

Lexical Conflict

The first practical study of its kind, *Lexical Conflict* presents a taxonomy of cross-linguistic lexical differences, with thorough discussion of zero equivalence, multiple equivalence, and partial equivalence across languages. Illustrated with numerous examples taken from over 100 world languages, this work is an exhaustive exploration of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural differences, and presents guidelines and solutions for the lexicographic treatment of these differences. The text combines theoretical and applied linguistic perspectives to create an essential guide for students, researchers, and practitioners in linguistics, anthropology, cross-cultural psychology, translation, interpretation, and international marketing.

DANKO ŠIPKA is a professor of Slavic languages and applied linguistics at Arizona State University, where he teaches Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Polish, and Slavic linguistics in the School of International Letters and Cultures.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-11615-3 - Lexical Conflict: Theory and Practice

Danko Šipka

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-11615-3 - Lexical Conflict: Theory and Practice
Danko Šipka
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Lexical Conflict

Theory and Practice

Danko Šipka



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-11615-3 - Lexical Conflict: Theory and Practice
 Danko Šipka
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107116153

© Danko Šipka 2015

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2015

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Šipka, Danko, author.

Lexical conflict : theory and practice / Danko Šipka.

pages cm

ISBN 978-1-107-11615-3 (hardback)

1. Lexicology – Psychological aspects 2. Lexicology – Cross-cultural studies.
 3. Creativity (Linguistics) – Cross-cultural studies. 4. Anthropological
 linguistics – Cross-cultural studies. 5. Psycholinguistics – Cross-cultural
 studies. I. Title.

P326.5.P75S56 2015

401'.9–dc23

2015015125

ISBN 978-1-107-11615-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
I Toward a Taxonomy of Cross-Linguistic Lexical Differences	11
2 Lexical anisomorphism in linguistic and philosophical approaches	13
2.1 Older Western intellectual history	13
2.2 Ordinary language philosophy	18
2.3 Cross-cultural linguistics	19
2.4 Meaning–text theory and systematic lexicography	25
2.5 Contrastive linguistics and linguistic typology	26
2.6 Traditional European lexicology	29
2.7 Metalexicography (including computational metalexicography)	32
2.8 Theory of translation and interpretation	38
2.9 Second language acquisition research	42
2.10 Summary	46
3 Cases of lexical anisomorphism	47
3.1 Introduction	47
3.2 Zero equivalence	52
3.3 Multiple equivalence	69
3.4 Partial equivalence	99
3.5 Relative frequency of CLA types	141
4 A taxonomy of cross-linguistic lexical differences	146
4.1 Piecing it together	146
4.2 CLA and other forms of cross-linguistic anisomorphism	153
4.3 CLA and natural semantic metalanguage (NSM) theory	156

vi	Contents	
II	Lexicographical Considerations	165
5	Introduction	167
6	Zero equivalence	172
6.1	Legitimate strategies	173
6.2	Divergences	178
7	Multiple equivalence	181
7.1	Legitimate strategies	181
7.2	Divergences	189
8	Partial equivalence	198
8.1	Legitimate strategies	198
8.2	Divergences	204
9	Lexical anisomorphism in machine-readable dictionaries	208
10	Lexicographic considerations: summary	216
11	Outlook	218
	<i>References</i>	221
	<i>Index</i>	242

Figures

3.1	Language data points	<i>page 49</i>
3.2	Isomorphism of source-language and target-language polysemic lexemes	52
3.3	The three types of cross-linguistic lexical anisomorphism	52
3.4	Types of zero equivalence	56
3.5	The number of words borrowed by English from Slavic languages by subject matter fields	58
3.6	Multiple equivalence distinguishing criteria	70
3.7	Temperature scales in Polish and Serbo-Croatian	78
3.8	Types of partial equivalence	100
3.9	Relative frequency of the three types of CLA in three European dictionary comparisons	143
3.10	Relative frequency of the three types of CLA in two Australian dictionary comparisons	145
4.1	A taxonomy of CLA	147
7.1	Strategies addressing multiple equivalence used by Clari and Back (2000)	188
7.2	Strategies addressing multiple equivalence used by Marr (2000)	189
9.1	Compromise MRD LMF schema	211
9.2	Exemplification of the compromise MRD LMF schema	212
9.3	Zero equivalence in the MRD LMF schema	213
9.4	Multiple equivalence in the MRD LMF schema	213
9.5	Partial equivalence in the MRD LMF schema	214

Tables

2.1	Bilingual word sketch for <i>house/maison</i>	<i>page</i> 37
3.1	Semantic extensions in colloquial Serbo-Croatian	90
3.2	Monochronic and polychronic cultures	95
3.3	Serbo-Croatian into English categories	96
3.4	English into Serbo-Croatian categories	96
3.5	Croatian and Ukrainian month names	136
3.6	Relative frequency of the three types of CLA in three European dictionary comparisons	142
3.7	Relative frequency of the three types of CLA in two Australian dictionary comparisons	144
7.1	Multiple equivalence in Serbian–English and English–Serbian dictionaries	187
7.2	Sample of the analyzed pages	188
7.3	Strategies addressing multiple equivalence used by Clari and Back (2000) and Marr (2000)	188

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which provided a short research grant for the material-gathering work for this book in Munich, Germany, in February, March, and April 2011. Hans-Jörg Schmid was my host for this research stay. I am most grateful to Wolfgang Falkner for his support during this stay, and also for his numerous useful comments on the first draft of this manuscript.

