

One Hundred Years of English-Croatian Lexicography (Historical perspective and current needs)

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The paper gives a historical survey of English-Croatian/Croatian-English general (nontechnical) lexicography.

The growth and development of English studies in Croatia were accompanied, from the late forties onwards, by a rather steady flow of dictionaries of the above language pair, marked by constantly increasing attempts to attain greater comprehensiveness and methodological sophistication. However, in spite of the expanding market and rapidly developing computer technology, the past decade has witnessed a noticeable halt in the English-Croatian lexicographic production, while, at the same time, various specialized technical dictionaries are produced to meet the demands of the growing audience much more promptly.

The lack of the necessary bilingual lexicographic tools becomes even more striking in the light of the booming developments in the field of monolingual English (particularly British) dictionary industry. The author tries to account for such a situation and undertakes to sort out the priorities among the English-Croatian lexicographic desiderata.

Although the first English-Croatian dictionary, compiled by Aleksander Lochmer appeared in 1906, the full-fledged beginning of English-Croatian bilingual lexicography can be traced back to the year 1895 when the first two small volumes, out of originally planned 10 or 12, were issued in Senj, Lochmer's home town. This centennial therefore is a conveniently suitable occasion to look back at the beginnings and growth of English-Croatian dictionary making, and also as an opportunity to show the present situation and identify our current needs, or rather, to envisage those lexicographic tools that should be aimed at along the lines of currently dominant lexicographic developments.

Compared with the languages like Italian, German, Spanish or French, which all appeared side by side with English in dictionary form in the 16th century, Croatian-English lexicography had a rather late start. This may seem somewhat surprising having in mind that Croatian lexicography, particularly multilingual and bilingual, has a very long and diverse tradition (starting with Faust Vrančić's *Dictionarium quinque nobilissimarum Europae linguarum*, published exactly four hundred years ago).

Nevertheless, for various historical, geographical, cultural, or rather, sociolinguistic reasons, until the second half of the 19th century direct contact with the English language and literature was the privilege of a few isolated intellectuals. But by the end of the century the need for an English-Croatian dictionary had become obvious and the growing circle of educated people had to make do with the existing English-German, English-French or English-Italian dictionaries as intermediaries.

This survey includes only general, nonspecialized, nontechnical English-Croatian and Croatian-English dictionaries published either in Croatia or abroad. I have done my best to record as precisely as I could, on the basis of the existing documentation, all editions of the given dictionaries and in doing so became aware of the implicit sociolinguistic significance of these data, which might easily become a subject of research in its own right. On this occasion, however, I do not intend to go into detailed analysis of each of these dictionaries, but will merely try to indicate the context in which they appeared and, where appropriate, point out their major merits.

The first scholar to undertake the huge task of compiling an English-Croatian dictionary was Aleksander Lochmer, one of the pioneers of English studies in Croatia. He was aware of the needs arising not only from cultural interests, but also growing commercial and maritime connections, and the great number of Croatian emigrants in USA.

(1) Aleksander Lochmer (1906) **Englesko-hrvatski rječnik**, Ivo. Pl. Hreljanović, Senj, (6+) 1112 p. (Vols. 1 /A-Benign/ and 2 /Ben-Courtesy/, Senj, 1895)

Lochmer's **Englesko-Hrvatski rječnik** was an impressive work which at the outset imposed high lexicographic standards. Not all English-Croatian dictionaries succeeding it were able to meet them. Its balanced choice of lexical material (over 45,000) and its serious and elaborate lexicographic approach qualified it, for several decades to come, as the most reliable English-Croatian lexicographic tool.

