word choice to an editor or client.

In addition, if a word has a unique meaning in Argentina, this fact is mentioned. Furthermore, words which have not yet been accepted by the Spanish Royal Academy, but which have been recommended for inclusion by the Argentine Academy of Letters, are highlighted.

Determining the gender of certain words is an area of particular difficulty when translating from other languages into Spanish. A good example of this is the Spanish word *zarigüeya*, which uses the same ending to refer to both sexes of opossum. To distinguish between the two, the authors recommend *zarigüeya macho* and *zarigüeya hembra*, respectively. The inclusion of idiosyncrasies of this type in Spanish showcases the value of this dictionary.

Each of the following general terms is defined: *Tratar, gaucho, sello, ordenador, cuadra, red, bis, fallecer, millarado, bufé, licenciado, mitín, sobremanera, cenit, mofarse, gemir, cantiga, embarazada, and ojalá.*

Many of the special terms listed below are not frequently found in volumes of this sort: *Piragua, devolver* (with the additional meaning of "volver" or "volverse," not just the typical meaning of "to return something" or "to vomit"), *milonga, marmota, croto, macanudo, guagua, mate, de película, and cachimbo.* With the exception of *croto* and *cachimbo*, all the words listed above were defined.

In addition to the hardbound volume, the CD-ROM version includes a basic dictionary and a dictionary of synonyms, paronyms, antonyms, and homonyms. It is user-friendly. The setup is quick and can free time for reading, translating, or both!

Neither errata nor filler words were found in this dictionary by the reviewer. It fills a definitive need in the translation profession, particularly for those translating into Spanish by virtue of its uniqueness, authenticity, and consummate scholarship. It is highly recommended and well worth the price.

September 1999

Diccionario bilingüe de términos bursátiles (Spanish<>English)

Publisher: Dearborn Financial Publishing, Inc., Chicago

Publication Date: 1999

Price: \$29.95

(526 pp., softbound, clear, easy-to-read type)

ISBN: 0-7391-3006-9

Reviewed by: Marian S. Greenfield

Lookup is convenient, although there is a separate entry for each combination of a single headword (*acción comun, acción con garantía*, etc.). This is warranted, because each entry includes a lengthy, generally accurate, easy-to-understand definition of the term, in Spanish in the Spanish>English section and in English in the English>Spanish section. The definitions in Spanish, however, are apparently simply translations of the English definitions.

This work includes lots of English abbreviations and acronyms. Unfortunately, it does not include any Spanish ones, and merely repeats the English acronyms in the Spanish>English section, stating over and over again “*siglas en inglés de...*”

I didn't find filler words or typos. One blooper I did find is *acción americana de depósito* and *recibo americano de depósito* with a single definition, and both entries had the two translations “American depository receipt” and “American depository share.” These are two different animals and I have always seen them left in English or rendered as *recibo...* or *certificado...* for ADR and *acción...* for ADS. Also, the definition of clearinghouse is not quite right. The English>Spanish section offers *cuenta y/o* as an option for “joint account,” yet I have never seen this in Spanish. On the other hand, “and/or account” is common in English, but not included as an option in the Spanish>English section for *cuenta mancomunada*. Other translations into Spanish and English are reasonably good, although there is no indication whatsoever of the countries where each Spanish term is used. I suspect that this dictionary is heavy on Mexican usage.

I think this dictionary would be particularly useful for English>Spanish translators who specialize in securities and derivatives.

Diccionario bursátil (términos y expresiones de bolsa, economía y finanzas) (English>Spanish)

Authors: Ana López de Puga and Mariana Inés Oriolo

Publisher: Editorial Universidad, Buenos Aires

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN: 950-679-192-9

Price: \$40.50

(469 pp., hardbound, clear, easy-to-read type with more than 2,000 terms)

Reviewed by: Marian S. Greenfield

As with the Dearborn, there is a separate entry for each combination of a single headword (accrued charges, accrued expenses, etc.), but it is warranted, because each entry includes a lengthy, accurate, easy-to-understand definition of the term in Spanish.

There is a substantial appendix with English abbreviations and acronyms, and illustrations of various common financial industry graphs with their English legend.

This dictionary has financial industry terminology unlikely to be found in other bilingual dictionaries, such as “buy-and-write strategy,” “heart bond,” and “teenie.” One very useful feature is that when an English term is commonly used in Spanish despite the existence of a Spanish term, as with “underwriter” and “market maker,” the English term is given in quotation marks after the Spanish term.

I didn't find filler words or typos. Again, there is no indication of the country where a given term is used, but I believe this volume is heavily Argentina-biased.

