

## PREFACE

The growing exchange of goods and information and the rapid development of international communications require all kinds of multi-lingual translation. In order to meet such requirements the "Miroslav Krleža" Yugoslav Lexicographical Institute has brought out an Eight-Language Encyclopaedic Dictionary (ELED) with a basic column of about 70,000 words in Croatian or Serbian translated into seven foreign languages: a total of about 600,000 lexical items in the eight languages.

The ELED includes three language groups: Slavonic (Croatian or Serbian and Russian), Germanic (English and German) and Romance (French, Italian, Spanish and Latin).

It has two parts. The first contains the basic Croatian column with translations into foreign languages and consists of five volumes, each comprising about 15,000 lexical items of the basic column or about 120,000 units in the foreign languages. The second part is the concluding sixth volume which is an alphabetical index of the foreign languages and thus serves as an additional, highly useful multi-language dictionary connected to the first part by suitable symbols and signs for directional cross-reference.

To ensure the speedy completion and the greatest possible accuracy the ELED project was realized by means of data processing in co-operation with the Zagreb University Computer Centre (SRCE).

The basic column was compiled from the Institute's own encyclopaedic publications and lexicographical records plus excerpts from standard sources such as the Dictionary of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Dictionary of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and a number of Yugoslav technical handbooks of more recent date. The Institute's own experts working on the project were joined by many external collaborators who worked either as translators or as editors for the individual languages.

The entries of **the Croatian or Serbian** column were taken from the standard literary language used in the Socialist Republic of Croatia adding material from existing varied and stratified lexical items all of which should facilitate reading, understanding and translating texts that have come into being in the wider area of the štokavian dialect over at least the past hundred years.

A dictionary which retains the historical dimension and a wide social context (including, as it does, terms from culture, literature, the sciences and industry which, on the whole, cannot be understood without historical lexis and words of non-standard usage) must contain many archaic, regional, dialectal and folklore terms and expressions, in addition to the inevitable technical internationalisms and numerous terms from the world of sport, entertainment and the mass media.

For various historical, cultural and linguistic reasons our language contains a large number of foreign words and loanwords, even in cases where native words also exist. In some seventy thousand words of the contemporary language of books, newspapers and human inter-communication up to one half are of varied foreign origin. Some foreign words are both necessary and irreplaceable; others could be replaced and are replaced. The ELED records all foreign words which are in circulation. However, for the purpose of saving space—also in order to avoid unnecessary duplications in the translations—and according to the language standard in the Socialist Republic of Croatia, fully naturalized or irreplaceable foreign words are translated directly, while, wherever, possible, giving also the native

synonym in brackets; however, where a native term exists, the reader is referred to it; where the respective foreign word has several meanings, those which cannot be replaced by a native word are translated directly; however, where an acceptable substitute exists, the reader is referred to it. This helps to gain space and gives certain civil rights to native words of Slav origin which, as a rule, are easier to understand and more acceptable than the usually impenetrable words of foreign origin.

Foreign words are treated in the following four ways: (1) direct translation (e.g. *realizam, filozofija*); (2) direct reference (*aneks* → *dodatak*, → *prilog*); (3) translation and reference (*aludirati* – *al činiti aluziju, bl* → *natuknuti*); (4) translation with the doublet as synonym (*anemometar/vjetromjer*).

The aim has been to process the material so that with the smallest and most concise possible graphic apparatus as much accurate data as possible is obtained. The left column (Croatian or Serbian) is presented descriptively without linguistic prescriptions. The ELED should be considered as a descriptive rather than a normative dictionary. It seeks with its descriptions to capture the contemporary language. This, of course, does not deprive it of the historical dimension in so far as history lives in contemporary expressions. This means that a wide range of texts had to be covered, from school texts to scientific ones, from calendars of the Croatian Revival Period to modern media.

The Dictionary had to include (1) colloquial vocabulary, including a certain amount of slang; (2) all concepts of elementary education and instruction; (3) terms of individual technical branches, ranging from traditional crafts to rocket technology, information processing and cybernetics, and the highly developed glossary of individual humanistic spheres (folklore, religion, law, politics, sociology, philosophy).

