MAIN PROBLEMS IN DIGITAL LEXICOGRAPHY AND TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract. This article explores the main problems in digital lexicography and the challenges introduced by modern technology. It highlights issues such as rapid vocabulary expansion, polysemy, limitations of automated corpus analysis, cultural and regional variation, and user interface design. The study emphasizes the need for lexicographers to balance traditional dictionary-making principles with technological advancements to produce accurate, reliable, and user-friendly digital dictionaries. The article also discusses how globalization and digital communication have accelerated language change, creating both opportunities and challenges for lexicographical practice.

Introduction. Digital lexicography, the practice of compiling, analyzing, and presenting dictionaries using electronic and online technologies, represents a major shift from traditional print-based dictionary-making. The rapid advancement of digital tools, computational linguistics, and corpus-based methods has transformed how lexicographers collect data, analyze word usage, and update dictionary entries. Unlike printed dictionaries, which are revised periodically, digital dictionaries can be updated in real-time, allowing them to reflect contemporary language changes more quickly. However, this technological advancement also brings significant challenges. Modern English, as a global language, is constantly evolving due to social media, technology, globalization, and cultural exchange. New words, phrases, and expressions appear at a rate that can be difficult for lexicographers to track accurately.

Furthermore, many English words have multiple meanings or polysemy, making it challenging to provide clear definitions that are both precise and user-friendly. The integration of automated corpus analysis and computational methods has revolutionized lexicography, enabling lexicographers to process large volumes of text and identify patterns in word usage. Yet, over-reliance on automated tools can result in the inclusion of rare, ephemeral, or context-specific words that may not have lasting significance. Additionally, the diversity of English usage across regions and cultures complicates the task of documenting words in a globally relevant way. Moreover, user expectations have evolved with technology. Modern dictionary users demand intuitive, interactive, and accessible platforms that provide instant information. Designing user-friendly interfaces while ensuring accurate and comprehensive content is a constant challenge for digital lexicographers. This article examines the main problems facing digital lexicography in the modern technological context, including rapid vocabulary expansion, polysemy, automation challenges, cultural and regional variation, and interface design. By understanding these challenges, lexicographers can better adapt traditional principles to the demands of the digital age, ensuring that dictionaries remain authoritative, reliable, and useful for a diverse global audience.

Analysis of literature. Digital lexicography, or the study of dictionaries in electronic and online formats, has become an important research area in recent years. Scholars have focused on both the advantages of technology, such as faster updates and easier access, and the challenges it brings, including rapid vocabulary changes, multiple word meanings, and technical limitations.

Hartmann and James (1998) explain that dictionaries have evolved from printed books to online and electronic formats. While digital dictionaries can be updated more quickly and reach more users, they also require lexicographers to work with large amounts of data and adapt to new methods. Svensén (2009)

emphasizes that digital dictionaries demand more technical skills than traditional ones.

The English language is constantly changing, especially with social media, technology, and globalization. Crystal (2010) highlights words like *selfie*, *hashtag*, and *cryptocurrency* as examples of rapidly emerging vocabulary. Atkins and Rundell (2008) note that even though corpus tools can help track new words, deciding which words should be included in a dictionary is still a challenge.

Many English words have more than one meaning, which can confuse users. Jackson and Amvela (2000) point out that dictionaries must provide clear explanations for each meaning. Digital dictionaries often include examples and usage notes to help readers understand the different meanings, but it is not always easy to keep explanations simple and clear.

Modern technology allows dictionaries to use large text databases (corpora) to see how words are used. Sinclair (1991) explains that corpus analysis helps find word frequency and context. Bauer and Nation (1993) show that this method is useful for identifying common patterns, but Kilgarriff and Rundell (2002) warn that relying too much on automated tools can lead to including rare or temporary words that may not be important in the long term.

English is used worldwide, so words can have different meanings in different countries. McArthur (1998) gives the example of *biscuit*, which is sweet in the UK and savory in the US. Digital dictionaries need to show these differences clearly to avoid confusing users.

Digital dictionaries must be easy to use. Bowker and Pearson (2002) explain that search functions, clear navigation, and interactive features are important for users. Technical problems such as slow loading, software bugs, or device compatibility can also reduce the usefulness of online dictionaries.

Research discussion. The analysis of literature and digital dictionaries reveals that digital lexicography faces multiple interrelated challenges. These

challenges affect both the quality of dictionary entries and the overall user experience.

One of the main problems in digital lexicography is the fast introduction of new words, particularly from technology, social media, and global communication. As noted by Crystal (2010), words like *selfie*, *hashtag*, and *cryptocurrency* appear quickly and become widely used in a short period. Digital platforms allow lexicographers to update dictionaries more frequently than printed editions. However, deciding which words are widely accepted and merit inclusion remains challenging. Lexicographers must constantly monitor language use in online corpora and social media to ensure dictionaries reflect current vocabulary trends.

Many English words have multiple meanings depending on context, which complicates the creation of clear dictionary entries. Jackson and Amvela (2000) emphasize that digital dictionaries often use examples, usage notes, and frequency data to help users understand different meanings. However, balancing simplicity with accuracy remains a challenge, particularly for learners of English or users unfamiliar with multiple contexts of a word.

Modern lexicography relies heavily on corpus analysis and automated tools to identify word usage patterns and frequency. Sinclair (1991) and Bauer & Nation (1993) argue that corpora provide reliable data on real-world usage. Nonetheless, Kilgarriff and Rundell (2002) note that over-reliance on automated methods may include rare, specialized, or temporary words that do not have long-term significance. Effective lexicography requires combining automated data with expert judgment to maintain the quality and relevance of dictionary entries.

English is used worldwide, and words often have different meanings in different regions. McArthur (1998) explains that digital dictionaries must clearly distinguish these regional differences to avoid confusion. For instance, the word

biscuit refers to a sweet baked product in the UK and a savory product in the US. Including such distinctions is essential for global users and learners of English.

Digital dictionaries must be user-friendly and accessible. Bowker and Pearson (2002) argue that search functions, intuitive navigation, and clear presentation are as important as the dictionary content itself. Technical issues, such as software errors, slow loading times, or poor device compatibility, can reduce usability and user satisfaction. Ensuring smooth functionality and a clear interface is a key aspect of modern digital lexicography.

Conclusion. Digital lexicography has transformed the way dictionaries are created, accessed, and updated, offering significant advantages over traditional print formats. Real-time updates, corpus-based analysis, and global accessibility allow lexicographers to respond more quickly to changes in language. However, the field also faces several critical challenges. Rapid vocabulary expansion, particularly driven by technology and social media, requires continuous monitoring and evaluation to determine which words merit inclusion. Polysemy, or multiple meanings of words, complicates dictionary entries, making clarity and usability a constant concern. Over-reliance on automated tools and corpus analysis may result in the inclusion of rare or ephemeral terms, while regional and cultural variations demand careful labeling to avoid user confusion. Finally, the design and usability of digital dictionaries are crucial for ensuring that users can easily access and understand information. In conclusion, digital lexicography must balance traditional dictionary-making principles with modern technological tools, corpus data, and user-centered design. By addressing these challenges, lexicographers can produce accurate, reliable, and user-friendly dictionaries that meet the needs of learners, professionals, and general users in a rapidly evolving linguistic landscape.

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