LEXICOGRAPHIC INCONSISTENCY IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF MAJOR DICTIONARY/GROOT WOORDEBOEK.
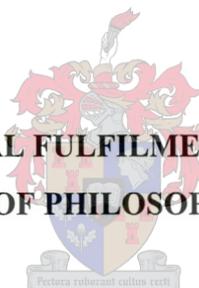
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"THESIS PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH."

PROF R H GOUWS

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ii.

"*DECLARATION*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the work contained in this thesis is my own original work and that I have not previously in its entirety or in part submitted it at any university for a degree.

iii.

ABSTRACT

Bilingual dictionaries should have a decoding as well as an encoding function. Decoding dictionaries want to assist the user in interpreting the language, while encoding dictionaries want to help the user with the usage of the language. The present role of a bilingual or translation dictionary has to change from that of supplying only translation equivalents to one of supplying a more comprehensive data presentation. This should also include additional semantic and pragmatic information.

The main aim of a bilingual dictionary should not only be the establishment of a relation of semantic equivalence between source and target language, but also reaching communicative equivalence in the process. This means that the user must be able to find the applicable equivalent of the source language item in the target language.

One of the best ways for a lexicographer to test the communicative aptness of a given translation equivalent, is by means of the reversibility principle. It means that lexical item A, included as translation equivalent of lemma B in the X-section of a bidirectional translation dictionary, has to be included as a lemma in the Y-section of the dictionary with at least the lexical item B, the relevant lemma from the X-section, as one of its translation equivalents. Each lexical item included as a translation equivalent in the Y-section has to be included as the lemma in the X-section of the dictionary with at least the respective lemma from the Y-section as a translation equivalent.

This thesis tries to show how, if not adhered to the above principles, an inferior product can be the result of many hours of painstaking work. The main problematic areas are inter alia those of labels, spelling inconsistencies and an absence of translation equivalents. However, some of the less obvious problematic areas are also touched upon.

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OPSOMMING

Tweetalige woordeboeke behoort 'n dekoderende sowel as 'n enkoderende funksie te hê. Dekoderende woordeboeke moet die gebruiker help om die taal te interpreteer, terwyl enkoderende woordeboeke die gebruiker moet help met die gebruik van 'n woodeboek. Die huidige rol van 'n tweetalige of vertalende woordeboek moet verander van een wat slegs vertalingsekwivalente verskaf, na een met meer omvattende data. 'n Tweetalige woordeboek behoort nie slegs die gebruiker van vertalingsekwivalente te voorsien nie, maar behoort ook addisionele semantiese en pragmatiese inligting in te sluit.

Een van die beste maniere vir 'n leksikograaf om die kommunikatiewe geskiktheid van 'n gegewe vertalingsekwivalent te toets, is deur middel van die omkeerbaarheidsbeginsel. Hiermee word bedoel dat leksikale item A, wat ingesluit is as 'n vertalingsekwivalent van lemma B in the X-seksie van 'n tweerigtingwoordeboek, ook ingesluit moet word as 'n lemma in die Y-seksie van die woordeboek met ten minste the leksikale item B, die relevante lemma van die X-seksie, as een van sy vertalingsekwivalente.

Hierdie tesis gaan aandui hoe, wanneer daar nie aan hierdie vereistes voldoen word nie, 'n minderwaardige produk die resultaat is van baie ure se harde werk. Die hoofareas onder bespreking is onder meer etikette, spellingonreëlmatighede en die afwesigheid van vertalingsekwivalente. Daar word egter ook aandag geskenk aan probleme wat nie op so 'n groot skaal voor kom nie.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

If the lexicographers can answer the question 'What is the role of a bilingual dictionary?' we would be close to the ideal bilingual dictionary. After many decades of dictionary making, lexicographers still do not know exactly what should be in a bilingual dictionary, and what not.

Gouws (1992:38) is of the opinion that bilingual (translation) dictionaries should have a decoding as well as an encoding function. Decoding dictionaries want to assist the user in interpreting the language, and encoding dictionaries want to help the user with the usage of the language. The information in a dictionary must be presented in such a way as to fulfil both these functions.

The role of a bilingual or translation dictionary has to change from that of supplying only translation equivalents to one of supplying a more comprehensive data presentation. This means that it no longer suffices to give a list of words and expect the target language user to be able to pick the correct one with no help available. Most of the translation dictionaries around are nothing more than glorified word lists. The lemma in the source language is supplied with a few translation equivalents, one of which should be the best option for the user, but which one?

This brings us to our initial question. Why do we have bilingual dictionaries? First of all, a user consults this type of dictionary when he/she has a problem with the choice of a target language item to substitute a source language item in a given context. Therefore, the dictionary has to provide translation equivalents for the source language items. Secondly, it should not only provide these equivalents, but also help the user in choosing the correct one for his/her need.

This means that the lexicographer has to include more than just the translation equivalents to choose from. If the translation equivalents represent different polysemous senses of the

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lemma, translation complements (in the source language) or distinctive explanations in the target language should be included.

When one looks at the co-ordination of source and target language items in bilingual dictionaries, one finds a lack of conformity. What appears on the one side, does not always appear on the other side. This refers to the reversibility principle, which is dealt with in Chapter 3. When does a user consult the other target language side (i.e. the English/Afrikaans side) of a bilingual dictionary? When he/she is unsure of the meaning of a word or the translation equivalent found on e.g. the Afrikaans/English side; that is when the translation equivalent does not supply enough information to satisfy the user's need. All the given items provided in the target language are looked up in their occurrence as source language items in the other alphabetical component of the dictionary, to find a better definition or something more concrete to substantiate his/her choice. The thought, therefore, does come to mind if it would not be better to compile a more comprehensive bilingual dictionary, with added information in the same vein as that of the monolingual dictionaries. The added information could be in the form of real lexical units of the target language. It would be of enormous help to a user: instead of having to use two dictionaries, he/she can find all the information in one, with the added advantage of a more comprehensive find.

A bilingual dictionary consists of a central list, which is made up of two secondary central lists - alternating the source and target language. The art lies in a balanced treatment of the two secondary lists. The lack of a balanced treatment is the topic of this thesis, and I hope to show how lexicographic inconsistencies could be the bind of the unsuspecting user.

The dictionary under scrutiny is the Major Dictionary/Groot Woordeboek, 1997, published by Pharos.

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CHAPTER 2

COMMUNICATIVE EQUIVALENCE

The main aim of a bilingual dictionary should not only be the establishment of a relation of semantic equivalence between source and target language, but also reaching communicative equivalence in the process. Communicative equivalence means that the user must be able to find the applicable equivalent of the source language item in the target language, which is no mean feat.

A bilingual dictionary should not only supply a user with translation equivalents, but should also include additional semantic and pragmatic information. Lexical items have to be presented as elements of an active lexicon. Gouws (1989:140) says that on a semantic level lexical items do not only occur in isolation. Each lexical item has semantic relations with one or more other items from the lexicon. The lexicon, therefore, displays a network of semantic relations, and the dictionary has to give an account of a lexical item's participation in this network. It can be done by focussing on the semantic relations holding between a lemma and other members of the lexicon.

According to Zgusta (1987:1) a dictionary should not offer explanatory paraphrases or definitions, but real lexical units of the target language that, when inserted into the context, produce a smooth translation.

The question does exist whether cultural differences need to be considered in the lexicographic treatment. The major problem confronting the lexicographer when treating these entries is that of zero equivalence. I am of the opinion that, where culturally bound items appear on a regular basis in the spoken and written language, they should be included as lemmata, as their inclusion would only serve to enrich a user. Their treatment, however, should display a proper presentation of data, including, where necessary, a definiens. An example of a word which has cultural connotations, is **driebeenpot/driepootpot**. It does not appear in this dictionary, depriving the user of something integral in informal cooking, across the race spectrum.

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Potjiekos does appear, but its meaning paraphrase does not pour any light on the subject.

(1)   **potjie,** small pot; potjie(kos); ...; **~kos**, potjie(kos), potjie food; ...

A better treatment of the above would look like the following:

> **potjie,** small pot; potjie (meat and vegetable dish, cooked together); ...; **~kos,** potjie(kos), potjie food; ...

In example 1, the second translation equivalent **potjie(kos)**, needs a translation complement to explain its meaning. The translation complement will shed more light on **potjie(kos)** and **potjie food**.

2.1 EQUIVALENT RELATIONS

When a user makes use of a dictionary for translation purposes, he/she wants to obtain a target language form for a given source language form. This means that whatever he/she has in the source language, he/she expects from the target language. A lexicographer knows that it is not always possible to marry the two ideals, but the user does not know that. His/her aim in using the dictionary is to find the elusive lexical item that would best convey his/her meaning and intent.

If, for instance, the English speaking user comes across the word **naywer** in a sentence, but does not know from the context what its exact meaning is, the following entries could help him/her:

(2)   **naywer,** envy, jealousy; rivalry; emulation

He/she could look up all the translation equivalents to get the gist of the meaning in the specific sentence. However, to be able to use the word **naywer** in a sentence, a user must know the exact context restrictions.

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The majority of articles in a bilingual dictionary contain more than one translation equivalent, and although each of these translation equivalents could be used in a specific context to translate the lemma, one will hardly ever find that any one of these translation equivalents has exactly the same meaning as the lemma. They are all context bound, and also language specific, and could not all be used in the same sentence.

If one takes the following example,

(3)   **onderwerp 1,** (s), subject, topic, argument, point, matter, theme.

it seems as if one can use the translation equivalents in the same context, as they all seem to be part of one synonym paradigm. But can one say?:

Modern Art is the subject of my discussion.
Modern Art is the topic of my discussion.
Modern Art is the argument of my discussion.*
Modern Art is the point of my discussion.*
Modern Art is the matter of my discussion*
Modern Art is the theme of my discussion.

The problem with lemmata representing a lexical item with very fine semantic distinctions, is that the user, when confronted with translation equivalents and nothing else, has difficulty in choosing the right equivalent for the right context. As with example (2), it seems that certain translation equivalents only apply to certain senses of the lemma, although they seem to be synonyms of the other members of the translation equivalent paradigm.

If the lexicographers supply the user with certain information regarding one member of a specific topic, they should follow suit with all the members belonging to that topic/subject/theme. A good example is the translation equivalents regarding religion or church affiliation for the three Afrikaans sister churches, 'die Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk', 'die Gereformeerde Kerk' and 'die Hervormde Kerk':

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(4)   **Nederduits,** ...; ~ *(e) GEREFORMEERDE Kerk*, Dutch Reformed Church.
No lemma sign **Dutch Reformed Church**.

(5)   **Gereformeerd 2,** ...; ~ *e Kerk,* Reformed (Dopper) Church.
reform, ...; ~ **ed,** hervormd, gereformeerd; *R ~ed Church*, Hervormde Kerk, Gereformeerde Kerk; ...

(6)   **hervorm,** ...; *die H ~de Kerk,* the Hervormde Kerk.
Same as (5).

Firstly, there is no English lemma to represent the translation equivalent of **Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk**. Secondly, the colloquial form 'Dopper' has been given the same status as the official name of the **Gereformeerde Kerk**. Thirdly, **Reformed Church**, as multiword unit, has **Hervormde Kerk** and **Gereformeerde Kerk** as translation equivalents. **Hervormde Kerk** has retained its Afrikaans name as translation equivalent with the multiword unit **Hervormde Kerk**. This is an example where the loan word was used as surrogate equivalent.

This does not, however, conclude the topic. There are more entries regarding the above. We find

(7)   **Dopper,** Dopper; **~agtig,** like a Dopper, conservative.
Dopper, Dopper.

(8)   **Dopperkerk,** Dopper Church.
No lemma sign **Dopper Church**.

(9)   **gatjie,** ...; **~ponder,** ...; nickname for member of the N.G. Church; ...

(10)   **Boerekerk,** Dutch Reformed Church.

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(11)   **verenig,** ...; *V~de KERK, (hist.)*, Dutch Reformed Church.

In this dictionary, the colloquial term for a **Dopper** has achieved standard variety status. The colloquial name for a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, **gatjieponder,** however, is still just that. A new addition is the use of 'N.G. Church', without any reference or entry status in the rest of the dictionary, and with an alternative translation equivalent already in place. How will a non-Afrikaans speaking user be able to distinguish between all these? Somewhere, the lexicographers should have made an effort to add an explanation for the sake of the users.

There are more examples illustrating the same problem. When we look at the representation of the rugby teams of the different nations, we find a discrepancy in the way they are presented:

(12)   **spring,** ...; **S~bok,** Springbok *(sport)*; ...; **S~bokrugby(span),** Springbok rugby (team);
       No main lemma sign **Springbok.**

(13)   **Bok 4,** Springbok rugby player; Bok; Springbok player (at various sports).
       Boks, Bokke, Springbokke *(rugby).*

(14)   **Hane, die,** the Tricolour, French (International) Rugby Team; the French.
       tricolour, ...; **T~, the,** die Hane, Franse internasionale rugbyspan; ...

(15)   **Poemas:** *die ~,* the Pumas (Argentine Rugby team).
       No lemma sign **Pumas.**

(16)   **Brit,** ...; *~se Leeus,* British Lions, British Rugby Team; ...
       British, ...; **~ Lions,** Britse Leeus, Britse rugbyspan.

(17)   **Kiwi,** Kiwi, Nieu-Seelander; lid van Nieu-Seelandse sportspan.

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Kiwi, kiwi, Kiwi, New Zealander; ...

(18)   **Wallabies,** Wallabies, Australian sports team *(rugby, cr.).*
           Wallabies, Wallabies, Australiese rugbyspan.

The above six examples are all treated differently. Sometimes the collective proper name, given as a lemma sign, is accompanied by 'die' or 'the' (**die Hane/the Tricolour)**, and sometimes the collective proper name stands on its own (**Poemas:** *die ~*). Instead of using it as a translation equivalent, **Argentine Rugby team** is presented as a translation complement. In another case all the translation equivalents used in the translation equivalent paradigm have the first letter of each word in upper case (**British Lions, British Rugby Team**). The **Kiwis** are only mentioned as a general sports team, and the **Wallabies** have the same problem, but are furnished with two labels *(rugby, cr.)* to indicate that it could be the rugby and cricket teams. The **Kiwis** should have a special mention (as in the case of the **Springbok)** of the fact that the name could represent the rugby team. The **All Blacks** do not appear at all. It could have been an entry in both the Afrikaans-English and the English-Afrikaans sections. The **Springboks** are **Boks** when presented as English lemma, but **Bok** and **Springbokke** when they appear as Afrikaans lemmata.

More examples can be added to the list of discrepancies. Looking at the way in which words referring to the different dogs and their breeds have been presented, one wonders about the development of the lexicographers' sense of lexicographical detail and refinement. These words referring to breeds were stumbled upon quite by accident, and one thing lead to another. In the end it was imperative to find as many anomalies as possible. Compare:

(19)   **boxer,** ...; ...; Boxer(hond); ...
           No lemma sign **Boxer(hond)**.

(20)   **boer 2,** ...; ~**boel,** bull mastiff; ...
           bull: ...; ~ **mastiff,** kettingbul(hond), bulbyter.

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> **mastiff,** slagtershond, bulbyter.
>
> **bulbyter,** bulldog, mastiff.
>
> **slagters:** ...; **~hond,** mastiff.
>
> No lemma sign **kettingbul(hond)**.

