

Prikazi knjiga

Book reviews

Rezensionen

Marija Omazić
University of Osijek

Mario Brdar & Dubravko Kučanda, 2007. *Concise Dictionary of Grammatical Terms for Students of English*. Osijek: Faculty of Philosophy, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University. 156 pp. ISBN 978-953-6456-70-3.

The *Concise Dictionary of Grammatical Terms for Students of English* written by Mario Brdar and Dubravko Kučanda is a practical reference tool for university students of English taking undergraduate and graduate courses in English grammar, as well as for practicing English teachers. The dictionary gives guidance on over 400 commonly used grammatical notions and concepts which form the core of the metalanguage of grammar. This dictionary gives an overview of a range of grammatical terms, starting from the basics like *agent*, *habitual present*, *passive* and *aspect* for example, to more advanced notions such as *valency*, *gapping*, *polysyndetic construction*, *attenuatives*, and *dative movement*.

The understanding and full acquisition of the concepts presented in this dictionary are the goals of the university courses in grammar that are taught in the English Department at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek, where grammar includes not only syntax and inflectional morphology, but also derivational morphology, i.e. word formation. The set of terms included in the

dictionary reflects the choice of grammar books adopted as the basic framework for the undergraduate courses in grammar taught there, including the works of Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Rodney Huddleston, Geoffrey Pullum, Geoffrey Leech, Jan Svartvik, and Douglas Biber, to name the most prominent among them, as well as the grammar books published by the authors themselves: *Grammatical Functions and Categories. Part I: The English Verb* (2001), and the most recent volume *Metonymy in Grammar* (2007) published by Mario Brdar.

There are 395 entries and over 440 headwords, with carefully and meticulously designed systematic cross-references. Each concept is first placed in the grammatical context, followed by a clear definition and extended explanation where necessary, always followed by illustrative, representative and carefully selected examples. In comparison with classical dictionaries, this type of dictionary is more than welcome as it targets the specific terminology and offers more data and more examples to facilitate a better understanding of the terms under observation. Moreover, the technical aspect – the organisation of headwords and numerous cross-references, as well as the carefully tailored design of the dictionary, make it user-friendly as it is very easy to navigate and locate the relevant information.

The choice of headwords, the style and technical makeup of this dictionary undoubtedly underline the fact that it is experience-based, and that the authors have developed it over a long period of their own research and practical teaching of grammar. It is beyond doubt that this dictionary will facilitate a better understanding and acquisition of the complex grammatical and linguistic metalanguage by the students, and thus contribute to developing their better grammatical and language competence.

All this makes the *Concise Dictionary of Grammatical Terms for Students of English* an irreplaceable reference book for students of English grammar – but not only them. It is a dictionary that teachers will also treasure, as well as anybody who may have a keen interest in grammar.

References

Mario Brdar, Dubravko Kučanda, Marija Omazić (2001) *Grammatical Functions and Categories. Part I: The English Verb*. Osijek: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University.

Mario Brdar (2007). *Metonymy in Grammar*. Osijek: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University.