This dictionary is an excellent resource (and a bargain) for any English>Spanish translator specializing in the securities industry and finance.

Table 1: English to Spanish

Headword	Found in other banking and business dictionaries	Terms found in <i>Diccionario bilingüe de términos bursátiles</i>	Terms found in <i>Diccionario bursátil</i>	Terms found in <i>Diccionario Espasa</i>
arm's length (principle)	x			
Chinese wall	x	x		
Clifford trust			x	
default interest	x			
foreign exchange risk	x		x	
gilt-edged (securities)	x		x	
green shoe (option)	x	x	x	
income bracket	x			x
interim dividend	x		x	x
market maker	x	x	x	x
market order	x	x	x	x
mutual fund	x	x	x	x
Pac Man defense (strategy)	x		x	x
pari passu (clause)	x			
pass-through security (certificate)	x	x	x	
performance indicators	x			
preferred stock	x	x (acción preferente; acción preferencial)	x (acciones preferidas)	x (acción preferente; acción privilegiada)
repo	x	x	x	x
retire/retirement/ retired debt	x		x	x
settlement	x	x	x	x
spin-off	x		x	x
take or pay (contract)	x		x	
takeover bid	x		x	x
tax write-off	x			
trader	x		x	x (cambista; comerciante)
Wages Guarantee Fund	x			
wallflower			x	
white knight	x		x	x (white knight)

Table 2: Spanish to English

Headword	Found in other banking and business dictionaries	Terms found in <i>Diccionario bilingüe de términos bursátiles</i>	Terms found in <i>Diccionario bursátil</i>	Terms found in <i>Diccionario Espasa</i>
a fondo perdido	x			
Alcista	x	x		
base imponible	x	x		x
caja chica	x			x
capital (de) riesgo	x			x
captación (de fondos)	x			x
corretaje clandestino		x		
exigible	x			x
flujo de caja	x	x		x
nivel (general) de precios (price level)	x			x
obligacionista	x			x
pasivo circulante	x	x		x
pliego (de condiciones)	x			x
plusvalía	x			x
producto interno/interior r bruto	x	x		x

Diccionario Espasa (Economía y Negocios – Arthur Andersen)
(Definitions in Spanish, with English equivalent/English>Spanish glossary)

Publisher: Espasa Calpe, S.A., Madrid

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN: 84-239-9421-x

Price: \$39.95

(768 pp., hardbound, clear, easy-to-read typeface with more than 5,000 terms)

Reviewed by: Marian S. Greenfield

Lookup is convenient, although each term has an individual entry, resulting in multiple entries for one term.

Almost no Spanish abbreviations or acronyms are included. For the few that are included, an expansion in Spanish and an abbreviation in English are often provided. There are some English abbreviations and acronyms in the English>Spanish glossary, generally either left as an English abbreviation or sometimes translated into a Spanish abbreviation, but rarely is an expansion provided.

The format of this dictionary baffles me. It seems odd to me that the Spanish terms are defined in Spanish in the Spanish>English section, which is the main focus of the dictionary. It would seem more logical to me that if the focus is on Spanish>English translation, that the definitions would be in English. If the focus is on English>Spanish, then it would seem logical to define terms in Spanish, but to make the main section of the dictionary English>Spanish, rather than Spanish>English.

There are some typos: *abanico salarial* translated as “wage rage” and *bien* translated as “good commodity,” in addition to such outright gaffes as *desintermediación* translated as “securitisation,” “(out-of-court) settlement” translated as *transacción*, “P/E ratio” translated as *PER*, and three separate entries with different definitions for *nómina* “payroll,” including one which seems to define “pay stub” rather than “payroll.” I also am very suspicious of the translation *indiciado* for “indexed.” *Diccionario bursátil’s ajustado* seems much more reasonable. *TIR* is expanded as *tasa interna de rentabilidad*. I believe the two common expansions for this are *tasa interna de retorno* and *tasa interna de rendimiento*.

There is also a fair amount of filler here: two entries for *embalaje* “packaging” and “packing,” *emigrante, fábrica*, and *Dow Jones* in the English>Spanish section is translated as *Dow Jones*.

As we can see from the tables on page 78, in conclusion, I would definitely recommend the *Diccionario bilingüe de términos bursátiles* and the *Diccionario bursátil*, and would only use the *Diccionario Espasa* when I’ve exhausted other resources. Regardless, the first dictionary I reach for is still the Ariel and I recommend the other two to supplement, not replace, the Ariel.

