Ulrich Busse
Universität Osnabrück, Germany

A Dictionary of Anglicisms — an outline of its history, content and objectives

The paper sets out with a brief account of the history of the Dictionary of Anglicisms in so far as its constraints are of importance to the finished product. From the viewpoint of one of its compilers and its editor, the author discusses the objectives, the scope, coverage, and the structure of the dictionary, because these questions, or their answers, are clearly user-oriented and thus have a bearing on the content and structure of the dictionary. Having answered these questions on the macrostructure of the dictionary, the article then moves on to describe its microstructure by referring to the individual parts that make up a dictionary entry and to illustrate these with examples. In order to exemplify the way in which dictionary articles interact and how the dictionary works as a whole, the presentation and discussion of the special features of this dictionary is concluded by a detailed account of the semantically related dictionary articles Facelift, Facelifting, Gesichtsstraffung, Lift, and Lifting.

1. The (pre-)history of the dictionary

The origins of the dictionary go back to the early 1960s, when in 1963 — together with Hans Galinsky — and in 1965, Broder Carstensen published two accounts on the impact of English on post-war German. Since then more than 100,000 citation slips have been gathered. However, for rather a long time this was done without the primary intention of using these as a basis for a dictionary.

The research project “English influences on the German language after 1945” (1977–1981), financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG), served as a second preparatory step for the dictionary. Work on the dictionary proper began in 1981 and lasted until 1995. Within this long time-span several phases can be identified:
In the initial phase (1981–1983) many important basic decisions had to be taken regarding the objectives, scope and internal structure of the projected dictionary. In connection with this, two conferences in 1980 and 1983 involving pre-eminent international scholars in the fields of lexicography, lexicology and transference linguistics provided the theoretical framework and largely determined the structure of the dictionary (cf. Reichmann/Wiegand 1980, Kirkness/Wiegand 1983 and Carstensen 1983).

Partly due to prior experience and partly due to the outcome of the above-mentioned conferences, the work on the dictionary articles at this stage can be characterized as a transitional period moving from propaedeutic lexicological work to the continual shaping and re-shaping of article structure, which then finally led to establishing a daily lexicographical routine that was put into practice in the following years.

The years from 1984–1988 saw the writing of the dictionary articles from A to Z in various stages of completion. From 1989 until 1991 the introduction, the users’ notes and the bibliography of secondary sources were compiled. However, when Broder Carstensen died in January 1992, nothing was yet ready for publication. So that another four years were necessary to bring the articles up to date, revise and edit the whole work.

The cut-off point for the inclusion of secondary sources was Lehnert (1990), in order to document a final statement on the lexical impact of English on the German language in the GDR and my own work on the documentation of anglicisms in the Duden orthographic dictionary from 1880 to 1986 (Busse 1993). As opposed to this, the linguistic documentation by citations was extended as far as possible until publication, which means until 1992 for the first volume, until 1993 for the second, and until 1994 for the third and final volume.

The first volume (1993) not only includes the letters A — E but also a detailed bibliography of more than 1450 books and articles on the topics of (Anglo-German) language contact, many of which are cited or referred to in the entries. Furthermore, an extensive introduction, written by Carstensen, gives reasons for the criteria of editorial procedure. At the same time, it also provides a theoretical framework within the field of language contact and linguistic change, which serves as a backdrop for the detailed lexicographical treatment of the individual entries, thus offering a state-of-the-art-account of the research on the influence of English on present-day German (cf. Herbst 1994). The second volume (1994) includes the letters F–O, and the third volume covers the remainder of the alphabet P–Z together with a bibliography of primary sources. The last volume appeared in early 1996, thus bringing to a close a project which began as early as 1981 and lasted for fifteen years, of which I spent eleven years working on the dictionary. The three volumes comprise a total of about 2,000 pages.
2. Objectives, scope, coverage and internal structure of the dictionary

2.1. The dictionary and its users

Before embarking on any lexicographical undertaking it is of crucial importance to envisage the potential users of the projected dictionary. In this respect, for a dictionary of anglicisms in present-day German two basic options are principally possible: either to set up a dictionary designed for the user interested in information on certain, specific problems or queries, such as spelling, pronunciation or uncertainties of meaning and usage or, on the other hand, a dictionary written for linguists and other scholars working in related fields of interest and seeking comprehensive information on the complex problems concerning the integration of an item, its socio-historical context, etc.