Why does a lexicographer supply a translation equivalent but does not add it as lemma in the Afrikaans-English section of the dictionary?

Example (20) has quite a few irregularities. The translation equivalents **bulldog** and **mastiff** both refer to the lemma **bulbyter**, but a **bulldog** is a different breed from a **mastiff**. The other problem is the irregular use of **bull mastiff/mastiff.** Surely, if the name was interchangeable, the lexicographers could have used **(bull)** as a facultative partial lemma component preceding **mastiff.** It is also difficult to swallow the name **kettingbul**; the component **(hond)** should be a compulsory part of the lemma sign.

(21)   **bull:** ...; **~dog,** Bulhond, boelhond; ...

       bul: ...; **~hond,** bulldog.

       No lemma sign **boelhond.**

It should be noted that there are two different types of Bulldog - an English bulldog and a French bulldog.

(22)   **dachshund,** worshondjie, dachshund.

       dachshund, dachshund.

       dassie 2, ...; **~hond,** basset; dachshund; badger-dog;

       wors, ...; **W~hond(jie),** Dachshund; ...

       basset, **~-hound,** Basset, Franse dashond.

       badger, ...;**~ dog,** dashond.

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Example (22) has quite a few problematic entries. First of all one finds the irregular use of upper and lower case, as in **Dachshund/dachshund**. The next problem is the omission of **Basset** as the translation equivalent of **basset**, and its inclusion as translation equivalent of **basset-hound**. **Basset-hound** has as translation equivalent **Franse dashond**. There is also the fact that the translation equivalent of **badger dog/badger-dog** (which is correct?) is **dashond**, but the Afrikaans lemma is **dassiehond**.

(23)   **chow 1,** Chinese keeshond.

         kees, ...; **K~hond,** Dutch barge-dog.

         No lemma sign **Dutch barge-dog/barge-dog**.

Example (23) poses a problem in the sense that two different translation equivalents are furnished, but they do not refer to the same thing. **Chow=Chinese keeshond**, but **Keeshond=Dutch barge-dog**. If **keeshond** is a polysemous word, then it would be a good idea to furnish each breed with a scientific name.

(24)   **Dalmatia,** ...; **~n,** ...; Dalmatiese hond; ...
         Dalmaties, Dalmatian.

In (24) no mention is made of a dog with the translation equivalent **Dalmaties**, a severe oversight on the part of the lexicographers.

(25)   **Deen, (Dene),** ...; ...; *~se hond,* Great Dane.
         Dane, ...; ...; Deense hond; *Great ~,* Deense hond; ...

Example (25) almost got it right. The only problem is that the translation equivalent **Dane** should have been added in the article of the lemma **Deen**, to match the English-Afrikaans version.

(26)   **Foxterrier,** fox terrier.

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fox, ...; **~-terrier,** terrierhond, Foksterrier; ...

terrier, terrier.

Example (26) is also a good example, except for not adding the optional component **-hond** to the lemma **terrier,** or otherwise, had it as a translation complement **(hond)** with **terrierhond,** and an optional component with **terrier**.

(27)   **griffon,** Griffon (soort hond).

No lemma sign **Griffon**.

The above example has a different translation complement in that it has 'soort' added to it. There is also no Afrikaans lemma for **griffon/Griffon**.

(28)   **mopshondjie,** pug(-dog), mops.

Mops, Mopshond(jie).

pug 3, Mopshond(jie).

Example (28) is a good one, except that the two translation equivalents **Mopshond(jie)** differ from the lemma **mopshondjie,** with regard to the diminutive suffix **(jie),** which is in brackets, and the capital letter **M**.

(29)   **Pomerania,** ...; **~n,** ...; *~n dog,* Pommerhond, Spitshond.

spits: ...; **S~hond,** Spitz, Pomeranian; ...

No lemma sign **pommerhond**.

No lemma sign **Spitz**.

Example (29) offers two different translation equivalents for **Pomeranian dog,** of which only **spitshond** appears as lemma sign. The translation equivalents **Pommerhond** and **Spitz** are not included as lemma signs. Here, obviously, no thought was given to the reversibility principle (see Chapter 3).

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(30) **Rhodesia,** ...; **~n,** ...; *~n ridgeback (dog)*, Leeuhond, Pronkrughond, Rifrughond.

rifrughond, (Rhodesian) Ridgeback (dog).

ridge, ...; **~back,** Rifrug(hond), Pronkrug; ...

No lemma sign **Leeuhond**.

pronk, ...; **p~rughond,** Rhodesian ridgeback (dog); ...

A problem with regard to the translation equivalents given in example (30) is the inconsistent use of the upper and the lower case. The user will have difficulty in sorting out why **Rifrughond** is written with a capital but **ridgeback (dog)** is not, and why the translation equivalent **Pronkrughond** is in capitals but the lemma **pronkrughond** is not. Another problem is that sometimes a translation equivalent has an optional component, i.e. **-(hond)** which forms part of the proper name **Rifrughond**. The English translation equivalents have four different interpretations - **Ridgeback, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rhodesian Ridgeback dog** and **Ridgeback dog**. This is indeed confusing.

(31) **wolf,** ...; **w~hond,** wolf-hound, Alsatian, German shepherd (dog); ...

Alsatian, ...; Wolfhond; ...

No lemma sign **German shepherd (dog)**.

wolf, ...; **~-dog, ~-hound,** wolfhond.

Concerning example (31), a user will really have a hard time looking for the above-mentioned dog name, as there is no lemma sign **German shepherd.** The fact that the German shepherd is one of the most common dogs found in the country, is implicitly overlooked.

There is no uniformity in the presentation of the above examples, and that is what is lacking throughout the dictionary. Neither the lemmatic entries nor their translation equivalents are uniformly presented. The dictionary is also inconsistent with regard to the use of the upper and lower case, and the inclusion of translation complements. There is an imbalance in the relation of semantic equivalence between the source and target language. Communicative equivalence means, after all, an equivalence in communication.

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CHAPTER 3

THE REVERSIBILITY PRINCIPLE

One of the best ways for a lexicographer to test the communicative aptness of a given translation equivalent, is by means of the reversibility principle. It means that lexical item A, included as translation equivalent of lemma B in the X-section of a bidirectional translation dictionary, has to be included as a lemma in the Y-section of the dictionary with at least the lexical item B, the relevant lemma from the X-section, as one of its translation equivalents. Each lexical item included as a translation equivalent in the Y-section, has to be included as lemma in the X-section of the dictionary with at least the respective lemma from the Y-section as a translation equivalent.

The reversibility principle touches on just about all aspects of a dictionary, whether it has to do with labels or lexical gaps. Whichever lexical item is found on the one side of the dictionary, as either lemma sign or translation equivalent, should be included in the other side in the opposite function. The same applies to labels. If a lexical item is furnished with a label on the one side, it should have a label on the other side as well. Diminutives should be treated the same way. However, we often find that lexicographers disregard this principle. This dictionary teems with mistakes due to the lexicographers' lax approach where this is concerned. A user not only uses this dictionary for the correct spelling of a word, but primarily to find a translation equivalent for a specific word. Clever users will go backwards and forwards in this dictionary to find the optimum word, first from the target language side and then from the source language side. Sooner or later they are bound to find a gap, which would convince them that the dictionary is incomplete, and would cause them to look for another dictionary.

The following are a few examples where the translation equivalents of the Afrikaans lemmata do not appear in the English-Afrikaans section as lemmata:

(32)   **aterosklerose,** athereosclerosis.

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(33) **amniosentese,** amniocentesis.

(34) **bafaro,** stonefish, *Polyprion prognathus.*

(35) **caleche,** calash.

(36) **Carbonari,** Carbonari (Italian police).

(37) **Carraramarmer,** Carrara (marble).

(38) **Loofhuttefees,** Feast of the Tabernacles.

(39) **boxer(hond)** : as translation equivalent to **boxer**.

Concerning example (34), it should be noted that the translation equivalent **athereosclerosis** also appears as translation equivalent of **slagaarverkalking.** With example (34), the scientific name has not been put in brackets, as has been done throughout the dictionary. It has been treated like a synonym in the translation equivalent paradigm.

Lexical items appearing as lemmata in the English-Afrikaans section, but without a reciprocal appearance of their translation equivalents as lemmata in the Afrikaans-English section, include the following:

(40) **clinograph,** klinograaf.

(41) **femme fatale,** femme fatale, gevaarlik aantreklike vrou.

(42) **G-man,** Amerikaanse speurder.

(43) **IOU,** skuldbewys, ESU.

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(44)   **cruller,** kruller.

(45)   **pebble finish,** spoelklipafwerking.

(46)   **barre,** barre (ballet).

(47)   **phlebarrhage,** aarbreuk.

(48)   **fun bike,** pretfiets.

In Chapter 2, quite a few examples appear where the reversibility principle is not followed through regarding the inclusion of translation equivalents as lemmata. Compare examples (3), (7), (11), (14), (18), (19), (20), (22), (26), (29), etc.

It is unfortunate that one can pinpoint so many obvious omissions in a dictionary. What is more unfortunate in this case, is the number of English lexical items given as translation equivalents but not as lemmata. The lexicographers did their editing in a slipshod manner, which reflects poorly on their professionalism.

CHAPTER 4

LABELS

Labels represent a form of verbal communication, which plays an important role in the dictionary article. They indicate the suitability or not of a certain lemma in a given communication situation, and have to ensure communicative success. Gouws (1988:7) says that the main function of labels is to convey information regarding the occurrence of a lexical item or some other entry in the article outside the dictionary. Labels can also be aimed at microstructural elements of the dictionary. Labels also have a lexicographic deictic value, as they pinpoint the relation between a lemma and a broader communicative situation, by putting the lemma in a specific field. Where examples offer the implicit transfer of information, labels offer an explicit and immediate transfer of information (Gouws, 1989:201).

The cryptic nature of labels could cause problems for the user if the dictionary does not supply a good explanation with regard to the value of each label. The user should be made aware of the use of each label, and that is the explicit responsibility of the lexicographers. The information should be contained in the front matter, under its own heading and with explanations regarding each label. A word used as a label, has the status of terminology, and as such belongs to the metalanguage of the dictionary (Gouws, 1988:11).

If a lemma is supplied with a label, that lexical item should be supplied with one in its occurrence in the translation equivalent paradigm. An area which would benefit from the addition of labels, is that of loan words. Often the word in the source language is just as obscure as its translation equivalent, and the user has to guess as to which discipline it belongs to. An example is

(49)   **meliliet,** melilite

        melilite, meliliet

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The user will have to make use of an explanatory dictionary to be able to establish the meaning of these items.

In this dictionary a variety of labels is used, but there is no explanation as to their use. The labels are mentioned in the front matter, under 'English Editorial Abbreviations' and 'Afrikaanse Redaksionele Afkortings', and are abbreviated and printed in italics. Scientific, zoological and botanical names are written in full and also printed in italics. Other labels, which could be, or not, actual translation complements, are written in full. It is up to the user to work out the where, what and how of their use.

If one looks at the following two examples

(50)   **klip,** ... ; **~-op-die-hand,** five-stone (game); ...

(51)   **klots,** ... ; kiss *(billiards)*; ...

the translation complement **(game)** and the label *(billiards)* are addressed to the translation equivalent preceding them, but nowhere in the front matter will the user find an explanation, as to the difference in using a translation complement and/or a label. That is why front matter is essential to a dictionary.

There are four main categories of labelling, i.e. temporal, technical, geographical and stylistic.

4.1 Temporal Labels

Temporal labels inform the user about words that differ from the standard language due to the fact that they are chronolectically marked (Gouws, 1988:15). Temporal labels are used to inform on words which have a time limit; that is, words which have a limited use in the modern idiom. As a result, they are seen as old-fashioned, as the speakers of those words are typically of an older generation.

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This dictionary uses the labels *(arg.)* - 'argaisme' - and *(ong.)* - 'ongewoon' -, as well as *(vero.)* -'verouderd' - and *(w.g.)* - 'weinig gebruiklik' - with the Afrikaans and *(arch.)* - archaic - and *(obs.)* - obsolete - with the English source language lemmata. It does seem strange that there are four labels for Afrikaans lemmata and only two for English lemmata. 'Archaic' refers to those words that are not used in the standard language, and 'verouderd' to those with little proof of present use. If a situation or object to which a word refers is obsolete, it does not mean that the word is obsolete. It is of interest to note that *(hist.)* for 'historical' can also fit in with the above, even regarding happenings as recent as ten years ago. As can be seen from example (52), the lexicographers have used 'obsolete' as translation equivalent for 'verouderd'.

The question does arise whether Afrikaans lemmata marked *(ong.)* and *(w.g.)* should not be headed under one label, as there are two others already. If a word is used so seldom to be labelled *(ong.)* and *(w.g.),* it may just as well be grouped under the *(vero.)* fold.

Two examples where the reversibility principle is followed, are

(52)   **cleek,** *(obs.)*, klik (gholf).

       klik, *(vero.),* cleek (golf).

(53)   **Kersmis,** *(ong.)*, Christmas.

       Christmas, Kersfees, Krismis *(geselst,)*, Kersmis *(ong.)*; ...

In example (52), however, neither the translation equivalent in the English-Afrikaans section or that in the Afrikaans-English section was furnished with a temporal label. Is the translation equivalent also subject to the limitations set by the labels? Hausmann (1997:178) says that addressing should always be to the left. A translation equivalent falls outside the scope of the label that furnishes the lemma, and therefore needs its own label.

In example (53) the problem occurring in (52) has been correctly addressed.

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It did not work for

(54) **certes,** *(arch.)*, ongetwyfeld, seker.

Here, the translation equivalents do not have **certes** as a translation equivalent when they appear as lemmata.

The following are more examples furnished with temporal labels:

(55) **teerkos,** *(ong.)*, provisions (for a journey)

(56) **horologe,** *(arch.),* uurwerk.
    uurwerk, timepiece, clock, watch; ...

(57) **hale 1,** *(arch),* (v) hys; sleep, sleur; trek.
    hys, wind, hoist; heave; lift.
    sleep, retinue, train; tow (ship); ...
    sleur, habit, humdrum way, rut, rote, drudgery, routine; ...
    trek , (w) pull, draw, haul; attract (crowd); cash (cheque); infuse; slur (note); hale (forcibly with a rope e.g.); be draughty; ...

Concerning example (55), the lexicographers could have referred the user to **padkos**, because the definiens of **padkos** is provisions (food) for a journey'.

Example (56) is problematic in the sense that **horologe** does not appear as translation equivalent in the translation equivalent paradigm of **uurwerk**. If it did, it should have had a label *(arg.)* to indicate its temporal status.

In example (57) only one lexical item, **trek**, has **hale** as translation equivalent, but without the label *(arch)*. The user still does not know whether the lexical item is archaic, or

not, because the label appears only with regard to the lexical item's occurrence as lemma.

(58)   **leergraag,** *(w.g.),* studious.

         studious, fluks, ywerig, vlytig, leergraag, leergierig, studieus; ...

In example (58) the translation equivalent **leergraag** is not furnished with the label, as is the case with the lemma **leergraag**.

Lexical items which have a low usage frequency could still be important to a certain group of speakers. Gouws (1988:26) says that when a lexical item has a low usage frequency, due to the fact that it dates from an early era, the lexicographers have to supply both a temporal label and a stylistic or technical label.