Its qualities were widely recognized, so that as early as 1907 an eminent English philologist, W. R. Morfill, devoted Lochmer's dictionary notable words of praise:

»The object of Professor Alexander Lochmer in compiling his useful *English-Croatian Dictionary* (Senj, 1906) of 1112 pages is to help his countrymen to acquire our language, in the dignity and future prospects of which he is a strenuous believer. He has brought together a mass of valuable information, the result of many years study. His earlier work on English, a grammar for his countrymen, was produced about ten years ago. While Professor Lochmer's Dictionary cannot but help to spread the knowledge of English – and few, we believe, know English as well as he among those who are not natives – it will also be useful to Englishmen who wish to gain a knowledge of the Serbo-Croatian language, one of the noblest of the Slavonic group. It seems only right that hearty welcome should be given in an English philological journal to so meritorious work.«¹

(2) Aleksander Lochmer (1911) **Džepni rječnik hrvatskoga i engleskoga jezika s točnim izgovorom svake riječi**, A. Hartman, Pučko izdanje, Zagreb, 230 p.

was actually the first Lochmer's lexicographic achievement, and the first Croatian-English dictionary (7000 Croatian words with English equivalents) published as a self-contained edition. It was, however, originally conceived as a supplement to his textbook *Laki način engleski bez učitelja u kratko vrijeme naučiti razumijevati i govoriti*, published in 1903, and its most valuable part. Lochmer had, apparently, intended to prepare a more complete edition of his Croatian-English dictionary but unfortunately did not live to accomplish his aim. So, Zagreb publisher A. Hartman published it after Lochmer's death and without his permission, in the form that the author would certainly have considered much in need of further improvement. That small dictionary remained the only Croatian-English dictionary available in Croatia for a very long time.

The appearance of Bogadek's two dictionaries (3, 4) and their numerous subsequent editions bear witness, above all, to the desperate needs of Croatian emigrants overseas, particularly in USA.

(3) Francis A. Bogadek (1915) **Standard Croatian-English and English-Croatian Dictionary**, Pittsburgh, J. Marochnich; 2nd ed. 1917: *Najveći hrvatsko-engleski i englesko-hrvatski rječnik s točnim izgovorom svake riječi*, J. Marochnich, Pittsburgh, 212+206 p. (*Croatian-English Dictionary with Correct Pronunciation*, Milwaukee, Wis., C.N. Caspar Co, 1917*)

(4) Francis A. Bogadek (1926) **New English-Croatian and Croatian English Dictionary (Novi englesko-hrvatski i hrvatsko-engleski rječnik)**, J. Marochnich, Pittsburgh, (VII+) 531+497/46 p. (2nd ed. 1944, G. E. Stechert & Co., New York; 3rd ed. 1945, 3rd ed. /With an appendix comprising short grammar of the Engl. lang./, 1949; (3rd ed. also published by Hafner Pub. Co., New York, 1944; 1949): 3rd ed. enlarged and corrected, Hafner Pub. Co., 1951–52; 1957; *Cassell's New English-Croatian and Croatian-English Dictionary*, 3rd ed. enl. and corr., Macmillan, New York, 1985)

¹ The *Modern Language Review*, Vol. II, Num. II, January 1907, p. 139

In spite of his good intentions and doubtless effort, Francis Bogadek, a lawyer by vocation, took upon himself an enterprise he was not up to. However, due to the want of any competing edition, those dictionaries remained on the market for several decades, and can still be found in American book shops.

It is of interest that the very same year Bogadek's *New English-Croatian and Croatian English Dictionary* appeared in the United States, Croatian anglicist and philologist Milan Drvodelić wrote a devastating critical review showing it to be an extremely amateurish work, suffering from lack of elementary linguistic knowledge and lexicographic skill and characterized by unmitigated superficiality and downright ignorance. He denounced Bogadek's dictionary as totally unreliable, and as such, »lethal« for potential users.² It is, therefore, very unfortunate that such an unprofessional piece of lexicography should have remained as the main authority on the American market for such a long time, being reprinted so many times (albeit in somewhat enlarged and corrected versions).

It comes as small surprise that it should be precisely Drvodelić who initiated the modern era of English-Croatian lexicography. His two dictionaries (5 and 7) were conceived as universal, medium sized reference books, aimed at a wide variety of users and already in their first editions met high criteria of contemporary lexicographic methodology.