Headwords in all three works are printed in bold, and the two volumes with Spanish>English translations include diacritical marks for Spanish headwords. Only the *Espasa* indicates field.

Tables 1 and 2 on the previous page are the results of an expected-term search. The other banking and business dictionaries consulted are: Alcaraz Varó/Hughes’s *Diccionario de términos económicos, financieros y comerciales* (English<>Spanish), published by Editorial Ariel, S.A., and the LID *Diccionario empresarial Stanford*:

Prices in this review were provided by i.b.d. Ltd. (<http://www.ibdltd.com>), which carries all three dictionaries.

International Dictionary of the Leather and Allied Trades
(Dutch, English, Spanish, Italian, French, Russian)

Author: Freudenberg, Walter
Publisher: Springer-Verlag, New York
Publication Date: 1968
Price: \$18.50

Brief Qualitative Analysis

The sample under scrutiny (608 out
Leather Technical Dictionary
(English, French, Dutch, Italian, Russian, Spanish)

Authors: Otto, G., Ylla-Català, A. and Spiers, C.
Publisher: Darmstadt: Eduard Roether Verlag
Publication Date: 1977
Price: DM 156

AA.VV. Glossario Tecnico della Pelle
(Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese)

Authors: Rescaldina (v. Matteotti 125, 20027 Rescaldina, MI; editma@pn.itnet.it)
Publisher: Casa Editrice
Publication Date: 1998
Price: Lit. 50.000
Reviewed by: Jacopo Madaro

Notwithstanding the current brisk trade and the ancient traditions in the field, the technology of leather has always been underrepresented in the lexicographic domain. A new multilingual glossary has prompted me to revisit and compare the extant literature.

With 5,429 terms, the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Society's (IULTCS) dictionary has, since 1976, been the most authoritative reference at hand. It really never mattered that esteemed authors and publishers could not agree on the title (*Leather Technical Dictionary* and *Dizionario del Cuoio e delle Pelli* on the cover, and *Leather Technical Glossary in Six Languages* and *Dizionario dei termini del cuoio in sei lingue* on the third cover page). The work, spearheaded by C.H. Spiers, is quite robust, especially in view of the offered wealth of its English definitions. Organized in rows with English as the main referent, it includes all aspects of the leather industry and trade, from chemical agents to tools and furs to gloves.

The original pioneering work done by Freudenberg on behalf of The International Council of Tanners (ICT) shows its age. The editions of 1951 and 1968, which are identical, improved the original text (of 1936 vintage) by adding Russian, but was without a major lexical upgrade. The presentation is cumbersome: about 1,200 lemmata are presented in six sections, 31 subsections, and 12 subsubsections, forcing even a German translator (although the main listing is indeed in German) to check the alphabetical indices at the end.

In mid-1998, the Casa Editrice (EDITMA) published *Tecnologie Conciarie—Glossary of Leather Terms*, which focused on tanning and skin preparation. There are no indications of author, year of publication, copyright, internal organization, nor page numbers. Four distinct sections, one per language starting with Italian, present a series of about 2,100 strings each, without headwords. Nevertheless, the equivalent terms are well organized, with the dyads adjective/noun always presented noun first.

Our three references have different breath. Therefore, I will limit their comparison to their common ground, i.e., equipment and tannage (See Table 3).

Brief Qualitative Analysis

The sample under scrutiny (608 out of 8,700 terms, or about seven percent) is sufficient to reveal a few trends, although the different organizational structure tends to hide the true nature of the listings. Freudenberg's work, for instance, is particularly difficult to assess in view of the dramatic internal disparity of its indices. For example, only 14 terms appear under the *Acid* headword, but 50 are listed under *Acido*, due to the author's presentation of strings "as spoken." Conversely, one would think that dyewoods are not considered by EDITMA, simply because *hematein* is listed solo, without any mention of its extraction from logwood.

In general, ITC emphasizes early treatments, as shown by the mention of *acido catechitannico* or *tannic acid obtained from catechu* [sic!] and confirmed by the absence of *chebulinic acid*, *lignosulphonic acid*, and *uronic acid* (included in the other two listings). All three dictionaries mention *preserving agent* and *denaturants*, but only the IULTCS offers a true overview of what's out there, while EDITMA limits its additional efforts to *anti-foaming*, *flocculating*, *neutralizing*, *pathogenic*, and *sequestering agents*.