Although not explicitly stated in the introduction to the dictionary, Carstensen (1983: 14), Busse (1994: 189) and the dictionary entries themselves with their detailed structure have decided this question clearly in favour of the latter approach, though efforts have been taken to keep the entries clearly organized and largely free from linguistic jargon so that the interested layman, with rather more practical questions, as mentioned above, can also work with the dictionary.

The Dictionary of Anglicisms is based on a corpus of 100,000 citations from German newspapers, periodicals, catalogues, advertisements, booklets, pamphlets and from high as well as trivial literature, including also a few samples of spoken German, especially from television and radio.

The dictionary deals with the 3500 most common and current anglicisms in present-day German. A central criterion for the currency of an item and subsequently for its inclusion in the dictionary was its documentation within the corpus. The cut-off margin for potential entries was set at five citations from different sources over an extended stretch of time. But mention needs to be made of the fact that these numbers were not at all cost strictly adhered to, especially, when the competence of the compilers served as counter-evidence for under-representation of the respective item in the corpus. In cases like this supplementary documentation was looked for, which could at times be rather painstaking and time-consuming. Taken together, these factors should ideally guarantee a solid foundation and prove a certain steadiness of an item as a prospective dictionary entry or, to put it the other way around, help exclude nonce-formations and short-lived vogue-words.

On the other hand, this does not mean of course that anglicisms designating concepts which due to changes in the socio-historical setting have become historic: e.g. airlift, displaced person, Luftbrücke, skylab and others, are excluded because the things they refer to no longer exist. Words like this are included but given a special usage label and often also a detailed commentary in a special position within the framework of the dictionary entry (cf. 2. 9). Furthermore, in this special section of the entry structure many headwords are also
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provided with detailed additional information on the origin and history of a term and its integration in the German language. In many instances the dictionary also features encyclopaedic information and references to other authors, who have dealt with the item. In a number of other cases, where the corpus clearly indicated certain historic peaks of usage, *e.g.* those terms mirroring mid–1960s expression of socio–political change and unrest, such as Blumenkind, establishment, escalation, flower–power, hippie, sit–in (and other–in formations), underground, etc. these are also given a special commentary as regards their use, indicating that some of these are becoming obsolescent and are in the process of becoming historical citation words. In articles such as Dritte Welt (after Third World) and friedliche Koexistenz (after peaceful coexistence), Eiserner Vorhang (after Iron Curtain), where the borrowing process is rather complex, involving different mediating languages and individual people to whom the coinage of the term is attributed, this is also discussed in the dictionary article. In so doing, the Dictionary of Anglicisms combines to a certain degree elements of a language dictionary and an encyclopaedic dictionary. It is to be admitted that further research into the histories of individual words and concepts might be necessary, but the Dictionary of Anglicisms in its own understanding modestly proposes to offer a first step in this direction serving as a basis for further detailed investigations.

2.3. The treatment of technical languages

Technical languages have been included in so far as they were documented in the corpus. With the corpus consisting mainly of press publications, only those elements from technical languages are covered that normally appear in newspapers and periodicals. In this way, highly technical terms are eliminated, but those more central to modern ways of life, *viz.* terms from computing: cursor, diskette, laptop, Maus, online, software, business administration and economy such as break–even–point, buyout, cash–flow, franchise, leasing, windfall–profits etc. went into the dictionary because the average reader is likely to encounter them in newspapers or magazines.

