Diccionarios electrónicos: perspectivas para el siglo XXI

In the last generation, lexicographers and terminologists have put into practice new methods for creating more dynamic lexical resources. This century traditional lexicography has experienced a veritable transformation, thanks to its entry in the digital era. A complete revolution that has been possible because language industries have benefited from NLP tools, corpus linguistics, cognitive science and cross-cultural studies.

Many innovative projects have shed new light on e-lexicography, such as the LEAD dictionary (Paquot 2012), the ARTEs bilingual LSP dictionary (Kübler and Pecman 2012), DiColInfo (L’Homme et al. 2012), Wiktionary (Meyer and Gurevych 2012), WordNet (Fellbaum 2010), FrameNet (Fillmore et al. 2003), DANTE (Atkins et al. 2010) and EcoLexicon (Faber et al. 2014). These lexical resources take advantage of all the design potential offered by electronic tools and innovative theoretical approaches. In addition, significant efforts were made by a wide range of agencies and organisms to produce powerful terminological databases such as IATE in Europe (http://iate.europa.eu) or Le grand dictionnaire terminologique in Canada (http://granddictionnaire.com/).

Evidently, future generations of lexicographers will need to use NLP tools to describe language more accurately, since such resources allow the lexicographer to research and express the real use of language as reflected in large corpora rather than rely on armchair speculations. In this sense, the technical possibilities offered by the digital medium are a source of endless potential.

For instance, since there is a wide variety of profiles that deal with different types of text and knowledge levels (Bowker 2012), tools can now be more easily adapted to different kinds of users with different needs (Bergenholz 2011). Consequently, the information in a lexical resource may vary, depending on whether, for instance, the text that the dictionary user wishes to create will be submitted to a high-impact journal or is intended for popular dissemination of scientific knowledge.

On the other hand, the ergonomic nature of the translator’s ‘workbench’ has also greatly evolved. This is of paramount importance, since some dictionary users (e.g. translators) devote a significant amount of time to acquiring knowledge in order to understand the conceptual architecture of specialized texts.

Finally, the issue does not concern only how to improve existing tools but also how to produce new multifunctional and interactive e-lexicographic tools that would contain general, conceptual and specialized content (Bowker 2012).

With the aim of discussing these various issues, the training course entitled “Diccionarios electrónicos: perspectivas para el siglo XXI” is held as part of the El Escorial Summer School (Universidad Complutense Madrid) during 17-21 July 2017 under the joint organization of LexiCon Research Group (University of Granada) and the Digital Arts Master’s Degree (Complutense University of Madrid), with the sponsorship of Cosnautas, Elhuyar, K Dictionaries and Lexical Computing.

The aim of this summer school is to provide a general overview of new trends in the creation of electronic dictionaries and terminological tools, combined with hands-on sessions where participants can obtain practical experience in dictionary design. Participants will learn about the current protocols, software, and practices in this field of the language industry and will thus acquire some of the necessary skills to use these tools effectively in the development of new dictionaries.

Beatriz Sánchez Cárdenas, grupo de investigación LexiCon, http://lexicon.ugr.es/

Amelia Sanz, grupo de investigación LEETHI, https://ucm.es/leethi

References


