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INTERAKTIVE DICTIONARIYES AS A NEW STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN LEXICOGRAPHY

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Abstract

The article analyzes interactive dictionaries as a qualitatively new stage in the development of Russian lexicography. Using explanatory dictionaries of the Russian language as an example, the author examines the transformation of their structure, functionality, and principles of user interaction in the digital environment. The author identifies key differences between interactive dictionaries and traditional printed or simple electronic versions, as well as their advantages and limitations. It is concluded that interactivity is not merely a technical convenience but changes the very nature of lexicographic language description.

Keywords: interactive dictionaries, Russian lexicography, explanatory dictionaries, digital environment, electronic lexicography, transformation of lexicography.

Introduction

Contemporary lexicography is undergoing a period of active digital transformation. Traditional printed explanatory dictionaries, which for centuries remained the primary source for recording and describing the lexical system of a language, are giving way to electronic and, subsequently, interactive formats. As V.A. Plungian notes, "the digital environment does not simply transfer a dictionary to a new medium but restructures the very logic of working with vocabulary" [1, p. 45].

The relevance of this study stems from the fact that, despite the widespread use of interactive explanatory dictionaries of the Russian language ("Gramota.ru", the "Dictionaries of the 21st Century" portal, ABBYY Lingvo applications, etc.), their theoretical understanding as a new stage in the development of lexicography remains insufficient. The aim of this article is to identify precisely how interactive dictionaries are qualitatively transforming the lexicographic tradition and to define the boundaries of this transformation.

1. What is an Interactive Dictionary: From Printed Edition to Digital Environment Before discussing the transformation of lexicography, it is necessary to define the object of study itself. A traditional printed explanatory dictionary is a linear (alphabetical) sequence of dictionary entries, each containing a headword, grammatical labels, a definition, and, as a rule, illustrative material. The user's interaction with the dictionary is purely receptive: the user finds the desired entry and receives information but cannot influence its content or structure [1, p. 47].

A simple electronic copy of a printed dictionary (e.g., scanned pages in PDF format) retains all the drawbacks of linear organization, adding only the possibility of machine text search. A fundamentally different level is represented by interactive dictionaries.

In this article, an interactive dictionary is understood as an electronic lexicographic resource that: in some cases, includes multimedia elements (audio pronunciation, video illustrations);

provides the user with the opportunity for feedback (rating examples, suggesting new meanings) [2, p. 114]. As E.G. Shimchuk emphasizes, "interactivity turns the dictionary

from a static reference book into a dynamic linguistic environment where the boundaries between author, editor, and user become fluid" [3, p. 209].

2. A Review of Interactive Explanatory Dictionaries of the Russian Language

Currently, there are several notable projects in this area. "Gramota.ru" (gramota.ru) is one of the oldest and most authoritative Russian-language resources. It includes integrated explanatory dictionaries (Ozhegov, Kuznetsov, etc.) with quick search capabilities, as well as a "Help" service where users can ask questions to experts. A drawback is the lack of full-fledged hypertext linking between entries [4, p. 90].

The "Dictionaries of the 21st Century" portal (slovari21.ru) is a more modern project, originally created as a digital one. It features a developed system of hyperlinks, convenient navigation by thematic groups, and the ability for registered users to comment on dictionary entries.

Lingvo mobile applications – although these dictionaries were originally translation dictionaries, they include explanatory dictionaries of the Russian language. A key feature is voice input, instant recognition of word forms (e.g., begoo – 'I am running' to bezhat' – 'to run'), and the ability to create custom word sets for study.

The Russian National Corpus project (ruscorpora.ru) occupies an intermediate position: it is not a pure dictionary, but its "lexico-grammatical search" and "semantic annotations" effectively perform explanatory and interactive functions, allowing the user to see a word in the context of millions of actual usages [1, p. 49].

3. Advantages and Limitations of Interactive Dictionaries

Let us systematize the key differences between interactive explanatory dictionaries and printed ones. Advantages:

Search speed and flexibility: the user finds a word in seconds, even if entered in an incorrect grammatical form.

Non-linear navigation: hyperlinks allow instant transitions to related words, creating one's own research trajectory.

Limitations and risks:

Issue of source trust: in open online dictionaries with crowdsourcing ("Wiktionary"), the quality of entries varies, and errors are possible.

Incompleteness of description: interactive formats often strive for brevity, sacrificing the rich illustrative material and stylistic labels characteristic of academic printed editions.

Digital divide: use requires internet access and a device, which excludes some users.

Risk of oversimplification: ease of search should not lead to the degeneration of lexicography into a primitive "question-answer" system, losing the linguistic worldview that a full-fledged dictionary provides [3, p. 213].

Conclusion

The analysis allows us to assert that interactive explanatory dictionaries of the Russian language indeed represent a new stage in the development of Russian lexicography. As shown in the first part of the work, the difference between interactive and printed dictionaries is not limited to technical improvements: the very structure of the dictionary (from linear to hypertext), functionality (morphology-aware search, voice input, multimedia), and the nature of user interaction (feedback emerges) are changing.

Systematizing the advantages and limitations of interactive explanatory dictionaries leads to the following conclusions. The undoubted advantages are search speed, non-linear navigation, the ability to quickly add neologisms, multimediality, and accessibility. However,

serious risks remain: reduced normative rigor (especially in dictionaries with open editing), incompleteness of description compared to fundamental printed editions, and dependence on digital infrastructure [3, p. 213].

Thus, at the present stage, the optimal approach is not a simple replacement of printed dictionaries with interactive ones, but their integration. The authoritative lexicographic foundation created by academic teams should be provided with a convenient interactive shell featuring hyperlinks, multimedia, and regular vocabulary updates. It is this hybrid model, as shown by the most successful projects, that is likely to become dominant in the coming years [4, p. 88].

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