2.4. Wordstock to be included

The term anglicism is used here as a generic term for Briticism, Americanism, Canadianism, etc. The main focus of the dictionary lies on those anglicisms which have come into German after 1945. Older loans are included only if there have been changes in meaning or new meanings. Arguments have been brought forward against this restriction (cf. Gardt 1996: 101 f.) saying that the categories of relative currency and age of a loan are incommensurable because they work according to different principles of selection. To a certain extent this criticism is justified from a purely theoretical point of view, but with the nature of the corpus, its genesis and, in particular, the non–availability of better corpora in mind and the fact that this decision had long been taken before I took charge, it proved the only possible solution. Being well aware of the limitations and subjectivity involved, Görlach with his projected
Usage Dictionary of Anglicisms in Several European Languages (UDASEL) leaves out documentation completely and goes into another direction of “Basing our data on personal competences (checked against the most recent dictionaries available)” (Görlach forthc.). Awkward as it may be for users that in certain cases they will have to resort to fremdwörterbücher (’dictionaries of foreignisms’), in particular to the Duden Fremdwörterbuch or, for greater detail to the Deutsches Fremdwörterbuch, if an anglicism is not included in our dictionary, one will have to work with a combination of both because lexicographical research in Germany apart from the profit–oriented Duden company in Mannheim is rather fragmentary and scattered, with individual scholars or small work groups working mostly independently from each other at different places. A recent compilation (Schlaefer 1996) of lexicographical projects currently under way at German Universities and academies shows that there are no less than 41 different projects.

2.5. The terminology of linguistic borrowing

The terminology delineating the various loan processes at work has been developed exclusively for this dictionary, thus discarding the terminology put forward by Betz and others. For this reason the items have been categorized basically into two large groups: Those words deriving directly from English, i.e. Job, Show, Baby; recyclen, surfen; clever, cool; High Tech, Product Placement; Big Brother is watching you, last (but) not least; and those modelled after English, i.e. Erste Dame, Urknall, Wasserglätte; grünes Licht gegeben/erhalten, etc. A third, but minor category consists of those cases where an English model has sparked the borrowing process and is still recognizable as such, but where German has morphologically altered, mostly truncated, the word to an un–English form, such as the shortenings Deo (for deodorant), Pulli (short for pullover, Profi (for professional — the English short form being pro) and probably the most well–known member of this class T bewen (’a person in one's twenties’). These rare cases are labelled as related to English.

2.6. The treatment of semi–calques and calques

The dictionary not only features direct loans but also German renditions, i.e. words and phrases which have an English word or phrase as their model, e.g. schneller Brüter, stehende Ovationen, in einem Boot sitzen, sein Gesicht verlieren, Licht am Ende des Tunnels, etc. Furthermore, below the word level, the dictionary covers current affixes and combining forms, e.g. anti–, -bewußt, -ical, Mega–, Mini–, Super–. The lexical influence of English on German is documented by listing and describing the most frequent compounds and derivatives, which may or may not have an English model, e.g. Bordcomputer, Computerkriminalität, Computertomographie, computern, Computerei or, to take another example: Manager with its great number of compounds which are all listed as subentries in order to document the prolificness: Generalmanager, Jungmanager, Krisenmanager, Product–Manager, Produktmanager, Sales Manager, Spitzenmanager. Super and its subsequent compounds mostly semi–
calques Supercup, Supermacht, Superman, Supermann, Supermarkt, Superstar, Supertanker can be regarded as a further case in point.

2.7. The treatment of variant forms

Compared to other German dictionaries which cover a far greater wordstock, the number of entries — 3500 — in the Dictionary of Anglicisms appears to be fairly small. However, the entries are given comprehensive treatment. An example for this is the listing of all spelling variants found in our corpus. This outspokenly descriptive treatment of course differs very much from that found in other dictionaries. In order to illustrate this Gentleman’s Agreement can serve as an admittedly extreme example: Compared to the single form offered in the Duden (1991) the Dictionary of Anglicisms documents no less than nine variant forms: Gentleman’s Agreement, Gentleman’s agreement, Gentlemen’s–Agreement, gentlemen’s agreement, Gentleman–Agreement, gentleman agreement, gentlemanagreement, gentlemen agreement, Gentlemen–Agreement.