This dictionary has quite a few examples:

(59)   **Sap 1,** *(vero., hist.),* S(outh) A(frican) P(arty) man (member).

         No lemma sign **Sap/SAP/S(outh) A(frican) P(arty)**.

(60)   **verenig,** (b) **(-de)**, ...; *V ~de PARTY, (hist.)*, United party; ...

(61)   **Nat,** Nationalist.

         Natte = Nat.

         Nationalist, Nasionalis, Nat(te).

         Nasionalis, Nationalist.

If we look at example (60), which is in essence the name of the party the Sappe belonged to, we find no label or translation complement to indicate the connection. Example (61) also has no label or translation complement to indicate its political connotations.

(62)   **sig,** *(vero. ong.),* himself, herself, itself, oneself, themselves.

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himself, hom, homself, sig(self); ...

herself, haarself; syself; ...

itself, self; jouself; homself; sigselwers *(geselst.)*; ...; *IN* ~, op sigself, op sigselwers *(geselst.)*; ...

oneself, homself, haarself, jouself; sig(self), sigselwers *(geselst.)*; ...

themselves, hul(le)self; hul(le); hulle self; ...

Example (62) does have **sig** as translation equivalents in three instances, albeit in a variant form, **sig(self)** and **sigselwers**. **Sig(self)** is not furnished with a label, but **sigselwers** is, *(geselst.)*, which is not what the lemma **sig** has. As translation equivalent of **himself** and **oneself**, **sig** has been furnished with the optional component **(self)**, but as translation equivalent of **itself**, the lexical item **sigself** has been used, where the optional component **(self)** has combined with **sig**, to form the combined word **sigself**.

Other examples include:

(63) **Suidwes, Suidwes-Afrika,** *(hist.)*, Namibia.
No lemma sign **Namibia**.

(64) **Suidwester,** *(hist.)*, South Wester, person from South West Africa, Namibian.
south, ...; **S~West,** Suidwes; ...; **S~-West African,** *(hist.)* Suidwester; ~-**wester,** suidwester; reenhoed, suidwester; ...; **S~-westerner,** Suidwester; ...

(65) **Rhodesië,** *(hist.)*, Rhodesia.
Rhodesia, *(hist.)*, Rhodesië

The above three examples contain a few discrepancies. The lemmata **Suidwes, Suidwes-Afrika** in example (63) have as translation equivalent **Namibia**, when it should have been **South West** or **South West Africa**. There is no lemma sign **Namibia**. Then, in example (64), one finds **South Wester** as translation equivalent for **Suidwester**, as well as the

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definition **person from South West Africa**, and another translation equivalent **Namibian**. (The translation equivalents **south-wester** and **South westerner** are confusing, as the first-mentioned could be a name for a type of wind. Capital letters should be used and a translation complement as well.) This is not a bad translation equivalent paradigm, and it could have been used with success with example (63) as well as with (64). In example (65) the old proper name is still used, even though **Rhodesia** became **Zimbabwe** more than twenty years ago.

A better article would have been

> **Suidwes, Suidwes-Afrika,** *(hist.)*, South West Africa, now Namibia.
>
> **Rhodesië,** *(hist.)*, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

4.2 Technical Labels

Technical labels do not only refer to technical and/or academic matters per se, but to all other restricted disciplines, i.e. sport, hobbies, etc. They play an important role in dictionary articles where polysemic senses of a lemma as well as the specific technical use occur. These labels are aimed at the user who is a lay person and not an authority with regard to a specific discipline. Should he/she want to improve his/her knowledge, he/she would consult a comprehensive dictionary, or one dealing with a specific topic.

In this dictionary, Afrikaans labels include e.g. *(argeol.)* for 'argeologie', *(chem.)* for 'chemie', *(fot.)* for 'fotografie', etc. English labels include e.g. *(cr.)* for 'cricket', *(mus.)* for 'music', *(needlew.)* for 'needlework', etc.

The following is a good example of the application of the reversibility principle:

(66)   **kolhou,** *(gholf),* hole-in-one.

      hole-in-one, kolhou *(gholf)*; ...

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as the lexical item **kolhou** has been furnished with a label in the Afrikaans-English section as well as in the English-Afrikaans section. But the English lemma should also have been furnished with a label, as **hole-in-one** is a term used in gholf only.

The next example

(67)   **onderkas,** lower case *(printing)*.
        lower case, onderkas.

is not so successful, as the Afrikaans translation equivalent and the English lemma are not furnished with a label.

The following example is furnished with two translation complements, and not labels:

(68)   **braille(skrif),** braille (writing) (for the blind).
        braille, braille(skrif), blindeskrif.

This dictionary is not very consistent in its use of technical labels. What follows is but a sample of the inconsistence with which these labels are presented.

4.2.1 Botanical Labels

With regard to botanical matter, for instance, the dictionary makes use of labels consisting of botanical names, i.e. *(Rumex)* or a translation complement like (plant), (vegetable), etc., but there are also entries without labels, or in the worst instance, the lexical item only appears on one side of the dictionary.

The following example shows the Afrikaans translation equivalent without a botanical label:

(69)   **jamboes,** rose-apple *(Eugenia jambos)*.
        rose-apple, jamboes.

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The examples below have a different problem:

(70) **jakopregop,** zinnia (flower).

        zinnia, jakopregop, besoetjie.

        besoetjie, zinnia.

        bizzeuxtjie, zinnia.

Here, the translation equivalents of **zinnia** and **besoetjie** have not been furnished with the translation complement (flower), and no cross-referencing is made between **jakopregop, besoetjie** and **bizzeuxtjie**. Although the convention is not to mark source language synonyms, it would make the learning process for the user much easier if it was done. The lexicographer could have referred the user from the reference position **bizzeuxtjie** and **jakopregop** to the reference address **besoetjie** by means of the reference marker 'see'. Or he/she could have used the marker '=' to indicate the synonymity between **jakopregop, bizzeuxtjie** and **besoetjie**: **jakopregop = bizzeuxtjie = besoetjie**. Reference should then be to the source language item with the highest usage frequency.

The next problematic example is

(71) **agretjie,** mayflower *(Tritonia scillaris); Spiraea prunifolia;* aigrette.

        May: ...: **m~flower,** meidoring, meiblom; ...

        aigrette, egret(reier), kuifreier; kuif; pluim.

        egret, egret, wit reier *(Ardeidae)*; saadpluim.

The Afrikaans lemma **agretjie** is furnished with a translation equivalent as well as the botanical name. It is obviously a polysemous word, because another botanical name is supplied, as well as another translation equivalent. When we look up **mayflower**, the first translation equivalent, as a lemma, no mention is made of the Afrikaans source lemma or either of the botanical names. Instead, two new items appear as translation equivalents. When we look up the second translation equivalent of **agretjie** (which is **aigrette**), we find

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that the first two Afrikaans translation equivalents are near synonyms, and refer to a bird. The third translation equivalent represents a different polysemic sense of the lemma, and refers to something that could belong to a bird, and the fourth refers to something that is similar to the third (a 'kuif') but which could also mean a certain kind of shrub. This shrub could (or not) be the *Spirea prunifolia.* The fourth lemma **egret** also represents different polysemous senses of the lemma; the first is a bird and the second is a plant. And the user is at a loss!

The two lemmata **aigrette** and **egret** obviously refer to the same things, i.e. a certain kind of bird and a certain kind of plant. Looking at the entries, however, one would not think so. First of all, the lemmata have different spellings, without referring the user to the fact that there are two different spellings. Secondly, the names of the birds they refer to, also differ. And thirdly, the names of the plants they refer to are also not the same. If **aigrette = egret**, then **kuifreier = witreier**, and **pluim= saadpluim**.

If a user is not familiar with the following

(72)   **rosemary,** roosmaryn.

         roosmaryn, rosemary.

he/she will not know what this is. He/she will make an even bigger mistake if he/she tries to link the lemma **roos** with **roosmaryn**, and **rose** with **rosemary**. Examples like the above leave the impression that the lexicographers relied on the general knowledge and intuition of their user in automatically knowing what **rosemary** is. A lexicographer should never take it for granted that, in lemmatizing a seemingly straight-forward word like the one above, a user would know what it is. By furnishing a lemma with a botanical label, a lexicographer compliments the user in assuming that the user would be advanced enough to would want to know the botanical name as well. In the end, the lexicographer gets complimented as well for his/her forward-thinking ideas.

Another example of lexicographic inconsistency, is

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(73)   **basil 1,** basiel(kruid); *holy* ~, heilige basiel(kruid), muskietplant; *sweet* ~, soet
            basiel(kruid); *Transvaal* ~, Transvaalse basiel(kruid).
            basiel(kruid), basil; *HEILIGE* ~, holy basil, mosquito plant *(Ocimum sanctum)*;
            SOET ~, sweet basil *(Ocimum basilicum)*; *TRANSVAALSE* ~, Transvaal basil
            (Ocimum canum).

where only the translation equivalents of the lemma **basiel(kruid),** are furnished with
botanical labels.

The two botanical examples below do not even appear in the Afrikaans side of the dictionary,
so the possibility exists that they won't be planted in the user's garden!:

(74)   **godetia,** godetia.

(75)   **gloxinia,** gloxinia.

The following example does not have a translation equivalent, and is an example of a lexical
gap:

(76)   **kammiebos,** *Cliffortia strobilifera.*

It would have been a better idea if the lexicographers had used the Afrikaans lexical item as
translation equivalent, together with the botanical name.

With regard to the following examples

(77)   **afrikanertjie,** ornamental plant *(Tageus erecat).*

(78)   **koenie,** shrub *(Rhus mucronata).*

(79)   **klaaslouwbossie,** weed *(Athanasia trifurcata).*

27.

the translation equivalents appearing with the above are also not right. What a user will get when enquiring about an ornamental plant or a shrub at a nursery will be totally different from enquiring about *Tageus erecat* and *Rhus mucronata*! And nobody will plant *Athanasia trifurcata*!

The following example

(80)   **koek(e)makranka,** *Gethyllis spiralis,* kukumakranka.

        kukumakranka, koekemakranka

also shows some discrepancies. Firstly, the botanical name appears before the translation equivalent with the Afrikaans lemma. And secondly, the translation equivalent in the English-Afrikaans section is not furnished with the botanical name. Finally, although this has nothing to do with the reversibility principle, but more with lexicographic inconsistency, the bracketed **(e)** appearing in **koek(e)makranka** has been taken for granted when it appears as the Afrikaans translation equivalent.

The following is another example of haphazard entries:

(81)   **klematis,** clematis (flower)

        clematis, lemoenklimop, diewekruid, hegbosdruif, clematis.

The lexicographers added a translation complement with the translation equivalent **clematis,** but omitted the complement (blom) from the Afrikaans translation equivalents. On the English/Afrikaans side **clematis/klematis** should have been included as variants in the translation equivalent paradigm.

The following example is quite interesting:

(82)   **Kniphofia,** red-hot poker *(Aloides).*

        red-hot poker, vuurpyl.

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vuurpyl, ...; red-hot poker (flower).

Instead of furnishing the translation equivalents with the botanical name, the lexicographers use the botanical name as a lemma sign. There is also another botanical label *(Aloides)* added to the lemma to indicate a different species of **Kniphofia**. The translation equivalent of the lemma **red-hot poker** does not have a label. The inconsistencies continue with the translation equivalent of the lemma **vuurpyl** being furnished with a translation complement, but not a botanical label. The lexicographers should have added labels and translation complements to all the lemmata.

The following is an interesting example, due to the difference in labels:

(83)   **ghoena,** sour fig *(Carpobrotus).*

       sour fig, suurvy; ghoena *(Carpobrotus).*

       suurvy, sour fig *(Mesembryanthemum spp.).*

       Hottentot 2, ...; ~'s **fig,** ghoena, perdevy *(Carpobrotus).*

In the second example of (83), the semi-colon indicates the lexical item represented by the lemma sign as a polysemous entry, but should it not have been better to furnish the first translation equivalent also with its botanical name, in this case *Mesembryanthemum spp.* to minimize confusion?

In cases where there is no known translation equivalent, it would be best to use the source language name, together with the botanical name, in cases where it is applicable. In that way nobody would make a mistake. Although it would definitely call for more work, would it not be better to furnish all trees, plants and flowers with their botanical names? It would make life easier for the user, and much more interesting, as not all books on botanical and gardening matters use the colloquial names of plants and trees.

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4.2.2 Labels indicating Hobbies

Depending on the seriousness of the situation, the following examples can either fall under the term 'hobby' or 'occupation'. Because horoscopes occur in just about all daily newspapers and most of the magazines on sale nowadays, I thought it would be an interesting exercise to find out how this dictionary treats items from this semantic field. The names of the twelve star signs (or zodiac signs) are universal, and in Afrikaans magazines and dailies one finds the translated names.

Everybody knows about them, however, not everybody reads them, so a label to indicate that they are indeed a certain kind of terminology, is needed.

In the following paragraphs it will be shown how haphazardly these signs are presented. To make it easier to follow, I will start with the English lemmata, followed by the Afrikaans lemmata, and then conclude with a summary of the inconsistencies. The signs are presented in their chronological order, and not alphabetically, with the English lemmata followed by their Afrikaans counterparts below.

(84) **Capricorn,** die Steenbok; ...

    steenbok, steenbok (small antelope); *die S~,* Capricorn(us); ...

(85) **Aquarius,** Aquarius, die Waterdraer *(sterrek).*

    Waterdraer 1, Aquarius, the Waterman.

(86) **Pisces,** die Visse (sterrebeeld).

    vis, fish; *DIE V~se,* Pisces; ...

(87) No lemma sign **Aries.**

    ram 1, ram: *die Ram,* Aries.

(88) **Taurus,** die Stier (Bul), Taurus (diereriem).

bul 2, bull; thumper, whopper, corker: *die B~ (Stier)*, Taurus.

Bull 2, Stier *(sterrek.)*.

stier, bull; *die S~*, Taurus, the Bull; ...

(89) **Gemini,** die Tweeling, Gemini.

tweeling, twin; *DIE Tweeling*, Gemini.

(90) No lemma sign **Cancer.**

geen **kreef.**

crab, krap; kreef; ... ; *the C~,* die Kreef *(sterrek.)*.

krap 1, crab; *Die K~*, Cancer.

(91) **Leo,** (die) Leeu (sterrebeeld).

leeu, lion; *DIE Leeu,* Leo; ...

lion, ... ; *L~*, die Leeu, Leo (diereriem); ...

(92) **Virgo,** die Maagd (sterrebeeld).

Maagd: *DIE ~*, Virgo; ...

(93) **Libra 1,** Libra, die Weegskaal (sterrebeeld).

weegskaal, balance, (pair of) scales; *DIE W~skaal,* Libra *(astr.)*; ...

(94) **Scorpio,** die Skerpioen.

skerpioen, scorpion: *die S~*, Scorpio(n); ...

(95) **Sagittarius,** Sagittarius, Boogskutter.

boog: ... ; *~skutter,* archer; toxophilite; *die B~skutter,* Sagittarius; ...

archer, boogskutter; *the A~,* Sagittarius, die Boogskutter *(sterrek.)*.; ...