EDITMA falls short on the vegetable extracts. Of course, *estratto di quebracho* and *chestnut extract* cannot be omitted (none does it), but *barberry extract* (IULTCS, ICT) and the *mimosa extract* (EDITMA only) do not produce the same yellow. To be fair, EDITMA strongly rebounds while dealing with the dyes (some 35 entries under *colori/coloranti* and the rest under *tinte/tinture*), whereas half a century of chemical endeavors is clearly beyond the ITC.

If our visual cravings are now satisfied, we must remember the olfactory price tag. Liming is the oldest treatment of them all, and there is an unpleasant link between tannage and rendering. IULTCS lists *Slaked*, *arsenic*, *straight*, *mellow*, *sulphide*, and *quick limes*. EDITMA includes also *fresh* and *old limes*, but ICT steals the show, adding *slack*, *stale*, *strong*, *unslaked*, *used*, and *white limes*.

EDITMA holds its ground on machinery, including wool and fur treatment equipment (*dewooling*, *fur breaking over*, *fur fleshing*) which is ignored by ICT, whose entries are mostly dedicated to sewing (three out of six). Nevertheless, once more the pennant goes to IULTCS. For instance, it describes *six staking machines* (versus EDITMA's all inclusive *palissone*) covering all existing variations, three *glazing machines* (all listed by EDITMA as well), and five *fleshing machines* (versus EDITMA's two).

Conclusion

The two older references are, sadly, out of print. Otto, Ylla-Català & Spiers' compilation is still THE dictionary in the field and deserves a reprint, which perhaps could bring about the correction of a few existing typos. Nevertheless, the price/content ratio (€1.6/string) of the newest addition is highly favorable. The EDITMA glossary is well represented and easy to use. The lack of page numbers is compensated by a solidly sewn binding, and its diminutive size does not clutter the desk. Furthermore, considering the lack of Portuguese reference material in print (supplemented nowadays by an Internet presence second only to Catalan), the *Glossary of Leather Terms* is invaluable even under that light and is highly recommended.

Table 3: Quantitative Analysis of Selected Elements

	IULTCS	ICT	EDITMA
Acids	22	50	27
Agents	39	2	7
Extracts	15	18	9
Dyes and dyeing (entries)	80	15	57
Liming (entries)	25	35	21
Machinery (entries)	115	6	65

October 1999

Spanish-English Dictionary of Law and Business

Author: Thomas L. West III

Publisher: Atlanta: Protea Publishing

ISBN: 1-883707-37-4

Price: \$75

Sturdily bound hardback, 5" x 8 1/2", 316 pages

Approximately 13,000 entries

Available from: i.b.d. (1-800-343-3531) or directly from the author at his company, Intermark Language Services, toll-free at (1-888-295-7113) or www.intermark-languages.com.

Reviewed by: Sharlee Merner Bradley

Because Tom West's new dictionary is a necessity for all Spanish-to-American English legal translators today, it will no doubt receive much attention within the profession. The following are only the notices that have come to my attention.

- 1.) Review by Karen A. Brovey in *Apuntes*, the newsletter of SpanSig of the New York Circle of Translators, *Primavera/Verano de 1999*, pages 10-11:

"...one of the few bilingual reference materials that inspires confidence among translators of Spanish legal texts. I highly recommend this dictionary to all Spanish-English translators."

- 2.) Author interviewed by Lillian S. Clementi in the *ATA Chronicle* of May 1999, pages 31-34:

"Compiled by an American attorney...[/]translator with support from practicing translators, it provides U.S.—not British—equivalents for hard to find legal and business terms collected from all 20 Spanish-speaking countries."

- 3.) Herewith, a summary review:

Tom West has not just compiled, but actually created a gem of a dictionary designed to fill in the gaps in what is available today. Its purpose is to supplement, not replace, other legal dictionaries, and to cover what the others don't. Since it is not a comprehensive legal dictionary, the following insufficient-by-themselves references are also a must (but go to West first, depending on your level of experience):

Mini Bibliography

1. Guillermo Cabanellas de las Cuevas, and Eleanor C. Hoague. *Butterworth's Spanish/English Legal Dictionary*. Austin, TX: Butterworth Legal Publishers, 1991. ISBN 0-40925-668-4 (U.S., Argentina).
2. Robb, Louis, A. *Diccionario de términos legales esp-ing ing-esp*. 11th printing. Mexico: Editorial Limusa (U.S., Mexico), 1980.
3. *The Oxford Spanish Dictionary*. ed. B. Galimberti, et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-19-864510-4 (General).
4. Orellana, Marina. *Glosario Internacional para el Traductor*. 3rd ed. Santiago de Chile: Ed. Universitaria (U.S., Chile), 1990.
5. Enrique Alcaraz Varó y Brian Hughes. *Diccionario de términos económicos, financieros y comerciales Inglés-Español Spanish-English*. 2nd ed. Barcelona: Editorial Ariel, 1997. ISBN 84-344-0507-5 (U.K., Spain).
6. *Black's Law Dictionary*. Sixth ed. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Co., 1990. ISBN 0-314-76271-X (U.S.).
7. Burton, William, C. *Legal Thesaurus*, 2nd ed. New York: MacMillan. 1992. ISBN 0-020897077-2. (U.S.; Gives word, part of speech, synonyms, associated concepts; includes phrases. Thoroughly indexed.).