(5) Milan Drvodelić (1946) **Englesko-hrvatski rječnik**, Št. Kugli, 768 p. (Školska knjiga: 1st ed. 1954, 976 p.; 2nd ed. 1962: *Englesko-hrvatsko-srpski rječnik*, 1104 p., ed. Ž. Bujas; 3rd ed. 1970, (8+) 1198 p., ed. Ž. Bujas; 4th ed. 1973: *Englesko-hrvatski ili srpski rječnik*, (8+) 1161, ed. Ž. Bujas; 5th ed. 1978, (VIII+) 880 p., ed. Ž. Bujas; 6th ed 1981; 7th ed. 1983)

(7) Milan Drvodelić (1953) **Hrvatsko-engleski rječnik**, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, (8+) 940 p., (2nd ed. 1961: *Hrvatsko-srpsko-engleski rječnik*, (9+) 912, ed. L. Spalatin; 3rd ed. 1970; 4th ed. 1978: *Hrvatsko ili srpsko-engleski rječnik*, (4+) 847 p., ed. Ž. Bujas; 5th ed. 1982; 6th ed. 1989)

Drvodelić's dictionaries were oriented towards Croatian users, the first one falling into the category of dictionaries for translation or, according to more recent classification, passive dictionaries, and the second one was intended for production, and is thus an active dictionary.

Both dictionaries were very extensively and more than aptly revised by Željko Bujas, so that in the form we find them today they are as much Bujas's as Drvodelić's.

² Milan Drvodelić, 'Jedna knjiga riznica netočnosti – F. A. Bogadek »Novi englesko-hrvatski i hrvatsko-engleski rječnik«', *Novosti*, god. XX, br. 301, Zagreb, 1926.

(6) John Andrović (1947) **New Pronouncing and Explanatory English-Croatian and Croatian-English Dictionary**, Mudrost, Zagreb, 240 p. (2nd ed. 1949)

appeared only one year after Drvodelić's English-Croatian dictionary. It was a competent work, especially its Croatian-English part, but too limited in size. In the category of pocket dictionaries it was, nevertheless, superior to

(8) Josip Petrović (1953) **Hrvatsko-engleski, englesko-hrvatski rječnik**, Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 263 p.

that appeared several years later.

The major enterprise in the area of English-Croatian lexicography was, without doubt:

(9) Rudolf Filipović et al. (1955) **Englesko-hrvatski rječnik**, Zora, Zagreb (XVII+) 1430 p. (subsequent editions: /2nd/ 1959; /3rd/ *Englesko-hrvatskosrpski rječnik*, 1963; /4th/ 1966; /5th/ 1970; /6th/ *Englesko-hrvatski rječnik*, 1971; /7th/ *Englesko-hrvatski ili srpski rječnik*, 1974; /8th/ 1975; /9th/ 1977; /10th revised edition/ 1980, (XVIII+) 1435 p.; /11th/ 1983; /12th/ 1986; /13th/ 1987; /14th/ 1988; /15th/ 1989; /16th/ 1990; /17th/ 1990; /18th/ 1991; /19th/ 1992; 20th/1993; /21st/1995)

first published in 1955, as an answer to the need for a modern, college size bilingual dictionary (including approximately 100,000 English headwords and phrases). Many eminent Croatian anglicists joined the work on this dictionary for a shorter or longer period. Its 10th edition was thoroughly revised, and the next revised and updated edition is well under way.

Useful and welcome contributions to English-Croatian lexicography in the seventies were also Croatian editions of three Langenscheidt dictionaries.

(10) Rudolf Filipović, ed. (1970) **Langenscheidtov džepni rječnik, Englesko-hrvatskosrpski rječnik**, Dio I, Mladost, Zagreb, (XV+) 564 p. (subsequent editions 1977, 1979, 1981)

(11) Sunita Bujas, Zvonka Filipović (1971) **Langenscheidtov univerzalni rječnik, Englesko-hrvatski i hrvatsko-engleski rječnik**, R. Filipović, ed., Mladost, Zagreb, (XV+) 565 p. (several editions, last 1990)

(12) Rudolf Filipović, Milan Moguš, eds. (1977) **Langenscheidtov džepni rječnik, Hrvatskosrpsko-engleski**, Dio II, Mladost, Zagreb, (XI+) 458 (sub. editions 1979, 1981)

Dictionaries listed under (10) and (12) actually form an active-passive pair, and particularly worth mentioning is the innovation introduced by the Croatian-English Langenscheidt's dictionary, the Croatin (so called, left) side of which was compiled by two Croatists, Milan Moguš and Josip Vončina. Such collaboration still has not become usual practice in Croatian multilingual lexicographic tradition, but is definitely an imperative for a sound bilingual lexicography.