In addition to that, the dictionary gives both the German pronunciation(s) and the pronunciation of the English model (Busse 1996), so that readers interested in the differences and principles of phonemic integration from donor language to recipient language can make comparisons. It is granted that this information is based on the findings of other dictionaries (on pronunciation) and the compilers’ linguistic competence. With this in mind, it is quite natural that this data is not strictly authoritative, as it could not be inferred from our corpus of primarily written material.

Dates of the first documentation of an item in other German dictionaries reaching back as far as 1804 are provided in order to give the user an idea of when a certain word or meaning was first attested in German dictionaries. By comparing the dates given for documentation in dictionaries and occurrence in our corpus, evidence can be gathered on the time–span that can elapse in linguistic borrowing between the recording of a term in dictionaries and its documentation in written usage or vice versa.

2.8. The treatment of synonyms — onomasiological linking

Reference to synonyms and semantically more or less related words puts the headword within an onomasiological network of related concepts: Abschreckung (after deterrence) as a term in NATO strategy provides links to abgestufte Abschreckung (after graduated deterrence), Erstschlag (after first strike), flexible response and massive Vergeltung (after massive retaliation) and Zweitschlag (after second strike). This network can thus give an overview of the semantic field of different concepts within NATO defence policy. Another example to illustrate this principle of onomasiological linking, either by commentary or simple cross-reference, is taken from the field of fine arts, where there are links between the articles on environment, happening and performance or, to take an example from the field of demi–monde, cross-references are established between callgirl, hostess, partygirl and playgirl, all of them designating women who are more or less openly involved in prostitution.
2.9. The structural pattern of the dictionary entries

All the entries in the dictionary are built according to a fixed pattern. This can best be shown by the following dummy article illustrating the lexicographical microstructure for a main entry (headword). Subentries are written in a similar way, the only exception being that the headword does not appear in boldface type but with the letters spaced:

1 headword, (2) spelling variants <[3 German pronunciation] 4 part of speech | (5) usage label> (6) (abbreviation or clipping) 7 'definition by means of paraphrase' 8 first citation in corpus || 9 first documentation in German dictionaries 10 type of borrowing (loan, semi–calque, calque) 11 [English pronunciation] (12) encyclopaedic, socio–historical, etc. information

(13) synonyms
(14) reference to other dictionary entries that are onomasiologically related to the headword
15 citations — documentation of sources (in chronological selection from the corpus)
(16) compounds and derivatives documenting integration and productivity (in alphabetical order)
(17) bibliographical references for further reading

The positions in brackets are optional and thus do not apply to every entry.

2.10. Model discussion of selected articles

In order to exemplify the way in which the dictionary works I would like to refer to the examples of the articles Facelift, Facelifting, Gesichtsstraffung and Lifting. The entry Facelifting lists the three meanings as attested by the corpus: 1 'operation to tighten wrinkled skin, especially of the face', 2 'stylistic corrections of a motorcar to improve its appearance', 3 '(minor) corrections in the appearance of anything' stating that the figurative extensions of meaning have an equivalent in English and were not introduced in German. As the form Facelifting is the most frequent in the corpus it is given main entry status. But as the above–mentioned outline indicates, the dictionary describes also calques and morphological variations. For this reason, the form Facelift, not being that frequent, is treated as a subentry, as is the German loan–rendition Gesichtsstraffung, which is also given subentry status. In order to point out its English model it is designated as "wahrsch. nach [possibly after]engl. face-lift(ing). This categorisation accounts for the fact that there is a high degree of probability for English influence on the German rendition but that it cannot be established with absolute certainty that the calque was indeed initiated by the English model of face-lift(ing).
However, “translating” and back-clipping are not the only processes at work in this example. The compound *Facelifting* allows even further variation such as initial shortening, which can be illustrated by the entry *Lifting* listed as a main entry under –L–. In order to avoid redundancy due to the overlap in meaning with *Facelift*, the meaning of *Lifting* is not paraphrased again but the reader is referred to the entry *Facelift*. A further case in point highlighting the productivity of this related word group is the entry for *Lift*². This is the shortest and as regards frequency the most marginal of all the related word-forms.