8. Garner, Bryan, A. *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage*. New York: Oxford University Press. 1987. ISBN 0-19-504377-4 (U.S.; Keeps you from using the wrong word in the wrong place).

Goodies for the Translator

I would like to call your attention to what Karen Brovey has said:

“West educates the translator (who is usually not an attorney) about the distinctions made in each legal system. Example: *sentence* vs. *sentencia*. ... He [West] provides standard and country-specific terminology labeled for the various Spanish-speaking countries, with special emphasis on Columbia, Peru, and Venezuela.”

In his interview with Lillian Clementi, our latest lexicographer explained his intentions and focus:

“Terms are translated where possible rather than just defined, as is often the case in other bilingual legal dictionaries. ...The dictionary is basically designed for Spanish-to-English translators with a small, very helpful section of English-to-Spanish terms. ...It includes an English equivalent for Latin phrases used in Spanish, but not in English. ...There is a separate list of abbreviations (more to come).”

In the dictionary’s introduction, West explains how he studied commercial codes and monolingual law dictionaries from each country to establish the meaning of recurring terms not found, not translated, or wrongly translated in other dictionaries. Example: attorney-client privilege—*secreto profesional entre el abogado y su cliente*. He has given explanations when needed to clarify meanings and the differences between the two legal systems.

To give you an idea of the assistance obtained from this dictionary for a legal document this reviewer was translating, consider the following experience:

Terms found in West for a Peruvian insurance contract:

1. *documentos que le sirvan de recaudo*— supporting documents
2. *la secuela de juicio* – course of action
3. *usufructuario* – beneficial owner
4. *I.G.V.* – Peru: *impuesto general a las ventas* [general sales tax]

Not found in West or elsewhere:

1. R M P Nro
2. contradecir la acción
3. derecho continental
4. ley marco

In his introduction, West requests corrections (no misprints found; I’m not an attorney and cannot correct the subject matter), additional terms, and suggestions for the next and expanded edition (when enough copies of the first edition are sold).

November/December 1999

Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies

Editors: Mona Baker, editor; Kirsten Malmkjær, assistant editor

Publisher: London & New York: Routledge

Publication Date: 1998.

ISBN: 0-415-09380-5

Price: \$165. Hardcover, 654 pages

Available from: Routledge (<http://www.routledge.com>)

Reviewed by: Dieter Wältermann

“...a pioneering work of reference...”

—*Perspectives on Translation*

Nothing less is this *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* (henceforth referred to as *RETS*). Its pioneering status is unique on several levels. *RETS* is edited by Mona Baker, with the assistance of Kirsten Malmkjær, accompanied by a list of contributing editors which reads like the “Who’s Who” of translation studies (e.g., Nida, Gaddis Rose, Robinson, Fawcett, Hoey, Toury, and Bassnet). But the list of “Who’s Who” doesn’t stop here. It is followed by an impressive list of contributors (more than 90, from more than 30 countries). Among these contributors are, just to name a few: Eco, Hermans, House, Lambert, Radó, Sager, Somers, Venuti, Vermeer, and Wills. As such, the review statement from the *ITI Bulletin* sums up the achievement nicely: “Congratulations should be given to Mona Baker for undertaking such a mammoth task and ...successfully pulling it off. It will certainly be an essential reference book and starting point for anyone interested in translation studies.”

RETS is divided into two major sections (Part I: General, with 291 pages; and Part II: History and Traditions, with 391 pages) and two minor sections (an exhaustive bibliography of 56 pages and a 16-page index). All four parts are ordered “alphabetically for ease of reference” (Routledge advertisement). The uniqueness of *RETS* can be found in the two major sections and, of course, in the extensive bibliography—which was greatly appreciated by the students of an M.A./Ph.D. core course on *Principles of Human Translation* at Carnegie Mellon University.