Finally, Bujas's Croatian-English dictionary marks a landmark not only in the framework of English-Croatian lexicography but, in certain ways, for the methodology of bilingual dictionary making in general.

(13a) Željko Bujas (1983) **Hrvatsko ili srpsko-engleski enciklopedijski rječnik**, Prvi svezak A–LJ, Grafički zavod Hrvatske, (XVIII+) 665;

(13b) Željko Bujas (1989) **Hrvatsko ili srpsko-engleski enciklopedijski rječnik**, Drugi svezak M–O, Grafički zavod Hrvatske, (XXXVI+) 439

Bujas's lexicographic procedure introduced numerous methodological innovations, more liberal inclusion of encyclopedic information and, especially worthwhile, elaborate treatment of culture specific items. A reliable and elaborate dictionary for production (with Croatian as its source language) is of crucial importance for any bilingual lexicography and Bujas's dictionary definitely represents an impressive accomplishment. It is, therefore, more than regrettable that the last volume out of planned three has not yet been issued.

(14) Blanka Brozović-Oktavija Gerčan (1971) **Englesko-hrvatski ili srpski i hrvatsko ili srpsko-engleski džepni rječnik: za osnovnu školu**, Školska knjiga, 428 p. (*Englesko-hrvatski i hrvatsko-engleski džepni rječnik: za osnovnu školu*, 20th edition 1994)

(15) Oxford-Duden-Cankarjeva založba, **Hrvatsko ili srpsko-engleski slikovni rječnik** (1988) transl. by Ž. Anić Antić and S. Čubelić, Clarendon Press Oxford, Cankarjeva založba, 677 p. + 2 indices

The last two dictionaries both fall into the category of special dictionaries and do not belong to our list in *stricto sensu*. I have included them, however, primarily in order to point to the fact that the Croatian edition of Oxford-Duden was actually the only new dictionary of general vocabulary that appeared in the eighties, while numerous editions of Brozović-Gerčan school dictionary (covering only 5000 words) indicate the need for more adequate pocket dictionaries (somewhere along the line of *Langenscheidt universal dictionary*, with the coverage of over 30 000 lexical units, and long out of print).

I find it quite difficult to account for this noticeable halt in the English-Croatian lexicographic production in the face of the constantly growing market and

rapidly developing computer technology. One of the reasons may be that it is generally felt that most of the existing dictionaries still perform their task relatively satisfactorily or, in other words, that the established authorities are too strong. An additional explanation can also be the fact that more and more specially devised learner's dictionaries are available to English learners, even in electronic form, thus compensating, at least to a certain extent, for the lack of more adequate, up-to-date bilingual reference books. Yet, these booming developments in the field of monolingual English (particularly British) dictionary industry make the need for the required bilingual lexicographic tools look even more striking.

At the same time, nevertheless, various specialized English-Croatian and Croatian-English bilingual technical dictionaries appear to meet the demands of the growing audience much more promptly.

Research done by several experts in various countries (as well as my own, albeit limited experience) confirms that a great majority of foreign language learners prefer bilingual dictionaries to monolingual ones, although they often do not prove to be more helpful (cf. Baxter 1980, Hartmann 1983; Tomaszczyk 1983, 1988; Atkins and Knowles 1990). It would be logical to expect a somewhat different picture in the field of TEFL with the remarkable progress in the pedagogical dictionary industry over the last twenty-five years or so, resulting in a whole series of various monolingual learners' dictionaries. Ample evidence has confirmed the manifold advantages of learners' dictionaries of which this audience does not have to be reminded. Eminent linguists like Quirk (1987) or Sinclair (1987) point to the fact that the sooner the foreign language learners quit using bilingual dictionaries the better. Quirk even claims that the bilingual dictionary »ties us down to a perpetual exercise in translation, inhibits us from free creative expression in the foreign language ...« (Quirk 1987:F7). In spite of these views the fact remains (confirmed by findings of many studies) that 'no matter what their level of competence foreign learners and users use their bilingual dictionaries as long as they use dictionaries at all' (Piotrovski, 1989:73). It is therefore our task to provide our foreign language learners with the best bilingual dictionaries we can. The abundance of learners' dictionaries enormously contributes to the area of TEFL, but as we have seen, they can not entirely replace other dictionary types. Rather, they set new and higher standards for both monolingual and bilingual lexicography in general, establishing more clearly what kind of information ought to be included in a dictionary for foreign users and how it should be presented. They have, finally, very efficiently

confirmed that »Dictionaries should be designed with a special set of users in mind and for their specific needs« (Householder 1967:279).