As can be seen from the above, there are many irregularities that need to be addressed. The

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first, and most important with regard to this document, is the use of the labels. Some of the Afrikaans translation equivalents are furnished with a label, in italics and abbreviated - *(sterrek.)* - and two translation complements in normal script, and written out in full - (sterrebeeld) and (diereriem). The first one *(sterrek.)* appears in the front matter, under 'Afrikaanse Redaksionele Afkortings'.

Only one of the English translation equivalents is furnished with the label *(astr.)* which appears under 'English Editorial Abbreviations'. Notably absent is the use of translation complements like 'zodiac' and 'astrology', as with the Afrikaans translation equivalents. Here, the lexicographers failed to apply the reversibility principle.

In order to be able to distinguish between the Afrikaans lexical items used as labels or translation complements, one has to look them up and note the differences, or similarities. It is a time consuming task, which no doubt, a user also has to follow should he/she want to know the answer. The result is the following:

(96)   **sterrekunde,** astronomy; uranology.

(97)   **sterrebeeld,** constellation,

(98)   **diereriem,** zodiac.

The above do not shed a lot of new light on the problem, so the best to do, is to consult a explanatory dictionary. The problem is that items belonging to the same category, should have the same treatment, with the same labels and translation complements.

The next problem concerns the absence of, and the use of capital versus lower case print for 'die', i.e. **die Maagd**. Two aspects need to be addressed, however. Is it necessary for 'die' to appear with the translation equivalent? If not, why does it appear in certain instances, and if it is necessary, why does it not appear with all translation equivalents? If 'die' is to be added as part of the translation equivalent, it should appear in all cases, i.e. **die Boogskutter,**

die Libra, instead of **Boogskutter, Libra**. 'Die' should not be added as additional component '(die)' as in **(die) Leeu**. If 'die' is seen as part of an example, it should also appear with all examples. It simply is a matter of consistency. If the lexicographers start out using 'die', they should follow through. The same rule should be followed with regard to the printing. If they want to use lower case printing, then stay with it. The above examples serve to highlight the case of lexicographic inconsistencies.

The third problem is the way in which some Afrikaans translation equivalents, i.e. 'die Ram' and ' die S~' for 'Skerpioen', are presented. Sometimes the equivalent is spelled in full, like 'die Ram' and sometimes it is presented as a collocation, eg. 'die S~' for 'Skerpioen'. There should be consistency with regard to the full or the condensed form.

Another problem is the inconsistent use of a label with the Afrikaans translation equivalents, i.e. **die Steenbok** does not have a label, but **die Waterdraer** *(sterrek.)* is furnished with a label. However, some of the English translation equivalents also lack labels, i.e. **Taurus** and **Cancer**. If a user has to go through all the Zodiac signs, in Afrikaans and/or English, the pattern of the translation equivalent paradigm must look the same.

The next problem is the omission of **Aries** and **Cancer** from the central list as lemmata. It is an irresponsible oversight from the lexicographers. Something to link up with this, is the duplication of zodiac signs under the English and Afrikaans versions of their names and not their Latin names, e.g. **Bull**. It is fair to include them, should they be used as such, but then the lexicographers could use a reference marker to link them to their scientific names, and treat all of them the same way.

Another problem to be dealt with is the uncertainty whether **Cancer** is 'krap' or 'kreef'. The Afrikaans translations in the newspapers and magazines all have it as **Kreef** and not **Krap**. If **Krap** is the preferred form appearing in the data basis, one wonders about the age of the data basis and whether it had been updated recently.

A problem which will be dealt later on its own, is the inclusion of numerical markers and how

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that concerns the reversibility principle. Quite a number of the above lemmata are furnished with numerical markers, but none of their translation equivalents has any.

The next problem concerns other entries:

(99)   **Lyra,** die Lier (sterrebeeld).

(100)   **Ara ,** Ara, die Altaar *(sterrek.)*.

(101)   **Wolf,** Lupus, *(astr.)*.

There are no **Lyra**, **Ara**, or **Wolf** zodiac signs. The above should rather be put under (sterrebeeld) or *(sterrek.)*. The lexicographers should make use of a more comprehensive list with regard to labels or translation complements.

4.3 Geographical Labels

Geographical labels deal with the use of language according to geographical occurrence, and incorporate dialectic differences. Gouws (1988:30) says when a dictionary makes use of labels like *(dial.)* - 'dialect' - and *(gew.)* - 'gewestelik' -, the examples included in the article, should complement the labels. These labels do not have to be used for marking lemmata only, it can also have a non-lemmatic address.

An example is

(102)   gesê: *jou nie laat ~ (geseg) nie, (gew.)*, not to listen to reason, be intractable.

In this dictionary, geographical labels are indicated with the country of origin, i.e. *(It.)* or with the labels *(dial.)* with the English lemmata, and *(gew.)* with the Afrikaans lemmata. Translation complements that can be seen as acting like etymological labels have also been included in this section, i.e. (Spanish).

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Looking at geographical labels, the discrepancy with regard to the treatment of labels, continues. The lexicographers did not apply the reversibility rule with discipline at all. The following are a few examples of geographical mishaps.

4.3.1 The use and non-use of Labels and Translation complements marking Items that are indicating Types of Dance

(103   **fandango,** fandango, (Spanish) dance.

fandango, fandango (Spaanse dans).

(104)   **csardas, czardas,** csardas, czardas, Hongaarse dans.

No lemma sign **csardas/czardas.**

The two examples could not have been more unlike. In example (103), where the target language is English, the second translation equivalent is **dance** with (Spanish) added as an optional part of the equivalent. Thus, **fandango** has as synonym the item **dance**, or **Spanish dance**, which is not acceptable at all. In the Afrikaans translation equivalent paradigm, the item (Spaanse dans) serves as a translation complement of the translation equivalent **fandango**. What seems to be a faulty placement of brackets in the Afrikaans-English section, has given a total different meaning to the target language presentation.

With regard to example (104), we find another type of problem. Here the Afrikaans translation equivalent is added as a third synonym, with the geographical origin as part of the translation equivalent. However, it is also not correct, as it leaves the user with the idea that a **czardas** is the only type of Hungarian dance. The lexicographer should have put it in brackets, as a translation complement, as seen in the Afrikaans translation paradigm of **fandango**, or he/she could have added **(tipe Hongaarse dans)**. The reversibility principle has also not been adhered to, as there are no Afrikaans lemmata **csardas/czardas.**

In the following example, still on the dance theme, there is no label at all to indicate what the

lemma could mean, or where it originated:

(105) **masurka,** mazurka.

        mazurka, masurka.

Compare the following examples:

(106) **bourree,** bourree.

        bourree, bourree (dans).

(107) **gavotte,** gavotte *(dans, mus.)*.

        gavotte, gavotte.

The Afrikaans translation equivalent has a translation complement in (106) to indicate it is a dance form, but nothing is added to the English translation equivalent. It also does not indicate which country it originates from. In example (107) there are two labels with the Afrikaans translation equivalent to indicate it is a dance form, but also a musical term. Nothing, however, was added to the English translation equivalent.

The next example will cause a lot of confusion. Apart from the fact that there is no indication that it is a dance form, or that is has no label to indicate where it is from, it is a polysemous lemma.

(108) **polonaise,** polonaise.

        polonys, polonaise.

        polonaise, polonaise; polonys (japon).

The fact that **polonaise** has a translation complement (or a semantic gloss) to clarify the meaning of its second polysemous sense in the translation paradigm, brings about the realisation that there is a difference between the two Afrikaans equivalents, **polonaise** and

polonys. It is clear from looking at the three examples, **polonaise, polonys** and **polonaise**, grouped together, what the meaning of the example **polonys** is. But looking at them individually, it shows that a label with the lemma **polonys** would have been of tremendous help to clear up any misunderstanding.

The problem could have been avoided if the following was added:

> **polonys** (japon), polonaise.

The inclusion of 'japon' points to a lemmatic addressing, and has a sense discriminating function.

4.3.2 The use and non-use of Labels marking Items that are indicating Food

Another area where the geographical labels are used haphazardly, is when marking items that refer to international food. The only way one learns about international food, is by experiencing and reading about it. One automatically learns its proper name as well, not the dialectical or common name given to the dish by the locals. Should one read through cookery manuals, one finds that the internationally known dishes always stick to the same recipe and the same name, to be able to be recognized wherever they are served. In this dictionary they are presented with labels, without labels and some do not appear at all.

(109)　**bouillabaisse,** *(F.)*, bouillabaisse, visbredie, vissop.

　　　No lemma sign **bouillabaisse**.

　　　No lemma sign **visbredie**.

　　　vis: ...; **~sop,** fish soup.

　　　fish: ...; **~-soup,** vissop; ...

In this example, two out of the three items given as translation equivalents in the English-Afrikaans section, do not appear as lemmata in the Afrikaans-English section. The lemma **vissop** has as translation equivalent **fish soup**, and not **bouillabaisse**. **Visbredie** and **vissop**

are two very different entities, but appear in the same synonym paradigm.

(110) **coq au vin,** *(F.)*, coq au vin, hoender in wyn gaargemaak.

No lemma sign **coq au vin**.

Concerning example (110), the translation equivalents also do not make an appearance as lemmata. It would have been better to have **hoender in wyn gaargemaak** in brackets as a translation complement.

The following examples do not have labels, which is a pity:

(111) **mousaka,** moesaka.

mousaka, mous(s)aka

(112) **goulash,** ghoelasj, vleisbredie.

ghoelasj, goulash.

vleis, ...; **~bredie,** goulash; ...

(113) **pilaf,** pilaff, pilau.

pilaff, pilaf.

pilau, pilaw = pilaff

In example (111) it seems that the left hand certainly did not know what the right hand was doing. The English lemma **mousaka** does not look like the translation equivalent **mous(s)aka,** and the Afrikaans lemma **mousaka** does not look like the translation equivalent **moesaka**. The reversibility principle is nowhere in play. It would have added interest to have a label *(Gr.)* for Greece, the country of origin of this dish, and a translation complement.

Example (112) could also have been furnished with a label, *(Hung.)* for Hungary, the country of origin. Apart from that, this is a good example of applying the reversibility

principle.

Example (113) consists of so many strange sounding words, that it merits the inclusion of a translation complement, and a label of origin. It is a Turkish meat and rice dish.

The following example

(114) **sake,** saki, sake, rice beer *(Jap.)*.

      sake, rysbier, ryswyn; sake.

      saki, saki (aap).

      rice, ...; ~ **wine,** ryswyn.

shows many inconsistencies. The label is situated after the last translation equivalent of **sake**, which is different if it had been added straight after the lemma. One does not know whether it has one translation equivalent or the full paradigm as address. None of the translation equivalents has been furnished with a label when they appeared as lemmata. The other problem is that the translation equivalent **saki** has a translation complement **(aap)** added to its translation equivalent **saki** when it appears as a lemma. How will the user deal with this one?

There also seems to be a difference between the translation equivalents **rysbier, ryswyn** and **sake**, due to the semi-colon used. However, the English translation equivalents of **sake** appear in the same target language synonym paradigm.

4.3.3 Dialectic Labels

Some examples regarding dialectic labels include the following:

(115) **ankas,** *(gew.)*, silly; proud.

      silly, ...; onnosel; gek, dwaas, verspot, geklik, laf, meisieagtig, kinderagtig; ...

      proud, trots, hoogmoedig; fier, eergevoelig; styf, statig; trots; hoofwaardig,

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hooghartig; groots; ...

(116) **danebol,** *(gew.)*, fir cone.

      fir, ...; ...; ~- **cone,** dennebol.

Ankas does not appear amongst the translation equivalents of the lemmata **silly** and **proud** in example (115). Example (116) should have had **danebol,** *(gew.)* added as translation equivalent with the lemma **fir-cone**.

(117) **gensbok,** *(gew.),* gemsbok, gemsbuck, oryx (gazella).

      gemsbok, gazelle, roebuck (Bible) *(Gazella dorcas, G. arabica);* oryx, gemsbok, gemsbuck *(Oryx gazella);* ...

The above two examples are both from the Afrikaans-English section. The only difference between them is the fact that the first example has the dialectic spelling. Why then two different translation equivalent paradigms? The lemma **gensbok** could have been furnished with a label and then cross-referenced to **gemsbok**.

Their translation equivalents have the following articles when appearing as lemmata:

      gemsbok, gemsbuck, gemsbok, gensbok.

      gazelle, gasel, gemsbok *(Bybel).*

      oryx, gemsbok, gensbok

Example (117) has quite a few irregularities with regard to the reversibility principle. First of all, the dialectic form **gensbok** is only labelled when it appears as one of the Afrikaans lemmata. The form is a translation equivalent of **gemsbok, gemsbuck** and **oryx,** but it appears without the label. Secondly, none of the Afrikaans translation equivalents, appearing in the English-Afrikaans section, has been furnished with the scientific labels. The third difference is that the translation equivalent **oryx** has (gazella) as translation

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complement, whereas *(Oryx gazella)* is the label added to **gemsbok**. The fourth problem is where the Afrikaans lemma **gemsbok** has **roebuck** as one of its translation equivalents, with (Bybel) as its translation complement. Where **gazelle** has **gemsbok** as a translation equivalent, *(Bybel)* appears as a label.

4.3.4 Etymological Labels

The following examples are furnished with an etymological label, indicating the origin of the lemma:

(118) **geist,** *(Ger.),* geist, gees.
      No lemma sign **geist.**
      gees, spirit, ghost; mettle; essence; animus; mind, psyche, wit, intellect; tendency; tone; genie, python; bog(e)y, peri; ...

(119) **gemütlich,** *(Ger.),* gemoedelik, vriendelik.
      gemoedelik, kind-hearted, genial; comforting; informal; jovial; ...
      vriendelik, friendly, affable, kind, suave, decent, amicable, good, polite, kindly-disposed; ...

(120) **mouton,** *(F.),* skaappels, skaapvel.
      No lemma sign **skaappels.**
      skaap: ...; ~**vel,** sheepskin; ...

Example (118) has no translation equivalent **geist** for **gees**, or an Afrikaans lemma entry **geist,** or a label addressed at the translation equivalent **geist**.

Example (119) also does not have **gemütlich** as a translation equivalent for any of the Afrikaans lemmata. As a result, the label *(Ger.)* is left out as well.

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Concerning example (120), we also find that the labelled lemma does not appear as a translation equivalent in the other section of the dictionary.

Consistency is the golden rule. If not done with discipline, it only serves to confuse the user.

4.4 Stylistic Labels

Stylistic labels incorporate a wide range of types. The main aim is to provide sociolinguistic characteristics of lexical items, and to show how they are used in typical sentences. They also indicate the register of the addressed entry. According to Gouws (1988:32) stylistic labels can indicate characteristics of language *(formal)/(formeel)*, *(informal)/(informeel)*. It could indicate specific aspects of usage *(ongewoon)* and also convey social views *(colloquial)/(geselstaal)*, *(taboo word)/(taboe)*.

The use of stylistic labels needs a thorough knowledge of a language as a social reality, and forces the lexicographer to rely on the true spoken language, as well as the written language. He is not only marking dictionary entries with regard to their usage, but he is also engaged in a social grading of the language. By choosing a specific stylistic label, the lexicographer must be guided by the occurrence in sociolinguistics and variants. A successful stylistic label is simplistic and clear in its indication of the limitations with regard to the usage of a lexical item. In bilingual dictionaries it is problematic to determine whether a lemma and its translation equivalent belong to the same stylistic category. Here, we specifically think of taboo and vulgar words. Communicative equivalence plays an important role. More about this later.