Part I presents the basics or framework for the newly-defined discipline called translation studies. This framework is unique in that it presents traditional issues (correspondence or equivalence and translatability) as well as newer issues, such as metaphor of translation, gender metaphors in translation, application of model theory to translation study, publishing strategies, dubbing, subtitling, and using large-scale databases (in the form of corpora) in an attempt to research language universals. Thus, Part I focuses on a variety of concepts which make almost exclusive reference to the new discipline. For example, while contrastive analysis can be viewed from various angles (linguistics, second language acquisition/learning, translation), its position within *RETS* is clearly one concentrating on translation. Every entry in Part I is followed by a list of related topics as well as a list of further reading materials dealing with each entry. This alone amounts to an impressive bibliography which will be essential for anyone studying translation studies in any scholarly form.

Part II is just as unique and refreshing, though it does not (and could not) include all traditions and histories of geographical communities. Still, it serves as a valid entry point which attempts to give brief descriptions (or short histories) of various traditions, beginning with the important translators/interpreters for each tradition. While the collections found in Part II are impressive in one respect, they puzzled this reviewer by not giving any information whatsoever on Gothic and its primary creator, Ulfila. Then again, the editors made ample reference to the impossible task of including all cultural and geographical traditions. As part of an encyclopedia on translation studies, these collections were (and are) intended to introduce readers to the various geographical and cultural histories of translation. (For a more complete and detailed work, see, for example, the 1998 three-volume publication from Walter de Gruyter, *Übersetzung – Translation – Traduction*; or the 1995 joint publication from John Benjamins and UNESCO, *Translators Through History*). Given the exhaustive bibliography found in *RETS*, these minor shortcomings are easily compensated. In fact, *RETS* proved to be so popular among the students because of its unique way of introducing translation issues and translation traditions, and because of its bibliography, that it was constantly on loan.

RETS was an extremely useful tool in preparing reviews as well as helping those students who lacked some basic knowledge of certain issues within the framework of translation studies, as well as of certain periods and traditions. The review statement of *The Times Higher Education Supplement* reiterates these impressions: “This excellent volume is to be commended for bringing together some of [its] most recent research. It provides a series of extremely useful short histories, quite unlike anything that can be found elsewhere. University teachers will find it invaluable for preparing seminars and it will be widely used by students.”

CECTU Biotechnology Glossary (English, French, Dutch, Italian, Norwegian, Danish, Spanish, Portuguese, German)*

Publisher: London: Elsevier Publishing Company

Publication Date: 1990

Price: \$243.50

Biologia e Medicina (English-Italian)*

Authors: Delfino, Giovanni, et al.

Publisher: Bologna: Zanichelli

Publication Date: 1990 (CD ROM version: 1998)

Price: Lit. 125.000

Dictionary CHE. 1.3 - Chemical Engineering and Laboratory Equipment (English-Italian)*

Publisher: Widnau (CH):Schnellmann Verlag

Publication Date: 1988

Price: £29.30

Dictionary of Pharmaceutical Science & Techniques (Italian, English, French, Spanish, Danish) (+L*)*

Author: Sliosberg, A.

Publisher: Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company

Publication Date: 1980

Price: Two volumes, \$200 each.

Nuovo Dizionario (English, Italian) delle Scienze Mediche

Authors: Bussi, Luciano; Cognazzo, M. Teresa

Publisher: Turin (c.so Bramante 83-85, 10126): Minerva Medica

Publication Date: 1983, two volumes

Price: Lit 48.000

Dizionario Enciclopedico di Medicina (Italian-English)*

Authors: Chiampo, Luigi; Gould, George (et al.)

Publisher: Bologna:Zanichelli/McGraw-Hill

Publication Date: 1988

Price: Lit 98.000

Dizionario Medico Ragionato (English, Italian)*

Authors: Lucchesi, Mario. Milan (l.go Richini 1)

Publisher: Libreria Cortina

Publication Date: 1987

Price: Lit 150.000

Taber-Dizionario Enciclopedico di Scienze Mediche (English, Italian)*

Editor: Thomas, Clayton

Publisher: Milan (p.za Emilia 5, 20129): McGraw Hill Libri Italia

Publication Date: 1994, two volumes

Price: Lit. 146.000

Reviewed by: Jacopo Madarò

Modern biotechnology is making its mark in several industries, from agriculture to pharmacology, and presents great challenges, especially in terms of sound lexicography. The problem is compounded by the lack of good dictionaries dedicated to lab tools, techniques, and methodologies. To verify this assertion, I have compared a few dictionaries related to chemistry and medicine, focusing my attention on the English-Italian pair.