In this context, a bilingual dictionary developed along the lines of monolingual pedagogical lexicography and especially designed for the foreign learner naturally comes to mind, but such dictionaries, with the exception of very few language pairs, are still not available. The main features that bilingual learners' dictionaries conceived in accordance with the established models of pedagogical lexicography would need to include, as stated by Zöfgen, are: the specific requirements of foreign language teaching/acquisition; a realistic assessment of the users' skills and selection of both language material and linguistic information according to the level of proficiency of the users; the organization (where possible on the grounds of learning psychology) of the whole of the lexicographical text according to relevant criteria from the teaching of vocabulary and from error analysis (Zöfgen 1991:2897).

It is doubtful, however, whether some features recently introduced into monolingual learners' dictionaries have much or any relevance for bilingual lexicography (e. g. the prototype kind of approach applied in *Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary*), due to obvious methodological differences, particularly those concerning translation equivalence. Nevertheless, most of the procedures geared towards more adequate grammatical description and more sophisticated elaboration of syntactic and semantic relation concerning particular lexical items would certainly be more than welcome. A kind of compromise, or rather a hybrid type of dictionary, is represented by the so called »semibilingual« or »bilingualised« dictionary, a recent phenomenon claiming to combine the advantages of both types.

Studies evaluating the use of such dictionaries have only just begun, but contrary to my initial misgivings and much to my surprise, the results of the first research of this kind (B. Laufer, L. Melamed, 1994) have established their very high degree of effectiveness with all types of users (from unskilled to highly skilled). It will, therefore, come as good news that a »bilingualised« English-Croatian dictionary is currently being prepared by a major Croatian dictionary publisher.

It is a notorious fact of bilingual lexicography that no bilingual dictionary can equally well serve the speakers of both languages. For practical reasons they appear all the time, with varied results, but such dictionaries always run the risk of falling between two stools and becoming less target-oriented' (Svensén 1993: 12). Svensén points out that to compile a dictionary from the beginning for both active and passive use is hardly feasible when one of the languages is a »small« language, but, ironically, it is precisely the task of such small language lexicographies to provide them, because otherwise they may not be available at all. (It is, for example, not realistic that a British or American dictionary publisher will find much interest in publishing an English-Croatian and/or Croatian-English dictionary aimed at the English speaking user).

So, how can this brief historical survey contribute to a realistic evaluation of our current needs and help us establish a list of English-Croatian lexicographic desiderata? This question should, in my view, be answered bearing two major aspects in mind: i) lexicographic methodology and ii) dictionary typology, and the discussion below merely intends to offer the most essential elements for such a list of general (nontechnical) language reference books.

i) Bilingual dictionaries of today, especially those with English both as the source and as the target language, should more heavily draw upon the achievements of monolingual learners' dictionaries, whereby I primarily refer to more detailed information on syntactic and semantic features relevant for language production. (The practical ways of accomplishing this task in the most adequate way clearly remain a matter for further discussion. The system of codes introduced by Hornby's *Advanced Learner's Dictionary* long ago proved to be too complicated and far from transparent, and the approaches taken e.g. by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* or *Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary* provide more appropriate guidance but are still burdened with technicality and not user friendly enough for all levels of users.)

Further useful features are:

a) **usage notes**, particularly valuable in dictionaries for production, especially for the treatment of frequent words where difficulties can be anticipated:

b) **frequency** as the basis for vocabulary selection, as well as a guidance towards more reliable ordering of translation equivalents corresponding to more frequent meanings.

c) treating the essential vocabulary as intensively as possible, even if this means covering a smaller number of less frequent lexical items. Within such an approach particular attention is paid to functional words, one side, and culture-bound lexemes, on the other.