The number of quotations roughly reflects the status of the respective lemma with up to nine quotations (per meaning) for *Facelifting* and *Lifting* and two to four citations for the more peripheral entries *Gesichtsstraffung* and *Lift*. The citations typically illustrate such aspects as earliest occurrence, different sources, collocations, grammatical and/or stylistic peculiarities, etc. Extensive cross-references are meant to insure the coherence of items irrespective of alphabetical order (cf. 2. 8). Adding to this, subentries like *Gesichtsstraffung* with a second alphabetical order (within main entries) make it possible to keep word families together. In this way, they provide an onomasiological position within a semasiological dictionary with the normal alphabetical line-up being resumed by a reference under the letter –G– for *Gesichtsstraffung*: cf. *Facelifting*.

3. Final remarks

In a summary the examples of *Facelifting et al.* exhibit all the major features of the treatment of anglicisms in this dictionary in general and, what is more, they should have proved convincingly that this approach to the lexicography of Anglo-German language contact is innovative and unique among existing dictionaries.

The coverage of our dictionary comprises a time-span of 50 years (1945 to 1995). For the above-mentioned reasons, the treatment of loans entering the German language during the 1990s had to be more selective. Since the completion of the individual volumes several new anglicisms have come into use in German, e.g.: *Acid House, Blauhelme (after blue helmets), grunge rock (only included as a fashion term), handy (mobile telephone), inline skates, love parade, out-of-area Einsatz, rave, techno*, and many others that have made their way into German and other European languages since the mid–1990s, but which, however, came too late for inclusion in our dictionary.

The fact that nowadays many European languages have special dictionaries devoted to anglicisms can serve as an indicator of the large lexical impact of the English language. In this respect the *Dictionary of Anglicisms* closes the hitherto existing gap for German.

Although different in scope and intention, Görlach’s *Usage Dictionary of Anglicisms in Several European Languages* will be a welcome complement to our dictionary, and after its completion German will be that language in Europe for which English influence is most amply documented in dictionaries and monographs.
U. Busse, A Dictionary of Anglicisms — an outline of its history, ... SL 41/42, 103–114 (1996)
References

1. Dictionaries:


2. Secondary sources:


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A Dictionary of Anglicisms — nacrt povijesti, sadržaja i ciljeva

Na početku rada daje se kratak povijesni pregled rječnika anglicizama Dictionary of Anglicisms utoliko što su njegova ograničenja od važnosti za nj kao krajnji proizvod. Kao jedan od sastavljača i urednik rječnika autor članka razmatra ciljeve, opseg, područje i ustroj rječnika, imajući u vidu da su ta pitanja, ili pak njihovi odgovori, usmjereni na korisnika te stoga utječu na sadržaj i ustroj toga rječnika. Odgovorivši na pitanja o makrostrukturi rječnika, u radu se razmatra njegova mikrostruktura te navode i ilustriraju pojedini elementi natuknice. Da bi se pokazala međusobna povezanost rječničkih članaka te funkcioniranje rječnika kao cjeline, u zaključnom dijelu rada — nakon razmatranja posebnih svojstava toga rječnika — daje detaljan prikaz semantički povezanih rječničkih članaka Facelift, Facelifting, Gesichtsstraffung, Lift i Lifting.