In this dictionary quite a few stylistic labels are used. For Afrikaans we have *(geselst.)* for 'geselstaal'; *(groept.)* for 'groeptaal'; *(form.)* for 'formeel'; *(inform.)* for 'informeel'; *(omgangst.)* for 'omgangstaal'; *(plegt.)* for 'plegtig'; *(spreekt.)* for 'spreektaal'; *(skryft.)* for 'skryftaal'; *(sl.)* for 'sleng'; *(stud.)* for 'studentetaal'; and *(tab.)* for 'taboe'. Then we also find *(akad.)* for 'akademies'; *(boekt.)* for 'boektaal'; *(digt.)* for 'digterlike taal'; *(eufem.)* for 'eufemisme'; *(grap.)* for 'grappig'; *(iron.)* for 'ironies'; *(kindert.)* for 'kindertaal'; *(let.)* for

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'letterlik'; *(neerh.)* for 'neerhalend'; *(poet.)* for 'poeties'; *(regst.)* for 'regstaal'; *(skerts.)* for 'skertsend'; *(skeepst.)* for 'skeepstaal'; *(spitsv.)* for 'spitsvondig'; and *(spot.)* for 'spottend'.

The English section has *(colloq.)* for 'colloquial'; *(derog.)* for 'derogatory'; *(fig.)* for 'figurative'; *(form.)* for 'formal'; *(iron.)* for 'ironical(ly)'; *(joc.)* for 'jocular'; *(lit.)* for 'literary' (style/language); *(poet.)* for 'poetic'; *(sl.)* for 'slang'; *(vulg.)* for 'vulgar'; and *(taboo word)*. 'Coarse' and 'ru' have been used as translation complements.

As can be seen from the two lists, the Afrikaans one has about twice as many stylistic labels as the English list, which is an anomaly. Both languages should be treated equally, i.e. why does Afrikaans have a label for 'groeptaal', 'geselstaal', 'omgangstaal', 'spreektaal', 'studentetaal',
and 'kindertaal', while the English section has to make do with 'colloquial'? There are also two Afrikaans labels, '*digt.*' and *'poet.'* where both refer to the same field. The same goes for *(grap.)*, *(skerts.)*, and *(spits.)*, where one label would have been sufficient.

I find the three other Afrikaans labels, i.e. 'ongewoon', 'weinig gebruiklik' and 'nie algemeen', to be more applicable to the section on temporal labels, and used them there. As was said before, it is a difficult task to distinguish between stylistic labels, but I think the lexicographers should keep it simple as to not confuse the users. The English and the Afrikaans sides of the dictionary should also be treated equally.

What follows are examples of how this dictionary dealt with stylistic labels. It must be kept in mind that should a lemma have a label in one language, it does not necessarily apply to the other language. However, usually it does. Hausmann's finding (1997:178) once again should be kept in mind, namely that addressing should be kept to the left. Translation equivalents do not fall under the scope of labels addressing the lemma; they need their own labels.

4.4.1 Colloquial Labels

The following example contains two discrepancies:

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(121) **kammie,** *(geselst.)*, room-mate

  room mate, kamermaat, kammie

Firstly, the translation equivalent **kammie** is not furnished with a label, like the lemma **kammie.** The second mistake lies with the spelling of **room-mate/room mate.** How will the user know which one to use if the lexicographer does not? To save on space and cost will not help if the user is presented with less than complete information. It also serves to lessen the impact of the dictionary.

What follows are more 'colloquial' examples in English:

(122) **byvoordele,** fringe benefits, perquisites, perks *(colloq.)*.

  perks, byvoordeel, byvoordele, byverdienste, ekstra verdienste, ekstra(tjies); *kyk ook* **perquisite.**

  perquisite, fooi; uitsluitende reg; byvoordeel, byverdienste, ekstratjie; *kyk ook* **perks;**

In the above example, the standard language term has been included as a translation equivalent, as well as its colloquial variant. The variant is furnished with a label, but not when it appears as a lemma in the English-Afrikaans section. This is another example of the irregularities with regard to the reversibility principle.

(123) **goof,** *(colloq.)*, dwaas, stommerik; ...

  dwaas, fool, silly fellow; ass; ...

  stom: ~merik, stupid fool, dullard, fathead, ignoramus, blockhead, dunce, ass; ...

Here, the lemma **goof**, with its stylistic label, also appears in the English-Afrikaans section only. It does not appear as translation equivalent at all.

(124) **no-no,** *(colloq.)*, onaanvaarbaar; onmoontlik.

  onaanvaarbaar, unacceptable.

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onmoontlik, impossible.

As with the preceding examples, the lexical item **no-no** also does not appear as translation equivalent when the translation equivalents of the lemma **no-no** appear as lemmata in the Afrikaans-English section of the dictionary.

As mentioned before, Afrikaans has many labels that could fit under the English 'colloquial' umbrella:

(125)   **boksemdais, boksendais,** *(geselst.)*, everybody, everything; ...

    every, ...; ~**body,** almal, elkeen, 'n iegelik *(gew.)*, iedereen; ...

    everything, alles.

None of the two translation equivalents of the lemmata **boksemdais, boksendais,** has these lexical items as translation equivalents.

(126)   **gaat,** *(omgangst.)*, go, move; get (go) along.

    go, (die) gaan; wegspring; swang; voortvarendheid; pit; go, fiksheid, energie, fluksheid, fut, vuur, besieling; puf; ...

    move, beweging; set; stoot, skuifbeurt (in spel); stap, maatreël; verhuising; ...

The item **gaat** does not appear as translation equivalent with either of the translation equivalents presented for the lemma **gaat.**

(127)   **bok 2 ,** (best) girl; (w), *(stud.)*, spoon, court, flirt.

    spoon, (v), vry, opsit; ...

    court, (v), die hof maak, soetlandsit (aanlê, draai) by 'n nooi (meisie), vry na, vlerksleep, opsit; soek (toejuiging); lok, weglok, verlok.

    flirt, (v), skerts; flankeer (met meisies, nooiens), koketteer, flirt; gekskeer; wegruk, swaai, fladder; ...

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The item **bok** does not appear as translation equivalent with any of the above lemmata.

(128) **sexy,** *(E.) (omgangst.)*, sexy, sex-attractive; rousing.

sexy, wulps; seksbehep.

No lemma sign **sex-attractive**.

rousing, (n) aansporing; (a) opwekkend, besielend; ...

The Afrikaans lemma **sexy** does not appear as translation equivalent at all, neither does **seksie** (**seksie 2 = sexy**). The English lemma **sexy** has two other translation equivalents.

It appears that lexical items presented as Afrikaans lemmata, furnished with stylistic labels, seldom appear as translation equivalents, and when they do, they are not, however, furnished with their labels.

4.4.2 Labels indicating Slang

Some examples are seen as 'slang'.

(129) **emcee,** *(sl.)*, seremoniemeester, compere.

seremonie, ...; **~meester,** master of ceremonies; toastmaster, toastmistress; ....

compere, compere, master of ceremonies, MC.

The lexical item **emcee**, representing the pronunciation of the abbreviated form **MC**, is quite a find, as I always thought the more logical choice is **MC**. **Emcee**, however, does not appear as translation equivalent with any of the other lemmata.

(130) **boere:** ...; **~bedrieër,** confidence trickster; spiv *(sl.)*; pettifogger; mountebank; ...

confidence ...; **~ trickster,** (vertrouen)swendelaar, bedrieër, verneuker.

spiv, vertrouenswendelaar, afsetter, bedrieër, kuller, opligter; sluikhandelaar.

pettifog, ...; **~ger,** knoeier; beunhaas; regsverdraaier; boereverneuker, boerebedrieër;

skelm prokureur; ...

mountebank, kwaksalwer, boer(e)verneuker, charlatan; ...

In the above examples, **spiv**, as translation equivalent, is furnished with a label. However, when it appears as a lemma, it does not have the label.

(131)   **mattelot,** *(sl.)*, matroos.

   matroos, sailor, sailor-man; deck(-hand); ...

Here, the lexical item **mattelot** does not appear as translation equivalent.

4.4.3 Labels indicating Strong Emotive Language

With regard to swear words and crude language in this dictionary, it seems as if the lexicographers do not always know which label to put where. They also do not apply the reversibility rule in equal measures, because they use labels at random. The labels *(geselst.)*, *(plat)*, *(ru)* and *(tab.)* are used with the Afrikaans lemmata and *(colloq.)*, *(coarse)*, *(vulg.)* and *(taboo word)* with the English lemmata.

There are a few problems regarding the use of these labels. The first applies to the use of the label *(geselst.)* when the 'sensitive' lemmata come to mind. As we will see from the examples, the lexicographers are inconsistent.

(132)   **pis,** *(geselst.)*, piss, urine; ...

   piss, *(vulg.)*, pis; water; urine; ...

   pee, plassie maak, water, piepie.

   No lemma sign **pie**.

   piepie, *(nursery term)*, (s) pee; (w) make water, piddle, wee-wee.

In the above example, the Afrikaans and English lexical items **pis** and **piss** have two different

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labels. Looking at the two labels, it seems that Afrikaans is more informal than English, using a 'vulgar' word in 'every day' language. This is certainly not the case! It is just as bad to listen to somebody say, 'Ek moet gaan pis' as to listen to somebody say, 'I have to take a piss'. I would have used **leak** as another translation equivalent with the Afrikaans **pis**, and furnish it with the label *(colloq.)*, should the lexicographers insist that **pis** is 'geselstaal'. However, **pie** or **piepie** are better words, but **pie** does not appear on the Afrikaans side at all. The reversibility principle was not applied. Also, the translation equivalents **pis** and **piss** are not labelled whereas the lemmata **pis** and **piss** are labelled. The translation equivalent **piepie** is also not labelled.

Furthermore, the translation equivalents of **pis** are treated as synonyms (separated by a comma), while those of **piss** are treated as polysemes (separated by a semi-colon). Commas are used to indicate synonyms which can often be used as translation equivalents of the same polysemous sense of a lemma. Semi-colons are structural markers marking the fact that the preceding and following translation equivalents in the translation equivalent paradigm are not target language forms which share the same meaning, but each is a target language form used to convey a different sense of the lemma.

How is it possible for one object to change dramatically from one language to the next? To make it simple: **pis=piss, urine=urine, water=water.**

A few more examples are the following:

(133)   **poep,** *(plat)*, fart

      fart, *(vulg.)*, poep, wind

Why is there a difference in emotion with regard to the labelling of **pis, poep** and **fart**? These lemmata are not used in 'polite' language, but are tolerated in colloquial language.

The following examples are also not labelled correctly, as only some of their occurrences, and

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not the lemmata, are labelled:

(134) **drol,** turd, dropping; shit; *hy's 'n regte ou ~, (plat),* he is a real shit (turd); ...

(135) **bliksem,** lightning; *JOU ~! (plat)*, you scoundrel (blackguard)!; ...

(136) **moerig,** *(geselst.)*, (extremely) angry, indignant, be the hell in.

(137) **moer,** *(plat)*, womb; matrix; dam (animal); anger; *jou malle ~ AFWAG*, wait an age; *die ~ IN wees*, make one's hackles rise; be extremely cross, be the hell in; ...

(138) **donder,** thunder; wretch; *GAAN na die ~ (plat)*, go to pot; ...

In example (134) the lemma **drol** is as bad to use on its own as in the expression, so why is it not labelled as well? And why is the expression in the target language not labelled, as the lemma **shit** *(vulg.)* has a label in the English-Afrikaans section?

The first three translation equivalents in example (137) are not supposed to be with the fourth **anger**, because they have nothing to do with the fourth. It would have been better to add a separate lemma with **anger** as translation equivalent.

(Another mistake is not to include **bliksem**, **moer** and **donder** as verbs. It is often used in the sense 'Ek gaan jou donder/bliksem/moer/neuk as jy nie ophou lieg nie!')

And why is **moer** labelled as *(plat)*, but **moerig** is seen as *(geselst.)*?

(139) **bull:** ~**shit,** *(vulg.),* stront, kak, onsin, nonsies, nonsens, (super)bog), kaf, rot; ...

In the above example, neither **stront** nor **kak** is furnished with a label, which is the case when they appear as lemmata (example 140).

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(140) **kak,** *(plat)*, shit

> **shit,** *(vulg.)*, stront, kak

> **stront,** *(plat)*, shit, dung; blackguard; nonsense; ...

The translation equivalents **shit**, **stront**, **kak**, and **shit**, when appearing as lemmata in the central list, are furnished with a label. However, as translation equivalents, the labels are left out, which is a severe oversight from the lexicographers.

(141) **gorblimey,** *(vulg.)*, verdomp, verduiwels.

> **verdomp!** dash it! damn it!

> **verduiweld, verduiwels,** damn(ed), darned; by George! plaguy; ...

Concerning example (142) the translation equivalents of **gorblimey** sound positively meek in relation to **gorblimey**'s *(vulg.)* label. I do not think it merits such a label, but that was the prerogative of the lexicographers. It does not appear as translation equivalent either.

(142) **mongol 2,** *(derog.)*, Downsindroomlyer.

> **Downsindroom,** Down syndrome, mongolism.

> **mongool,** Down-syndrome sufferer, mongol.

In example (142) the lemma **mongool** does not appear as translation equivalent with the lemma **mongol**. The lemma **mongol** has a label, but not the translation equivalent **mongol**. This is another example of the reversibility principle not consistently applied.

The treatment of lemmata followed by the label (*tab.*) or (*taboo-word*) also show discrepancies. Compare the following examples:

(143) **poes,** *(tab.)*, cunt *(taboo word)*, female genitals

(144) **piel,** *(tab.)*, penis, male member

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(145) **naai,** stitch, sew; have sexual intercourse *(taboo)*; ...

If we look at example (145), it seems that the definiens is a taboo act!

(146) **fuck,** *(coarse)*, fok *(ru)*, geslagsgemeenskap he; **~ing,** *(coarse)*, fok, geslagsgemeenskap; **~ing,** (interj.) fokken; *you ~ing bitch,* jou fokken teef! *(plat; taboe)*.

(147) **doos, (dose),** box, case, etui: carton, packet; cunt *(taboo-word)*; ...

(148) No lemma sign **cunt**

The Afrikaans lemmata **poes** and **piel** are furnished with the label *(tab.)* directly after the lemma. A discrepancy is the fact that the translation equivalent of **poes**, i.e. **cunt**, and **fuck,** i.e. **fok,** is labelled, *(tab.)* and *(coarse)* respectively. Surely **fuck** should also be labelled *(taboo-word)*?

The entry word **fuck** and its article is also problematic. Why is **fuck** labelled *(coarse)* and **jou fokken teef** (the translation equivalent of **you ~ing bitch**) has been furnished with both labels *(plat)* and *(taboe)*? **Cunt** does not even feature as an entry on the English side of the dictionary, although it appears as a translation equivalent on the Afrikaans side.

When one looks at the treatment of the lemma **fok**, one finds the following:

(149) **fok 2,** (w), *(plat)*, fuck.

(150) **fok 3,** (tw) *(plat)*, fuck, dammit, dash it, hell.

(151) **fokken,** (b) *(plat)*, fuckin(g), damn, blasted.