A further research stay was enabled by the Australian National University in Canberra, which granted me visiting researcher status in August and September 2014. Anna Wierzbicka was the academic sponsor of this stay. Research funding from Arizona State University's Melikian Center provided partial support of my research stay in Australia.

I am also grateful to Radovan Lučić, who organized my lecture on lexical anisomorphism at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in April 2011.

Various colleagues, most notably Xia Zhang, provided valuable feedback after the following presentations and conference papers: "Cross-linguistic lexical differences: theory and solutions," University of Amsterdam, Linguistic Department, April 2011; "Cross-linguistic lexical differences: lexicographic considerations," AECOM Language Research Center, November 2012; "Cross-linguistic lexical differences: theory and practical considerations," international linguistics lecture at Arizona State University's School of International Letters and Cultures, February 2013; "Cross-linguistic lexical differences: second language teaching implications," sixteenth national conference of the Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages, in April 2013; "Zero equivalence: theory and treatment," invited talk at "Applied linguistics" colloquium, Arizona State University, School of English, September 2013; and "Cross-linguistic lexical differences," invited talk series at University of Belgrade, Serbia, Belgrade Book Fair, and School of Law and Public Administration in Novi Sad, Serbia, October 2014.

I am most indebted to Wayles Browne, of Cornell University, who provided numerous astute comments on various points in the manuscript. Credit is also due to R. David Zorc, of Wheaton, Maryland, who provided several important

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-11615-3 - Lexical Conflict: Theory and Practice

Danko Šipka

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x Acknowledgements

examples. The following people from AECOM's Language Research Center (in Hyattsville, Maryland) provided support, comments, and examples: Tom Creamer, who at the time served as the director of the Language Research Center, made various bilingual dictionaries available in electronic format for my research; Aung Kyaw Oo, who prepared these dictionaries; and Laura Shepherd, who provided Kurdish examples and comments. I am also indebted to the following people who provided their feedback on the manuscript: Jane Simpson brought several important publications to my attention; Lupcho Spasovski provided numerous spot-on linguistic comments throughout the text; Nikola Dobrić offered several valuable comments on an earlier draft of the manuscript; Amanda Z. Weaver provided comments on several portions of the text and edited my non-native English; Arleta Adamska-Sałaciak provided some general comments about the text; Anna Epifanova rendered several Russian examples as a part of her coursework at Arizona State University; and Olja Šipka edited some portions of the manuscript.

I would like to thank Helen Barton, whose visit to Arizona State University in 2010 and whose solicitation of manuscripts initiated my work on this book. Her support for my project was steadfast throughout the entire process. I am also grateful to Bethany Gaunt, for her help in preparing the manuscript, Jonathan Ratcliffe, who was the production editor, and Mike Richardson, who copy-edited the manuscript.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the colleagues, professors and students alike, at the following institutions, whom I interviewed about lexical anisomorphism: Defense Language Institute, National School of Cryptography, Arizona State University, Australian National University, University of Amsterdam, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, University of Belgrade, Catholic University of Louvain, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Maryland, University of Klagenfurt, and Adam Mickiewicz University. The number of people with whom I interacted and from whom I got some kind of feedback is simply too large for me to name them all.

I am equally indebted to the following people, who have never seen the manuscript of this book, but who have shaped my academic career in the following temporal order: Milan Šipka, Darinka Gortan-Premk, Ladislav Zgusta, Leonhard Lipka, and Janusz Reykowski.

Last but not least, I am most grateful to my wife, Ljiljana, for her support throughout this project.

Abbreviations

*	hypothetical example (placed in front of the example)
...	deleted section of an example of a quotation (e.g., pronunciation in a dictionary entry)
A	answer
CA	cross-linguistic anisomorphism
CLA	cross-linguistic lexical anisomorphism
D.Š.	Danko Šipka
Eng.	English
e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> ; for example
i.e.	<i>id est</i> ; in other words
KJB	Authorized Version or King James Bible
L1	first language
L2	second language
MRD	machine-readable dictionary
MT	machine translation
NLP	natural language processing
NSM	natural semantic metalanguage
lit.	literally
p	page
pl	plural
pp	pages
Q	question
sg	singular
SL	source language
s.v.	<i>sub voce</i> ; under the specified word
TL	target language
usu.	usually
viz.	<i>videlicet</i> ; namely, in other words