While I regret the exclusion of *Dorian's Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Medicine* (four volumes, French, Italian, English, Danish, Spanish*; Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company, 1990; \$180 each), which I do not own nor know well enough, I did check the Lucchesi, Chiampo, CECTU, Sliosberg, Taber, Delfino, Schnellman, and Bussi-Cognazzo, benchmarking the terminology found in an insert for a commercial nucleic acid amplification test.

The raw data needs to be weighted to fully depict the true effectiveness of the surveyed references. The lemmata have been chosen according to a double criterion: relevance and difficulty. Items such as **absorbance**, **recombinant**, or **double-stranded DNA** are quite common in the literature, whereas **RNA transcript**, **downstream primer**, or **untranslated region** are more specific/specialized in nature. Therefore, the CECTU percentage of hits (over 44 percent) is more relevant than the same value achieved by both Lucchesi and Taber, because the terms found in CECTU are rarer (and more difficult to translate) than those paired by the other two.

Furthermore, and for the same reason, Lucchesi is more useful than Taber. Conversely, the overall winner, our Delfino, has achieved dominance largely as a byproduct of the search possibilities offered by its medium and interface. The advantages of a text-wide search cannot be easily discounted. The superiority of CD-ROMs versus printed texts is dramatic: The typical handicap of “naturally” organized (i.e., as spoken) strings is no longer a limiting factor, freeing the text from its organizational restraints. The opposite is true as well: Chiampo's distant third place is mostly a consequence of the editor's choice to avoid a headword tree structure, often making inaccessible its wealth of information. Finally, Sliosberg's low score overstates its usefulness, due to attribution as hits of two strings, which are not really included as such.

The sample population is relevant in qualitative terms only, but benchmarking offers a glimpse of the relative importance of the polled dictionaries.

Specialized references performed considerably better than general ones, and the recognized leaders outdistanced the lesser works. For instance, Lucchesi does confirm its overall status as THE dictionary in the medical and related fields. This is not a case with the second best (Bussi-Cognazzo), which shows such a dismal relevance. After all, its strength is in surgical instrumentation only. The linguistic flux of a relatively new technology is clearly demonstrated by the uncertain Italian spelling of **reverse transcriptase**. Additionally, the newness of the material we currently translate is the paramount reason for the almost complete irrelevancy of the oldest texts—Sliosberg (a real score barely superior to five percent) and Schnellman (zero percent).

Only the very best escapes the harshness of aging: Lucchesi (1987) holds its ground in quantitative terms with both Taber (1994) and CECTU (1990). Furthermore, qualitatively speaking, Lucchesi bows only to the two specialized references at hand: CECTU e Delfino.

The significant gap between these two winners is more apparent than real. Only about 1/3 of the total lemmata (5/18) shows a hit overlap. In reality, the two include different pairings, complementing each other.

To corroborate my findings, I have enlarged my search to the relatively large number of available sources listed below. Several medical dictionaries are unspecialized and generic in nature. Even worse, the bulk of their cited references refries the same ancient listing found in Veillon-Nobel (1969) and Dorland (Ambrosiana, Milan, 1970), but which surely predates both, as shown by the larger 1942 recueil by Stedman (Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore). The chemical references are often as dated, although they exhibit greater breath and originality, unfortunately too often limited to inorganic terminology.

In all cases, a cursory review has produced a percentage of hits between zero and five percent. To put it simply, the following dictionaries have little or nothing to say:

Clason, W.E

Dictionary of Chemical Engineering (English, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Dutch*) Vol. I: Chemical Engineering and Laboratory Equipment; Vol. II: Processes and Products Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1978, two volumes, \$155.25 each volume.

Dorian, A. F.

Dictionary of Industrial Chemistry (English, French, Spanish, Italian, Danish, Dutch*) Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1964/xii., \$213.25.

Dorian, A.F.

Dictionary of Chemistry (English, French, Spanish, Italian, Danish*) Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1983, \$176.25.

Graa, Albert

Vocabolarium Pharmaceuticum (Danish, English, French, Italian*) Basel/Stuttgart: Helbing & Lichtenhahn, 1964, \$35.

Besana, Carlo, editor

Dizionario Medico Europeo (Italian, English, Spanish, Danish, French*) Milan: Masson, 1991, Lit. 85.000

Garnier; Delamare

Dizionario dei Termini di Medicina (English-Italian) Bologna (via Ferrarese 119/2): Monduzzi Editore, 1992, Lit. 85.000

Papalia, Lina

Dizionario di Medicina (English-Italian*) Cosenza (v. Caloprese 23, CP 528,87100): Editoriale Bios, 1990, Lit. 26.000.