We have to bear in mind, however, that due to their immanent **specific** user orientation pedagogical dictionaries suffer from many limitations. So, for example, dictionaries intended primarily for translation will be expected to answer vastly different demands than any typical learners' dictionary.

ii) Speaking of the level of dictionary types, I would like to remind of a few exigencies.

Since most of our dictionaries are primarily Croatian user oriented, English-Croatian and Croatian-English dictionaries for native speakers of English will have to be envisaged.³

At this point, however, the most urgent seems to be the need for an (preferably single-volume) English-Croatian/Croatian-English school (or students') dictionary since the gap left after the corresponding Langenscheidt dictionaries disappeared from the market is very heavily felt.

A bilingual dictionary of idioms, phrases and collocations would also be a much needed complement to the scant offer of general bilingual dictionaries.

Another useful reference book addressing specific problems of collocation patterns in Croatian and their translation equivalents in English would be a Valency dictionary of English and Croatian verbs (a sound basis for the theoretical and practical Croatian-English side of which has already been provided by Filipović 1993).

Conceptually organized bilingual dictionaries (i.e. subject matter or topically arranged dictionaries), providing not only linguistic but also extralinguistic culture-specific information in a more explicit way, which can serve the learner both as a dictionary and as a reference book, would certainly meet the interest of quite numerous audience.

Along these lines not only a bilingual dictionary of British or American language and culture translated into Croatian can be conceived, but, more importantly, a Croatian-English dictionary of Croatian language and culture (cf. Bratanić 1991, 1992).

The list could easily be enlarged, but one should be realistic. Lexicographic work is notoriously long-term and time consuming activity. However, in terms of quality and exhaustiveness English-Croatian lexicography has come long way and it provides good foundation for further endeavors.

It should be emphasized, however, that any fully successful and targeted accomplishment in this field assumes further research on dictionary use and users' needs in Croatia.

Last but not least, this is as good an opportunity as any to bring up the subject of more efficient planning and organization of lexicographic work that should be carried out on the institutional level.

³ An impressive amount of lexical and grammatical material for that specific purpose can be obtained from the publications on research done in English-Croatian/Croatian-English Contrastive Analysis project, being conducted for more than two decades at the Zagreb Institute of Linguistics by Rudolf Filipović.

The time has come to seriously consider the organization of dictionary departments of leading publishing houses in such a way as to include permanently or part-time employed trained staff instead of exclusively commissioning individual authors or groups of collaborators for specific projects which usually takes incomparably longer.

This, finally, also implies that more attention should be paid to lexicographic training, both on the academic level and in the form of training programs for both practicing and future lexicographers.

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STO GODINA ENGESKO-HRVATSKE LEKSIKOGRAFIJE (POVIJESNI PREGLED I SUVREMENE POTREBE)

Članak donosi povijesno-kritički pregled općih englesko-hrvatskih i hrvatsko-engleskih rječnika nastalih od početka englesko-hrvatske leksikografije koji se mogu smjestiti u 1895. godinu kada je Aleksander Lochmer u Senju objavio prva dva sveščića svoga *Englesko-hrvatskoga rječnika*. U razdoblju od sredine četrdesetih pa do osamdesetih godina objavljena su najvrjednija djela dvojezične leksikografije ovoga jezičnoga para, mahom visoke stručne i metodološke razine, a poneka i sa zamjetnom inovativnošću u pristupu.

No, usprkos rastućim potrebama tržišta i razvoju računalne tehnologije koja bitno unapređuje leksikografski rad, posljednje desetljeće obilježio je primjetan zastoj u englesko-hrvatskoj leksikografskoj proizvodnji. Taj je zastoj donekle ublažen pojavom brojnih specijaliziranih dvojezičnih rječnika pojedinih struka, no s druge strane, nepostojanje nekih tipova rječnika još je uočljivije u svjetlu živoga razvoja i dostignuća u području jednojezične (osobito britanske) leksikografije engleskoga jezika namijenjene neizvornim govornicima.

Autorica stoga u drugom dijelu rada obrazlaže suvremene potrebe naše sredine za određenim vrstama englesko-hrvatskih rječničkih priručnika, upozoravajući pritom na prioritete.