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978-0-521-88180-7 - A Handbook of Lexicography: The Theory and Practice of Dictionary-Making

Bo Svensén

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## | A Handbook of Lexicography

This book provides a systematic survey of the theory and methods of dictionary-making (including the linguistic background): what types of dictionary there are, how different kinds of information are dealt with when compiling dictionaries, how this information is presented to users, and how dictionaries are actually used. It refers throughout to both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, giving a full account of the writing of definitions as well as of the selection and presentation of equivalents. The treatment of other types of information provided in dictionaries – such as pronunciation, inflection, constructions, collocations and idioms – is described systematically in individual chapters. The book also discusses dictionary structure, illustrations, the collection and selection of material, the management of dictionary projects, law and ethics in lexicographic work, and dictionary criticism. As well as looking at print lexicography, the author discusses the role of the Web, electronic corpora, electronic dictionaries, and compilation software used in dictionary-making. This is an important and practical guide to contemporary lexicography, designed for lexicographers, language students and teachers, translators and academics.

**Bo Svensén** is a lexicographer, terminologist and philologist. He has worked as an editor for various academic publishers and is the author of *Practical Lexicography* (1993).

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## Preface

This book has two aims: to give a systematic survey of the subject of lexicography (including the linguistic background), and to provide a guide to lexicographic methods. It is addressed to readers of several kinds: lexicographers and those intending to be lexicographers; non-lexicographers temporarily occupied with work on dictionaries and glossaries; language students at the more advanced levels; language teachers; translators; and general readers with an interest in language. Unlike the majority of similar books published in English, it deals with most aspects of the subject, the most noticeable difference being that it refers throughout to both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries.

The book is a translation of the original Swedish version, published in 2004. For the English edition, the text has been brought up to date at several points, and some oversights have been corrected. A few short sections specifically related to Swedish matters, and also most bibliographical references to works in Scandinavian languages, have been excluded.

The principal change from the Swedish edition is, however, in the examples, the majority of which have had to be altered, for obvious reasons. In monolingual examples, Swedish has usually been replaced by English, in some cases by German or French; in the bilingual ones, the user's native language is mostly English, the foreign language being either German or French.

Several persons contributed to making the original Swedish version a better book than it would have been without their assistance. First and foremost among these, I wish to mention Professor Sven-Göran Malmgren (of Göteborg University), who perused and commented on the whole book in manuscript; his patience, profound knowledge and constructive criticism have been invaluable.

In preparing the English edition, I have benefited from the expertise of various persons. Valuable advice on certain matters regarding English lexicographic terminology was offered by Professor Arne Olofsson (of Göteborg University), to whom I would like to express my sincere gratitude. Special thanks are due to Mr John Åkermark, who patiently checked my English throughout the whole translation process, and to Mr Mathias Thiel (of the dictionary staff of Norstedts Akademiska Förlag), who read and commented on certain parts of the translation. Naturally, the responsibility for remaining shortcomings is entirely mine.

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Bo Svensén  
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