A large number of personal names and geographical terms and concepts also had to be included. Thus the ELED consists of (a) a basic vocabulary, (b) an exhaustive terminological glossary, and (c) names.

Thus a terminological typology has been established in which, besides internationalisms and coined words, there are numerous Balkanisms, Graecisms, Turcisms, Arabisms, Germanisms and words derived from Romance languages, not in the sense of a historical or etymological dictionary, but in the sense of a very comprehensive representation of overall usage, in a world which is faced with a growing need for global communication and information.

Thus conceived, the basic column takes its final form only in contrast with the columns of the other seven languages, from Russian to Latin, and this contrastive parallelism reveals a wealth of common elements by which our literary language is linked with the European linguistic complex, which today functions as a global means of communication (thousands of Europeanisms are involved which have become internationalisms), though also bringing out noticeable differences which lend it its specific historically conditioned quality.

Thanks to the use of computer the usual approximation in lexicographical treatment is here reduced to a minimum, while the cross-references must be symmetrically linked and correspond in both directions.

**Russian** is the first language next to the basic column in order to show the relationship of the Slavic lexis in the Dictionary in comparison with the Germanic and Romance language groups. This makes it easier to notice and follow similarities and differences between our language and the greatest Slav language, from which derive so many old and recent loan words. Words exist, acquired through the development of one's own cultural tradition, which are not easy to transfer into another language and they are most frequent in the terminology of government, historical institutions and religious and military organizations.

The situation is similar as regards translation of stylistically marked words and expressions. Due to the nature of translation such stylistically marked words must often be translated by means of neutral words. Many phrases have developed from customs of the respective native environment, so that necessarily they are left without appropriate substitutes in another language. What remains as the ultimate solution is only a semantic similarity, whereby the associative stratification of the meaning is sacrificed.

The Russian language has developed considerable individual features in syntax also. The adjustment of Russian words to expressions such as are given by the basic column can in places be achieved only in usage examples. Structural differences between the two Slav languages are frequent in attributive expressions. Sometimes no suitable form in Russian exists for our adjectives. Therefore in places the genitive of the respective noun is given as a solution. There is a similar situation as regards adverbs, diminutives and augmentatives. The Russian language uses considerably fewer adverbial and augmentative expressions for which descriptive solutions are sometimes given. Again, diminutives are much more frequent in Russian than in our language and this gives them a different place in the language system, while in direct translation the meaning is slightly distorted.

**English** includes both **British** and **American English**. Despite the basic unity between the two, we tried, wherever necessary, customary or possible, also to indicate the difference between British (B) and American (A) usage.

Although the links between the Anglo-American and our own lingual complex are only of recent date, they are considerable (albeit one-way) and so nowadays we find in our language hundreds and thousands of loanwords of all kinds from English, as every user of the ELED will easily realize, especially in the case of direct substitutes of most of the loaned foreign words. Of course, the lexicographer does not lay down rules but describes, and he almost never condemns but only indicates the fields and levels of meaning and usage.

A certain number of words of the Croatian or Serbian language, and also a considerable number of foreign words (Europeanisms or internationalisms) are comparatively easy to translate into English. This is also true of many modern terms. Difficulties arise when for terms of our folklore, history, regional cultures, flora and fauna English equivalents have to be supplied. Here the translators had three possibilities: (1) a direct substitute consisting of one or several words, (2) an approximate word or expression (which would cover a large part of the meaning of the respective entry), (3) the most concise possible descriptive explanation. In translation into English all the three possibilities were used, though the translators and editors tried to use the third possibility in as few cases as possible.

Determined largely by the concept of the basic column, the **German** translations use a language of "the golden mean", in which slang expressions, drastic swear-words or downright vulgarisms are mostly left out, although in principle the vocabulary of lower usage levels is not avoided. In German, as one of the target languages, all special grammatical information is left out, except the lexicographically most important one. Only in the case of nouns is the gender indicated, and in the case of indirect verbs their respective rection by means of *jds* or *jdm*. The German language too could not avoid here the translatory difficulties encountered by the other six languages: i.e. a puzzling ambiguity when translated out of context, and translations of foreign words which are apparently the same or similar but have different content, meaning and usage in the two languages.