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The above three lemmata have been furnished with the label *(plat)*, but when **fok** appears as translation equivalent of **fuck**, it has the label *(ru)*. When **fok** appears as translation equivalent of **fucking**, it has no label at all. The lexicographers seem uncertain in their categorizing of these lemmata, and the user has to struggle between the labels *(plat)*, *(ru)* and *(taboe)*. These serve as more examples of the inconsistencies within this dictionary.

I also have a problem with the translation equivalent **male member** for **piel**. A less sophisticated user could cause a terrible faux pas if that was to be used in a translation. It would have been better to use **male sexual organ** or **male sexual member** to minimize any confusion.

In my opinion all of the above should be labelled *(vulg.)* or *(taboo-word)*. Labels like *(geselst.)* and *(coarse)* or *(ru)* only serve to confuse the user, as the entry they are labelling, are still perceived as 'bad' to use in 'polite' conversation. But, as said before, to certain language groups, this is the way they talk, whereas to others it is a no-no.

As can be seen by the in-depth study of labels, it seems that they are an integral part of this dictionary. However, it is a pity to find so many inconsistencies with regard to their treatment. As a result, the user is the one to suffer, which is certainly not the aim of any dictionary.

CHAPTER 5

SYSTEMATIC INCONSISTENCIES FOUND IN THE MAJOR DICTIONARY

5.1 Introduction

There appear many lexicographic inconsistencies in this dictionary which, have they been pinpointed as possible problematic areas, should never have happened. They are more irritating than knowledge-threatening, but cause a lot of anxiety for the user, as he/she has to search for the correct spelling, lemma, etc.

Afrikaans and English have many lexical items which, often when given as entries in an equivalent relation of congruence (Gouws, 1989:164), look very similar. These lexical items can be simplex or complex lexical items. In the case of complex lexical items it is often the first component which stays the same, whereas the second component is translated. Sometimes, however, a whole new word is used as translation equivalent.

The following is an example:

(152)   **U-beam,** U-balk.
        U-balk, U-beam.

In Major Dictionary/Groot Woordeboek the inclusion and treatment of this category of lexical items presents many inconsistencies.

5.2 Spelling Inconsistencies

Sometimes, the lexicographers are inconsistent with regard to the hyphens, which affect the spelling of lexical items. The result is uncertainty for the user, because he/she has to guess which is the correct form.

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The following are a few examples:

(153) **U-iron,** U-yster

   U-yster, U iron.

(154) **U-draai,** U-turn.

   U turn, U-draai.

(155) **U-buis,** U-tube.

   U tube, U-buis.

Here, the hyphen is omitted from the one occurrence of the English form, which is usually the form to suffer.

Most of the examples quoted above, appear under the letter 'U' of the central list. What follows are taken randomly from the rest of the dictionary. These examples do not show a strong similarity with regard to form, but the addition or lack of a hyphen makes it difficult for the user to determine which is the correct form of spelling.

(156) **blood,** ...; **~-clot,** bloedklont.

   bloed, ...; **~klont,** thrombus, bloodclot.

(157)   **voorblad,** ...; **~foto,** cover-photo; ...

   cover: ~ photo, voorbladfoto; ...

(158) **borduur,** ...; **~werk,** embroidery, crewel work; ...

   wol, ...; **~borduurwerk,** crewel-work; ...

   crewel, ...; **~ work,** borduurwerk.

Although **crewel work** has no hyphen when appearing as translation equivalent of the lemma

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borduurwerk, it has a hyphen when appearing with the lemma **wolborduurwerk**. When appearing as lemma, it is without a hyphen.

(159) **cross:** ...; ~ **wires**, kruisdrade; ...

      kruis, ...; **~draad,** ...; ...; cross-wire; ...

Apart from the fact that the lemma **cross wires** has no hyphen, but the translation equivalent **cross-wire** has a hyphen, the lexicographers also did not stick to the reversibility principle with regard to the singular and plural forms.

(160) **catch 22-situasie,** catch 22 situation.

      catch, ...; **~-22 situation,** catch 22-situasie; ...

(161) **dubbel:** ...; **~verdieping,** double stor(e)y; ...

      double: ...; ~ **storey,** dubbelverdieping.

Example (161) does not have an **(e)** as optional element with the lemma **double storey** but one appears with the translation equivalent **double stor(e)y**. The lexicographers should have added an **(e)** to both words, or left it out in both words.

(162) **wilde,** ...; **~makou,** spurwing goose; ...

      spur-winged, ...; ~ **goose,** wildemakou.

Example (162) contains two inconsistencies. Firstly, a hyphen is added to the lemma **spur-winged**, but not to the translation equivalent **spurwing**. Secondly, the lemma **spur-winged** contains the suffix **-ed**, whereas it is absent from the translation equivalent **spurwing**. If both forms are correct, the lexicographers should indicate it. If not, how will the user know which form to choose?

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5.3 Absence of Translation Equivalents/Lemmata

There are examples where a lexical item appearing as translation equivalent itself does not appear as lemma, and vice versa. This is one of the worst sins a lexicographer can commit. What is the use of supplying a lexical item in e.g. the Afrikaans-English section of the dictionary and not have it in the English-Afrikaans section as well? A user can, with right, expect to find all lexical items in section A to be contained in section B, and vice versa. Often we will see that the lexicographers have forgotten which translation equivalent was supplied, and when it comes to treating the lexical item in the other section of the dictionary, a new translation equivalent appears, or one is omitted. This problem was also dealt with in Chapter 3.

Compare the following examples:

(163)   **U-boat,** U-boot.

　　　　U-boot, submarine.

(164)   **U-magnet,** hoefmagneet.

　　　　hoefmagneet, horseshoe magnet.

(165)   **ersatz,** substituut, plaasvervanger.

　　　　substituut, deputy, substitute

　　　　plaas, ...; ~**vervanger,** substitute, deputy; understudy; locum tenens; alternate; ...

(166)   **U-vormig,** U-shaped.

　　　　No lemma sign **U-shaped.**

(167)   **T-bone steak,** T-beenskyf.

　　　　No lemma sign **T-beenskyf**.

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(168)   **cat-and-mouse (game),** kat-en-muis (speletjie).

No lemma sign **kat-en-muis (speletjie)**.

(169)   **pistachio,** pistasie(neut), groenamandel, pimperneut; ~ **nut,** pistasie(neut), pimperneut, groenamandel.

No lemma sign **pistasie(neut).**

pimperneut, pistachio (nut).

groen, ...; **~amandel,** pistachio nut; ...

Example (169) contains quite a few irregularities. Firstly, although **pistasie(neut)** appears as translation equivalent, there is no lemma sign **pistasie(neut)**. Secondly, the presentation to the translation equivalent **pistachio nut** differs when appearing with the two lemmata **pimperneut** and **groenamandel**. With **pimperneut** the second part of the translation equivalent, **nut**, is treated as a translation complement **(nut)**, but with **groenamandel** it forms part of the translation equivalent. Another anomaly is the fact that the translation equivalents appearing with the lemma **pistachio** are not submitted alphabetically. With the lemma **pistachio nut**, however, there is a change, with **pimperneut** appearing before **groenamandel**. It seems unlikely that the order of user preference will change so dramatically.

As can be seen from the above, the irregularities found in the Major Dictionary/Groot Woordeboek can be quite irritating for an unsuspecting user. The lexicographers should pay more attention to finer detail to ensure smoother information transfer.

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CHAPTER 6

NUMERICAL MARKERS

Numerical markers form part of structural markers, and structural markers are part of the access structure. Hausman & Wiegand (1989:349) say that apart from the microstructure and the macrostructure found in dictionaries, the access structure is the third important structural component of a dictionary. Gouws (1996:21) says the macrostructure can be regarded as the collection of lemma signs being the basic treatment units of the dictionary, whereas the microstructure is the total set of data categories following the lemma sign.

Numerical markers are a specific type of marker, which deals with polysemy and homonymy. They indicate and differentiate between polysemes and homonyms. A main difference between homonymy and polysemy is the origin of words. Homonymic words look the same and sound the same, but they usually have different origins. Polysemy occurs where one lexical item has different but related senses.

Gouws (1996a:107) is of the opinion that 'the establishment of a relation of homonymy between two or more lexical items should be done according to fixed criteria. One such criterion is that their semantic unrelatedness should be identified on a synchronic and not a diachronic basis'. According to Gouws (1989:127) this means that a polysemic restriction should come into play when there is no demonstrable semantic relation between two meanings of two identical lexical items, even though it existed historically. Language is not static - it is subjected to an ongoing process of change.

Gouws (1996a:110) also says that there is no restrictions on the number of senses a polysemous lexical item can have. The polysemous paradigm of a lexical item is the full range of senses allocated to that item and it can vary from a minimum of two to an undetermined maximum.

A user-friendly bilingual dictionary should allow a user to interpret a translation equivalent as

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a reference to the lexical item's occurrence as a lemma. Keeping this in mind, one should mention the mediostructure of a dictionary. According to Gouws & Prinsloo (1998:18), the mediostructure, that is the system of cross-referencing, is a lexicographic device that can be used to establish relations between different components of the dictionary. The mediostructural entries can guide the user between different texts, e.g. between the central text and any text in the front or back matter or between various articles functioning as subtexts in the central word list.

In this dictionary polysemes are not marked, and the use of numerical markers is restricted to homonyms. I find this problematic, as both polysemes and homonyms cause confusion for users. The problem with the use of numerical markers come into play when the lexicographers do not indicate which homonym is the reference address, when referring from one section to the other. Compare the following examples:

(170)　**python 1,** luislang, piton.

　　　luislang, python, boa-constrictor, anaconda; ...

　　　piton, python.

(171)　**python 2,** waarseggende gees; waarsêer.

　　　waarsêer, fortune-teller, diviner, soothsayer; ...

The lemmata in examples (170) and (171) (**python 1** and **python 2**) are homonyms. Example (170) has two translation equivalents, but none of them has a numerical marker referring to the first homonymic occurrence when they appear as lemmata. Example (171) has two translation equivalents, representing two polysemous senses of the lemma, of which only one appears as lemma in the Afrikaans-English section. However, it does not contain **python** as translation equivalent. If it did, **python** should have been furnished with a numerical marker, identifying the relevant member of the homonym pair.

We find this kind of discrepancy throughout the dictionary. The following are difficult examples, as they not only involve four different homonyms, i.e. **hawk 1, hawk 2, hawk 3**

and   **59.**

hawk 4, but also polysemes within **hawk 2** and **hawk 3:**

(172)   **hawk 1,** (n) pleisterplank.

      pleister, ...; **~plank,** hawk; plastering-plank.

(173)   **hawk 2,** (n) valk; bedrieër; swendelaar; ...

      valk, falcon, hawk; ....

      bedrieër, fraud, deceiver, swindler, spiv, guller, hoaxer, humbug, imposter, deluder, dodger, embezzler, cheat; four-flusher; ...

      swendel, ...; **~aar,** chevalier of industry, swindler, sharper: conman; ...

(174)   **hawk 3,** (v) smous, vent, verkoop; versprei; uitstrooi.

      smous, (v) barter, hawk; peddle; huckster; ...

      vent 1, (w) hawk, peddle, carry about for sale; ...

      verkoop, (w) sell, dispose of, huckster, bring under the hammer, merchandise; ...

      versprei, (w) spread (rumour); scatter (seed); distribute (newspapers); propagate (belief); disseminate (doctrines); deploy, extend (troops); hawk (goods); stagger (holidays); radiate (light; heat); ...

      uitstrooi, strew, sow, scatter, spread, circulate, disseminate (news); ...

(175)   **hawk 4,** (v) keel skoonmaak.

With regard to the above four examples, one can see the inconsistent way in which cross-referencing was done. In example (172) the translation equivalent **hawk** is not furnished with a numerical marker when it appears in the Afrikaans-English section. It should have the numerical marker **1**.

In example (173) **hawk** only appears as translation equivalent and subsequent lemma when it appears as a bird, but without its numerical marker, which should have been **2**. **Hawk 2**, as noun in the sense of a crooked person, does not appear at all as translation equivalent in the

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Afrikaans-English section.

Example (174) has a numerical marker with one of the translation equivalents, **vent**, when it appears as a lemma, but when **hawk** appears as one of its translation equivalents, it does not have a numerical marker in turn, which should have been **3**. When **hawk 3** appears as translation equivalent with the other lemmata, it is also not furnished with a numerical marker.

Example (175) does not even reciprocate with regard to its translation equivalent, which is duly absent.

The problem regarding the three lemmata concerning **hawk**, mentioned earlier in the chapter, comes into being when one looks at the lemmata **hawker** and **hawking**. They are also furnished with numerical markers, but these do not appear in relation to the ones in examples (172) to (175). This is problematic, as the user has to guess to which original simplex form the words are connected to. The lexicographers could have numbered **hawk** in concurrence with the lemmata to follow in the central list.

Let us look at the examples:

(176) **hawker 1,** valkenier.

       valk, ...; **~enier,** falconer; hawker; ...

(177) **hawker 2,** smous, venter, marskramer, straatverkoper; ...

       smous, (s) hawker, pedlar, itinerant trader; Cheap Jack, cadger, huckster; chapman; ...

       vent, ..; ~ **er,** hawker, pedlar, costermonger, huckster, pitcher, street vendor.

       marskramer, pedlar, hawker; haggler, cadger.

       straat, ... ; **~venter,** pedlar, hawker, costermonger; ...;**~verkoper,** hawker; ...

(178) **hawking 1,** smousery, ventery.

       smous, ...; **~ery,** bargaining; pedlary, hawking; ...

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No lemma sign **ventery**.

(179) **hawking 2,** valkejag.

    valk, ...; **~jag,** falconry, hawking.

In helping the user, **hawk 2**, **hawker 1**, and **hawking 1** could all have been numbered **1**.
Hawk 3, **hawker 2**, and **hawking 1** could have been numbered **2**. **Hawk 1** and **hawk 4**
could have been numbered **3** and **4** respectively. When a user looks up the stem of the
lemma, its numerical marker then corresponds to that of the lemma in question. Not all
lemmata go to such a high number, so it would not be too difficult for the lexicographers to
comply with this request. The translation equivalents could have been numbered accordingly,
as none of them appearing with the above lemmata, have numerical markers.

A few more examples are the following:

(180) **waswerk 1,** laundry-work

    laundry, ...; **~ work,** was- en strykwerk; waskunde.

    was-en-strykwerk, laundry-work**.**

    was, ...; **~kunde,** laundrywork (as school subject).

(181) **waswerk 2,** waxwork.

    wax: ...; **~work,** wasbeeld; wasmodellering; ...

    wasbeeld, wax figure.

    was, ...; **~modellering,** ceroplastics.

The above two examples show a few inconsistencies. This is not only with regard to the
numerical markers, but also with regard to the translation equivalents. Firstly, no numerical
markers are furnished with any of the translation equivalents. Secondly, when the translation
equivalents appear as lemmata, they have other words as translation equivalents, and not the
original lemmata. Sifting through all these translation equivalents, it was interesting to

observe the three presentations of one lexical item, i.e. **laundry work, laundry-work** and **laundrywork**.

When we look at the following examples,

(182) **lark 1,** (n) leerik, lewerkie; ...