Petrelli, Maria Laura

Dizionario Medico (English-Italian*) Florence: Casa Editrice Le Lettere, 1992, Lit. 90.000.

Veillon, E.; Nobel, A. ; and Tallone, G.

Dizionario Medico Poliglotta (Italian, English, French, Dutch*) +L Padova: Piccin, 1969/iv., two volumes, Lit 80.000.

Zanussi, Carlo, editor

Dizionario Medico Dompé (English-Italian) Milan: Masson, 1992, Lit. 90.000.

Conclusion

In translating cutting-edge texts, the lack of references (and experience) greatly increases the wordworkers' risk of failure. The best bi/multilingual dictionaries never provide all of the needed answers, and the search has to be extended to other sources. In our case, the current Italian scientific magazines and corporate documentation are often plagued by a servile linguistic perspective, written as they are in a vague Itanglish gramelot, hard on ears, eyes, and literacy. Fortunately, a few monolingual references offer sounder landmarks. Among the texts that I have found relevant, I would like to recommend the following:

Pallacordi, M.; Scola D.

Dizionario di Biologia. Oxford University Press. Sperling & Kupfer: Milan, 1992.

Palmieri, G.

Dizionario immunologico. Momento Medico: Salerno, 1989.

Zanussi, C., editor

Dizionario di immunologia. Masson, Milan, 1987.

Two catalogues could be extremely useful. The first, by Sigma Diagnostics, is titled *Chemistry, Hematology/Cytochemistry, Histology, Coagulation, Flow Cytometry, Immunohistochemistry, EIA, Standards, Controls & Linearity Reagents*, St. Louis (P.O. Box 14508, MO 63178), 1-800-325-3010/Milan (v. Gallarate 154, 20151), 02 33417360. The second is the fabled Carlo Erba's general catalogue. I have hunted it down for almost 20 years, but rumors and alleged sightings aside, it has always escaped my grasp. Do you know a luckier trapper?

English Terms	Italian Equivalent	CECTU				Lucchesi			
		Bussi-	Cognazzo	Chiampo	Delfino	CD version	Sliosberg	Schnellman	Taber
Absorbance	Assorbanza	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Amplification	Amplificazione	Y*	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Antisense primer	Primer antiparallelo or Inziatore antisenso	N	Y [‡]	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cleavage	Dissociazione or Clivaggio	N ^{‡‡‡}	Y	Y	N ^{‡‡‡}	Y	N ^{‡‡‡}	N	Y
Complementary DNA	DNA complementare N	N	N	Y**	Y	Y**	N	N	Y**
DNA polymerase	DNA polimerasi or Polimerasi del DNA	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Double-stranded DNA	DNA a doppio filamento	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Downstream primer	Primer a valle or Inziatore downstream	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Pipettor	Pipettatore	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Recombinant	Ricombinante	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Reverse transcriptase	Trascrittasi inversa	N	Y	Y***	N	Y***	N	N	Y
Reverse transcription	Trascrizione inversa	N	Y ^{‡‡‡‡}	N	Y	Y ^{‡‡‡‡}	N	N	Y ^{‡‡‡‡}
RNA trascript	Trascritto di DNA	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Run-to-run precision	Precisione interserie	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^{◇◇◇}	N	N
Sense primer	Primer parallelo or Inziatore senso	N	N	N	Y ^{‡‡‡‡‡}	N	N	N	N
Untranslated region	Regione non tradotta	N	Y****	N	N	N [◇]	N	N	N [◇]
Upstream primer	Primer a monte or Inziatore upstream	N	N	N	Y	Y ^{◇◇}	N	N	N
Within-run precision	Precisione nella serie	N	N	N	N	N	Y ^{◇◇◇}	N	N
TOTALS	18 lemmata	2 11.1%	8 44.4%	6 33.3%	11 61.1%	8 44.4%	3 16.6%	0 0.0%	8 44.4%

- * The term is correctly translated, but only the following contexts are given: microscopy, acoustics, or electricity.
- ** Present only as *Complementary*.
- *** Given as: **Transcriptasi, Trascrittasi, or Trascrittasi inversa**
- **** Present only as *Translation*.
- ‡ Present only as *Antisense RNA*.
- ‡‡ Given as: **Segmentazione or Scissione**.
- ‡‡‡ Present only as *Transcription*.
- ‡‡‡‡ Present only as *Sense strand*.
- ◇ Present only as *Translation = Traslazione*
- ◇◇ Present only as *Upstream*.
- ◇◇◇ Present only as *Run*.