      No lemma sign **leerik**.

      lewerkie, (sky)lark.

      lewerik, = leeurik; *Eremopterix* spp.

      lewerikie, = leeurik.

(183) **lark 2,** (n) grap; gekskeerdery; ...

      grap, joke, jest, quip; fun; prank, lark; ...

      gekskeer, ...; **~dery,** fooling, jesting, banter, buffoonery.

we once again find no numerical markers with the translation equivalents. There is also quite a number of variations with regard to the Afrikaans translation equivalent of **lark 1.** Two of them refer to **leeurik**, which does not appear as lemma. It also seems that the spelling of the translation equivalent **leerik** is incorrect, as no similar lemma sign can be found.

A recurrent problem in this dictionary is the fact that translation equivalents are not furnished with homonymic markers. This makes it difficult for the user to confirm the proper use of a word.

Two more examples are

(184) **geld 1,** (s) money, cash; currency; pelf; chink *(sl.)*; (filthy) lucre; bucks *(sl.)*.

      money, geld; munt; betaalmiddel; duimkruid; fonds, rykdom.

      cash, (n) kontant(geld), spesie; kas, kasgeld; ...

      currency, loop; omloop; looptyd (wissel); duur (note); duurte (kontrak); koers (geld);

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geldigheidsduur (lisensie); gangbaarheid; valuta, betaalmidddel; ruilmiddel; geld, muntwese;

pelf, geld, pitte, aardse slyk, blik.

chink 3, (n) kontantgeld, duite; ...

lucre, ...; *filthy ~,* vuil gewin, aardse slyk, geld.

buck 5, (n) dollar *(VSA)*; ...

(185) **geld 2,** (w) be valid, be in force; hold good; hold; obtain (laws); concerns (interest); apply to; assert oneself.

force, ...; *BE in ~ (laws)*, van krag wees, geldig wees; ...

hold, ...; *~ GOOD*, geldig wees; ...

obtain, verkry, verwerf, bekom, behaal, erlang, aanskaf; aan iets kom; in gebruik wees; bestaan; heers; van krag wees; geld (regte); vigeer (wette); ...

concern, (v) betref; aangaan; aanbelang, aanbetref; raak; verontrus; ...

apply, ...; *~ TO*, aansoek (navraag) doen by.

assert, ...; *~ ONESELF*, jou laat geld; ...

In example (184) two lemmata, **chink** and **buck**, are found with numerical markers, but not when they appear as translation equivalents. The translation equivalents, however, are furnished with labels, which the lemmata do not have. In none of the instances where **geld** appears as translation equivalent, we find numerical markers.

When the lemma **geld 2** (example 185) appears as translation equivalent, no numerical markers follows, which again points to the problem of a lack of markers indicating homonymous translation equivalents.

In the following examples

(186) **drukkery 1,** squeezing; pushing; process of printing; ...

squeeze, druk(king); afpersing; kneusing; gedrang; afdruk; omarming; beperking;

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inkorting; ...

No lemma sign **squeezing**.

push, ...: **~ing,** (n) gestoot, stotery; ...

(187) **drukkery 2,** printing works, press.

printing, ...; **~-works,** fabriek waar katoenstof gedruk word.

press, pers, drukpers; perswese; drukkery; pers(kas); drukte, menigte, gedrang; gejaagdheid, haas; druk; klerekas; ...

there are a few problems. The third translation equivalent of **drukkery 1,** does not belong in the translation equivalent paradigm. It should actually fall under **drukkery 2**. None of the translation equivalents of the lemma **drukkery 1** has it as a translation equivalent when they appear as lemmata. The same can be said of **drukkery 2**. It does not appear as translation equivalent when its translation equivalents appear as lemmata. Furthermore, no numerical markers are used either.

The next examples are:

(188) **peep 1,** (n) gepiep (v) piep (kuiken).

gepiep 1, (s) chirp(ing); squeek(ing); cheep, peep; pampering.

gepiep 2, (b) spoilt, pampered (child).

piep, (s) pip (chicken disease); ... (w) chirp, cheep, squeek, peep (chicken); molly-coddle, pamper; pule; ...

pip 1, piep (hoendersiekte); nukkerigheid, neerslagtigheid; ...

pip 3, (n) gepiep, piepgeluid; (v) piep.

(189) **peep,** blik, kykie; ...

blik 1, glance, glimpse, look, peep, view; ...

blik 2, (s) tin (plate); bin; white iron; pelf (money); ...

blik 3, (w) look, glance; ...

kyk, ...; **~ie,** peep, look; ...

The above are two interesting examples. Both make use of numerical markers, but none with the translation equivalents, which is the system followed in the Major Dictionary/Groot Woordeboek. The translation equivalent **gepiep** with the lemma **peep 1**, should have been furnished with the numerical marker **1**. Not only do we have **peep 1**, but also **pip 3**, which have the same translation equivalents. The lexicographers could have referred the user via a 'see' or '='.

In example (189) the translation equivalent **blik** is not furnished with a numerical marker, and the user has three lemmata of **blik** to choose from if he/she needs to go to the Afrikaans/English component of the dictionary. It is also interesting to see that the verb **blik 3** has been furnished with a numerical marker, instead of resorting under **blik 1**.

Other examples are

(190) **peer 1,** edelman; gelyke, eweknie, portuur; weerga, synsgelyke; ...

    edel, ...; **~man,** nobleman, peer; ...

    gelyke, equal, like, peer, compeer, match; ...

    ewe, ...; **~knie,** equal, match, peer, compeer; ...

    portuur, match, equal; peer; ...

    weerga, rival, match, fellow, peer, equal; ...

    syns 2, ...; ~ *GELYKE*, his equal (peer); ...

(191) **peer 2,** (v) (na)loer, tuur, kyk.

    loer: ...; **(ge-),** peep, pry, spy, watch, lurk, peek, peer; prey; ...

    naloer, peer after, watch, dog; eye.

    tuur, peer, pry; pore; strain one's eyes.

    kyk, ...; (w), look, see, view; pry; peer; ...

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In example (190), the lexical item **peer 1** appears as translation equivalent in the articles of all the items given as translation equivalents in the treatment of the lemma **peer 1,** but it is not furnished with a numerical marker in even one of those instances. (An unrelated problem that came to the fore is that its translation equivalent **synsgelyke** (given as one word) is treated as two separate words in the article of **syns 2**.) The lexical item **peer 2** also appears as translation equivalent, but without a numerical marker.

The following examples

(192) **weerman 1,** private *(mil.)*.

    private, (n) gewone soldaat, weerman, manskap; ...

(193) **weerman 2,** meteorologist, weatherman.

    meteorologist, weerkundige, meteoroloog.

    No lemma sign **weatherman**.

each has its own little problem, apart from no numerical markers with the translation equivalents. In (192), the lemma **private** is not furnished with a label, like the translation equivalent. In example (193), there is no lemma sign **weatherman**. Who then, will look up **weerman 2** if there is no translation equivalent? **Weerman 2** is more of a colloquial name, and should have had a label to point it out.

If one looks at the reversibility principle and what it stands for, one has to insist that translation equivalents are also furnished with numerical markers, to link them to their corresponding lemmata. It would be of enormous help to the user in ensuring that communicative equivalence takes place.

In all of the examples appearing under the heading, none was correctly executed. Numerical markers are really an area to be seriously looked at by the lexicographers, as it seems to be very neglected.

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CHAPTER 7

ABSOLUTE EQUIVALENCE

A relation of absolute equivalence between the source and the target language forms occur when the translation equivalent has the exact same meaning as the lemma. This means that the translation equivalent carries the same semantic weight as the lemma. Gouws (1989:164) says that such a translation equivalent could have several absolute synonyms in the target language, which can be offered as translation equivalents of the lemma.

(194)   **dadel,** date; ...

date 1, dadel (vrug).

The above example is an example of absolute equivalence with regard to the fact that **dadel=date**, and **date=dadel**, even though the translation equivalent **dadel** has a translation complement, which does not appear with the lemma sign **dadel**.

Absolute equivalence, where the target as well as the source language have no other synonyms, is called congruence. It is a limited type of absolute equivalence and one of its conditions is that neither the target language lemma nor the source language lemma should have synonyms. The lemma and its translation equivalent should be monosemic. It is usually found with regard to technical and scientific lemmata, but does occur in the general vocabulary. As technical and scientific lemmata are usually borrowed, the lemma and its translation equivalent very often share the same form.

7.1 Absolute Equivalents sharing the same Form

Due to the constant interaction between nations and cultures, languages are always changing, adding new words for new concepts. This often include absolute equivalents sharing the same form, as it makes recognition much easier. The following examples share the same form:

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(195) **hamster,** hamster.

(196) **trimpark,** trimpark.

(197) **piaster,** piaster, piastre.

      piaster, piastre, piaster.

Example (197) is a very good example of how the reversibility principle was applied. The two translation equivalents of **piaster** are actually spelling variants in Afrikaans. When they appeared as lemmata, both were included as lemmatic entries.

Sometimes the translation equivalent displays a slight variation in the spelling, to accommodate the spelling rules of the target language. Compare:

(198) **akerite**, akeriet.

      akeriet, akerite.

(199) **pique,** pikee

      pikee, pique

(200) **ricksha(w),** riksja.

      riksja, rickshaw.

The third example (200), however, shows some discrepancy as the lexicographer should have put the **(w)** of **rickshaw** as translation equivalent, also in brackets. Once again, the reversibility principle was not adhered to absolutely.

The following examples offer help to the user:

(201) **Richterskaal,** Richter scale (to measure the strength of an earthquake from 1 - 10).

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Richter scale, Richterskaal.

(202) **Flamingant,** Flamingant, fighter for the rights of the Flemish.
Flamingant, Flamingant.

(203) **perigeum,** perigee.
perigee, naaste stand van 'n hemelliggaam by die aarde, perigeum.

Due to the inclusion of a translation complement, as in example (201), the user is made aware of extra facts, without it taking anything from the dictionary. Unfortunately, the translation complement is not added to the Afrikaans translation equivalent, which shows a discrepancy with regard to the reversibility principle. The same can be said for example (202), where the second English translation equivalent is in the form of a description, but not in the Afrikaans-English section. The same occurs with regard to example (203), where the translation complement only appears with the Afrikaans translation equivalent, and not with the English translation equivalent.

This often happens in this dictionary. When one looks at e.g. the treatment of different currencies, one finds quite a few irregularities which indicate lexicographic inconsistency. Compare:

(204) **forint,** forint (munt in Hongarye).
No lemma sign **forint**.

(205) **centime,** centime (Franse munt).
No lemma sign **centime.**
centiem, centime.

(206) **peso,** peso (Suid-Amerikaanse muntstuk).
peso, peso.

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(207)   **peseta,** peseta (Spaanse muntstuk).

      peseta, peseta.

(208)   **lira, lire,** lira (munt).

      lira, lire, lira.

(209)   **florin,** floryn; gulden *(Ndl.)*.

      floryn, florin.

      gulde 2, (Dutch) guilder; (Australian) florin.

      guilder, gulden, floryn.

(210)   **mark 1,** mark (German coin).

      mark 2, mark (munteenheid).

(211)   **frank 2,** franc.

      franc, frank.

(212)   **drachma,** drachma (munt)

      dragma, dragme, dra(ch)m; drachma (Greek coin).

      drachm, dragme (gewig).

Examples (204) to (212) represent a small percentage of the world's currencies and coins within those currencies, and yet not one of them was treated properly. Consistency will be in using the same translation equivalents, the same translation complements and the same lemma

with regard to the translation equivalents.

The translation equivalent of example (204), **forint**, does not appear as lemma in the Afrikaans-English section. Apart from that, the translation complement looks different from all the other examples. It should have read **(Hongaarse muntstuk)**.

The translation equivalent of example (205), **centime,** does not feature as lemma in the Afrikaans-English section, but instead an Afrikanized version appears in its place. The translation complement appears only in the English-Afrikaans section, and should have been **(Franse muntstuk)** to conform to the rest.

Examples (206) and (207) suffer the same fate as example (205). The translation complements are only included with the Afrikaans translation equivalents, but they at least have **(muntstuk).** It is immaterial whether the lexicographers use **(munt)** or **(muntstuk),** they must, however, stay with the same term throughout the dictionary.

Example (208) has two discrepancies. Only one of the two forms of the lemma appear as translation equivalent in both the Afrikaans-English and the English-Afrikaans sections of the dictionary. The other problem is that **(munt)** is added as translation complement in the English-Afrikaans section, and not in the Afrikaans-English section.

Example (209) has quite a few problems. Firstly, the correct spelling of the translation equivalent is **gulde**, and not **gulden**. Secondly, the translation equivalent **gulden** is furnished with a label *(Ndl.)*, to indicate where it originates from, where a translation complement **(Nederlandse muntstuk)** would have been more illuminating. In the third instance, the lemma **gulden** has two polysemous senses translated as **guilder** and **florin**, and not two partial synonyms. There is a definite difference between **floryn** and **gulden**, when looking at their translation equivalents. The lemmatic entries would have looked better if they were presented as:

> **florin,** floryn (Australiese muntstuk); gulde (Nederlandse muntstuk).
>
> **floryn,** florin (Australian coin).
>
> **guilder,** gulde (Nederlandse muntstuk).

In example (210), the lemma **mark,** has two problems. The first is that the numerical markers are not the same, and therefore refer the user to the wrong lemma. Secondly, the translation

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complements are different. One refers to the country of origin, and the second just states that a **mark** is a coin.

In example (211), the translation equivalent **frank** of the lemma **franc** has not been furnished with a numerical marker, which leaves the user with an option of three to choose from. Both translation equivalents also lack a translation complement.

Example (212) has a few problems. In presenting the lemmata **dragma, dragme,** as two forms of spelling, the idea is left with the user that they are variants. Looking at the translation equivalents, we find a polysemous entry. Looking at the translation equivalents **drachma** and **drachm** when they are presented as lemmata, we can clearly see the difference with regard to their translation equivalents, and their subsequent translation complements.

Another problem concerns the translation complements which are not presented in conformation with the reversibility principle, the one being **(munt)** and the other being **Greek coin**.

(213) **klavier,** piano.

  piano, piano, klavier; ...

  piano, piano; ...

The above example (213) could fall under either **7.1** or **7.2**, as **piano** appears as translation equivalent in both Afrikaans and English.

The next example of absolute equivalence bears witness of lexicographic inconsistency:

(214) **noga,** nougat.

  nougat, noga, nougat.

  No Afrikaans lemma sign **nougat**.

The lexicographers supplied the translation equivalent **nougat** as variant of **noga**, but forgot to include it as lexical item in the Afrikaans-English section of the dictionary.

The reversibility principle is such a good tool to use in making sure that nothing of importance is left out when compiling a dictionary. Examples like these ones above are a sad occurrence, and reflect very negatively on the compilers of a dictionary.

7.2 Absolute Equivalents with different Forms

Language users do not always use the obvious word, i.e. a loanword for a new subject. Their ingenuity always come to the fore in presenting an object or subject with a name that is easy to understand and use.

The following examples are indicative of this, but they all have another characteristic, and that is one of congruence. Congruence occurs where there is an one-on-one-relationship between lexical items of the source and target language (Gouws, 1989:164). Congruence and absolute equivalence overlap to a great extent, but they are not synonyms. Absolute equivalence occurs when a lemma's translation equivalent carries the same semantic weight as the lemma. This lemma can also have a few synonyms in the target language, which could also be translation equivalents. Congruence, however, is a limited kind of absolute equivalence. Apart from the semantic equivalence between source and target language form, another requirement is that neither the source nor the target language form should have any synonyms. Congruence, therefore, requires a real one-on-one relationship.

The following three examples are congruent, as they have only one translation equivalent each:

(215) **filoplume,** haarveer.

      haarveer, filoplume.

(216) **oliver,** voethamer.

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voethamer, oliver.

(217) **verbyganger,** passer-by.

      passer, ...; **~-by,** verbyganger.

The following example is not one of congruence:

(218) **dassie,** dassie; ...

      dassie 2, rock-rabbit; hyrax.

      rock-rabbit, (klip)dassie; ...

      hyrax, dassie.

This example (218) has quite a few problems. Neither of the translation equivalents **dassie** is furnished with a numerical marker **2**, which can be a cause of confusion to the user when he/she has to look for the correct lexical item. Another problem is that the English lemma **dassie** does not appear as translation equivalent with **dassie 2**, the Afrikaans lemma. The next problem is that **dassie 2** has **rock-rabbit** and **hyrax** as translation equivalents, but they are not synonyms (as rightly indicated by the use of a semi-colon). It means that there are two animals with the same Afrikaans name **dassie**. This is never indicated to the user. When he/she looks at the translation equivalent of **rock-rabbit**, he/she finds **(klip)dassie - dassie** with an optional component of **(klip)**. Without help from the lexicographer, there is no conclusive proof that a **dassie** and a **klipdassie** could be two different animals. The lemma **hyrax** has as translation equivalent **dassie**, which brings the user back to the question of whether a **dassie,** a **rock-rabbit** and a **hyrax** refer to one and the same animal.

The next example of absolute equivalence

(219) **glossolalie,** glossolalia.

      glossolalia, talespraak, glossolalie.

      talespraak, gift of tongues, glossolalia.

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also shows some lexicographic inconsistency. The lemma **talespraak** has **gift of tongues** as translation equivalent, but it does not appear with the other Afrikaans lemma **glossolalie**. It would have been of tremendous help for the user, as the term **glossolalie** does not lend itself to an easy interpretation.

Although absolute equivalents seem relative easy entries in the bilingual dictionary, the lexicographic treatment of the examples shown prove otherwise. The lexicographers need to pay more attention to the reversibility principle when dealing with short entries, as mistakes show up easier.

CHAPTER 8

PARTIAL EQUIVALENCE

Partial equivalence is the most typical relation found in bilingual dictionaries. Here, a lemma has more than one translation equivalent, but they cannot all substitute the lemma in all contexts, as there is no complete overlap with regard to meaning, or as Gouws (1996a:120) puts it, 'the defining characteristic of partial synonymy is the contextual limitation on substitutability'. They can only be substituted in those instances where the relevant lexical items correspond semantically.

Examples are the following:

(220)   **alutation**, looiery

      looiery, tannery; tanner's trade; tanning; tan-works; tan-yard; alutation; ...

(221)   **fichu**, fichu

      fichu, kragie; skouermanteltjie, fichu

On the Afrikaans side we do not find **skouermanteltjie**, but **skouermantel**. From its translation equivalents we can see that it deals with a different concept:

(222)   **skouermantel**, cape, pallium, pelerine.

With regard to each synonym in the translation equivalent paradigm, we find the following:

(223)   **cape**, kaap, landpunt; (skouer)mantel, kraag; muurvors.

      pallium, pallium, opperkleed (v.d. ou Grieke); skouermantel (van 'n aartsbiskop); mantel (weekdiere).

pelerine, pelerien(mantel), skouermantel.

Of the above, **pallium** has the best treatment, because it shows the user in which case each one of the translation equivalents should be used. The dictionary still does not get it right, however, because it shows the translation equivalent **skouermantel** as representing a polysemous sense of **pallium** (a semi-colon is used). When one looks at example (222), one finds that all the translation equivalents are treated as synonyms, because they are divided by use of a comma.

The best way to have treated **cape** would have been by using a numerical structural marker, and then have a definition in brackets. When referring back to the source lemma, the numerical marker would tell the user which lemma it was sourced from.

An example of partial equivalence with different translation equivalents is

(224)   **chirologie,** deaf-and-dumb alphabet.

       chirology, vingertaal, gebaretaal, chirologie.

When looking at the translation equivalents as source lemmata, we find the following:

(225)   **deaf-and-dumb alphabet,** tekenalfabet, vingeralfabet *(vero.)*.

       deaf-and-dumb language, tekentaal, vingertaal *(vero.)*.

       vingeralfabet, manual alphabet, finger alphabet;

       tekenalfabet, deaf and dumb alphabet (language).

       tekentaal, sign language.

       vingertaal, *(vero.)* finger-and-sign language, finger alphabet; chirology, dactylology;

       gebaretaal, gesticulatory language, dumb-show; sign-language, chirology.

       dactylology, vingerspraak, daktilologie.

       vingerspraak = vingertaal.

       No lemma sign **daktilologie.**

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Through a process of elimination, which took me further away from my initial quest (to find the meaning of chirology), I realised what a minefield of information a dictionary could be. In Afrikaans we have seven translation equivalents that have been used randomly, and in English we have six. It would have made things much easier if a label like '(for deaf people)' could have been used to indicate which applies to which. The lexicographers have used the label *(vero.)* twice, but omitted it when indicating that **vingerspraak = vingertaal**. There are also spelling inconsistencies (i.e. sign language/sign-language; deaf-and-dumb language/deaf and dumb language). **Daktilologie** does not appear as lemma, although it is mentioned as a translation equivalent.

The following example contains similar inconsistencies:

(226) **perron,** stoep, perron.

    stoep, stoep, veranda; perron; ...

    perron, platform, perron; ...

    platform, platform; landing-place.

    landing-place, platform, landingsplek.

    veranda(h), veranda, stoep.

    stoep, *(Afr.)*, stoep; ...

Let us deal with the obvious inconsistencies first. The translation equivalent **veranda** appears in the same form for both Afrikaans and English, but the lemma **veranda(h)** has an optional component **(h)** which is absent from the translation equivalents. The other inconsistency is the addition of a label *(Afr.)* with the lemma **stoep**. However, this label is not furnished once with the translation equivalent **stoep**, although it appears three times.

If we look at the partial equivalents, we find that **perron, platform** and **landing-place** convey the same idea, and **stoep** and **veranda** another. However, they have been treated as synonyms in some cases, separated by a comma, and as polysemes in other cases, separated by semi-colons. The synonyms cannot substitute each other at random in any context. We

the English lemma **perron** has **stoep** and **perron** as translation equivalents. They are treated as synonyms, as indicated by the use of a comma. But the Afrikaans lemma **stoep** has as translation equivalents **stoep** and **veranda**, as well as **perron**. However, the translation equivalents **stoep** and **veranda** are treated as synonyms, and separated from **perron** by the use of a semi-colon, indicating it is a polysemous lexical item.

The same happens with **platform** and **landing-place**. The Afrikaans lemma **platform** has two translation equivalents, **platform** and **landing-place**, but they are separated by a semi-colon. However, the English lemma **landing-place** has as translation equivalents **platform** and **landingsplek**, treated as synonyms due to the presence of the comma. The lemmata are partial equivalents, but the user will not be able to distinguish between the lot, and could then use the wrong one in the wrong context.

The next example is also not without problems:

(227)   **taktvol,** tactful, discreet, judicious.

       tact, ...; **~ful,** beleidvol, taktvol.

       discreet, beskeie, oordeelkundig, taktvol, verstandig, omsigtig, vroed, beleidvol, diskreet, ingetoë, versigtig.

       judicious, verstandig, oordeelkundig, skerpsinnig; weloorweë.

       beleid, ...; **~vol,** *(ong.)*, prudent, cautious, discreet, prudential, tactful, politic.

If we look at the translation equivalents of the lemma **taktvol**, we find **tactful**, **discreet**, and **judicious**, with the latter a rather uncomfortable choice. It would have been better to use a semi-colon between **discreet** and **judicious**, as there is a marked difference in their respective usages. The lemma **tactful** has **beleidvol** and **taktvol** as translation equivalents. Looking at the lemma **beleidvol**, we find it has a label *(ong.)*, which does not appear with any of the translation equivalents **beleidvol**. Although the lemma **taktvol** has **discreet** as translation equivalent, the English lemma **tactful** does not have **diskreet** as translation equivalent. Both **taktvol** and **diskreet**, however, are translation equivalents of the lemma **discrete**. The

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lemma **judicious** does not have **diskreet** or **taktvol** as translation equivalent, although it appeared as translation equivalent with **taktvol**. The problems are totally lexicographic, and need to be dealt with more thoroughly.

The following example is a very bad case of lexicographic inconsistency:

(228) **suspect 1,** gewantroude, verdagte persoon.

No lemma sign **gewantroude**.

verdag, (-te), ...; queer, suspected (person).

It is totally irresponsible to furnish a lemma with a translation equivalent, and then forget to apply the reversibility principle. **Gewantroude** is also an uncommon word. There is also a mismatch between the translation equivalent **verdagte persoon** and its English counterpart **suspected (person)**. It would have been better to put the lexical item **persoon** in brackets, and then add another translation equivalent **suspect** with the lemma **verdag**. There also should have been a semi-colon between the translation equivalents **queer** and **suspected (person)**, as they are polysemous with regard to each other.

The following example is the worst so far:

(229) **piece de resistance,** *(F.)*, piece de resistance, hoofdis, hoofitem.

No lemma sign **piece de resistance**.

No lemma sign **hoofdis**.

No lemma sign **hoofitem**.

Need more be said? The above surely serves as a typical example how confusing a dictionary can be. Consistency seems to be a measure hard to obtain.

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CHAPTER 9

THE DIMINUTIVE FORM

9.1 English Diminutives

Diminutives are part of every language. However, they differ in appearance from language to language, and are formed in different ways. In English they are formed by using another word, i.e. **kitten, pup, cub** when referring to the young, and 'small', ' little' etc. when referring to size.

The following examples illustrate both points well:

(230)   **kitten,** katjie,...; ...

    katjie, kitten, ..., small cat, ...; ...

(231)   **pup,** jong hondjie; ...

    puppy, (puppies), jong hond; ...

    hondjie, little dog, pup(py); ...

(232)   **gosling,** jong gans.

    gans:...; **~ie,** gosling; ...

In both the above examples (230) and (231) we find not only the diminutive form with regard to age, but also with regard to size. However, we find a slight variation in the translation equivalents of **pup** and **puppy**, which could be confusing to a user. **Jong hondjie** can be seen as tautology, as **jong** indicates an immaturity, whereas **hondjie** already indicates a young dog. **Jong hond**, however, has the same meaning as **jong hondjie**, without the added component **-jie.** The lexicographers, however, should have kept to one form.

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Example (232), however, shows a lexicographic inconsistency. The translation equivalent of **gosling** is given as **jong gans**, whereas **gansie** already exists. One could say that a **jong gans** is slightly older than a **gansie**, but then the lexicographers should have given both versions as translation equivalents with the lemma **gosling**. As it stands now, they have negated **gansie**.

9.2 Afrikaans Diminutives

In Afrikaans we find stems combining with **-ie**, **-jie**, **-etjie** or **-pie** to indicate their diminutive form, as in

> **koek + ie = koekie**
>
> **hond + jie = hondjie**
>
> **slang + etjie = slangetjie**
>
> **boom + pie = boompie**

In this dictionary the user seldom encounters problems with the English diminutives. The problem lies with the Afrikaans diminutives. Where the Afrikaans diminutives are entered as lemmata, the lexicographers used 'small', 'little', 'young' or 'bit' with the English translation equivalents. Examples are:

(233)   **vasie,** small vase.

(234)   **nefie,** little nephew (cousin); young man.

(235)   **koordjie,** bit (piece) of string (cord).

Very often a user would find these diminutives far removed from the unmarked form, and often in the translation paradigm furnished with an indication such as 'small ...' to indicate that the lemma represents a diminutive form of another lexical item. However, sometimes translation equivalents appear without a qualification indicating the diminutive function of the lemma sign.

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(236) **kragie, (-s),** fichu, collar(ette).

        collaret(te), kragie

Here, the article of **kragie**, the diminutive of **kraag**, lacks an indication such as 'small collar'. Instead, when one looks at the lemma and its translation equivalents, the second synonym **collar(ette)** is the only indication that a relationship could exist between **kragie** and **collar**, and only because of the lemma **collar-**. Through the use of the brackets, the lexicographer has indicated that it could either be a collar, or a collarette. A clearer option would have been

        kragie, small collar, collarette, fichu.

Another problem is the inconsistency with regard to the spelling of **collarette**. The lexicographers have it as **collaret(te)** and **collar(ette).** If both forms are in use, then the lexicographers should indicate it as such. In the worst case it could be the wrong placement of the brackets!

If we look at

(237) **klont,** lump; clot (of blood); clod (of earth); nodule; nugget; ...

        klontjie, *verkleinwoord van* **klont; ~s,** (acid) drops; ...

and

(238) **kraak,** crack; chap; chink; ...

        krakie, *verkleinwoord van* **kraak;** *hy het 'n ~,* he has bats in the belfry; *cf.* **kraak.**

(239) **doos, (dose),** box, case, etui; carton, packet; ...

        dosie, *verkleinwoord van* **doos,** small box; pyxis, casket; ...

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we find that the lexicographers have used the Afrikaans phrase *verkleinwoord van* to mark the diminutives of **klont, kraak** and **doos.** In most instances they have, like example (233), used the word 'small' with the relevant lemma to indicate that it is a diminutive. If we look at

(240) **klok,** clock, bell; ...

 klokkie, little bell, clock; ...

as well as

(241) **kloof, (klowe),** ravine, cleft, chasm, gulf, gap, gorge, gully, chink, fussure; ...

 klofie, little ravine.

it remains a mystery why **klontjie, krakie** and **dosie** are furnished with the Afrikaans phrase, instead of having 'little' or 'small' as explanation.

If one looks at the following two diminutives

(242) **kraaltjie 2,** little bead

(243) **kraletjie,** small bead

one wonders why the two variants have different translation equivalents. Or was it simply an oversight from the lexicographers? Another query concerns the treatment of variants. If they are seen as different lemmata, why then is example (208), **lira, lire**, not entered and treated separately?

Diminutives, like all aspects discussed in the afore-mentioned chapters, form an integral part of the dictionary, and warrant a more thorough treatment.

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CHAPTER 10

CONCLUSION

The areas covered in this thesis, is but a few. However, the number of inconsistencies found in such a small field, is cause for concern. The treatment of labels leaves much to be desired, as does that of numerical markers. There should not be spelling inconsistencies in a dictionary, or an absence of translation equivalents. All the above has to do with the reversibility principle and communicative equivalence, which are the most important aspects of any dictionary. They form the spine of a dictionary.

Looking at all the afore-mentioned inconsistencies, irregularities and problems, there is not much left to say about a dictionary that could have been a huge success. All that remains to be said, is that the success of any dictionary rests squarely on the shoulders of its lexicographers. If they are committed to their task, they will succeed in offering the user most of the information he/she expects to find in a good dictionary.

May the critique serve as challenge to the lexicographers for this dictionary to become the best in its field.

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