Since in translations into German two languages with a very similar cultural and historical background are involved, a certain number of civilizational and technical terms can be transferred from one language into the other without any difficulty. Exceptions are, of course, definitely local terms or concepts connected with different cultural spheres or life environment such as the Moslem or the Mediterranean regions. In such cases explanations are more often offered than translations.

As in the entries of the basic column the spheres of usage of individual words and expressions are indicated, the translations of these words in the German column are not specially shown. In fact, even in the case of original regionalisms special indications have recently been avoided in order to ensure the most appropriate use of these words and expressions, regardless of their local or dialectal origin.

In the translation into **French** we observed the arrangement which is usual in French dictionaries, starting from lexical elements of the colloquial level to common or street language and slang. In order to achieve a useful equivalence we did not shrink even from words which in the stylistic respect are considered vulgar or obscene. For those Croatian or Serbian words which by themselves or by one of their usage values belong to technical or

scientific terminology we tried to find corresponding forms which was not always possible, especially not in the case of our zoological terms which have no equivalents in the French language.

In view of the dissimilarity between French syntax and ours we were faced with occasional difficulties in trying to find translation equivalents for examples of the various meanings. In such cases we generally offered two solutions: in the first we tried to make a replica of the given model, while in the other endeavouring to approach the spirit of the French language. We also applied a similar procedure in the treatment of phraseology.

There were special grammatical problems in connection with certain toponyms. On the one hand usage had to be taken into account, or the omission, of the grammatical article before the names of islands, mountains, states, etc.; since this question cannot be solved by means of a dictionary, we refer readers in this respect to grammatical textbooks. On the other hand—and here not even grammar can help—in French there is a certain indecision as regards the grammatical gender of the names of towns. Therefore with such toponyms we entered the signs of both French genders, while remarking that in usage, regardless of the form of the name, the feminine gender prevails.

After the classical languages **Italian** is a language with which we have been in contact since the early Middle Ages. The numerous loan words (especially in the Mediterranean region, in history, culture and literature) are irrefutable proof of this. The transfer of such terminology does not cause any major difficulties in translation; in fact, these cases only undoubtedly exemplify and confirm links, loans and similarities, but also certain dissimilarities as, for instance, in the case of the different reception of the wider Mediterranean or European complex.

In translation into Italian contemporary lexical material was used. This applies also to the translation of phrases. Only in special cases, when the semantic equivalent for an outdated word had to be given, an occasional archaism is used in the translation as well.

If the Italian translation does not contain scientific terms for strictly technical concepts from the spheres of botany, zoology, medicine etc., the reader should consult the Latin column.

The grammatical gender of Italian nouns is indicated with *m* or *f*. In the case of substantivized infinitives the article itself indicates the gender (e.g. *skakanje – il saltare*).

Accents on Italian words are marked when orthographic rules demand it, i.e. (a) in two-syllabic and multi-syllabic words which are stressed on the ultimate syllable as, for instance, *la città (grad)*, *altresi (takoder)*, *il soprappiù (višak)*; (b) in some one-syllabic words like *là (tamo)*, *si (da)*, *più (više)*, *il tè (čaj)*.

Of the great world languages, as regards direct links **Spanish** is the most distant from our lingual and cultural circle, because between it and our literary and linguistic complex, in contrast with the other Romance languages, there were no direct links, although hundreds of thousands of our people live and work in Spanish language areas, especially in Latin American countries. The wide distribution of Spanish over several continents, and the non-existence of a uniform language standard, make it difficult for translators to transfer our lingual forms and contents into such a complex and almost completely new linguistic field. Where there are no direct substitutes for our historicisms, folklorisms or regionalisms the Spanish language editor (together with a group of translators) tried to give either descriptive explanations or approximate substitutes entering Spanish words, examples and expressions from all relevant centres of the Spanish language,—from Castilia to Argentina, Mexico and the Philippines. It goes without saying that for their work the translating team used many dictionaries, while also consulting two-language dictionaries from the Romance, Germanic and Slav areas, especially as regards the terminology of individual crafts, sciences and engineering. In order to avoid misunderstandings and imprecisions (due to the genetic links of Spanish with other Romance languages) they avoided obvious Gallicisms, Italianisms or analogous Latinisms, which does not mean that just with the Romance translations in this Dictionary the relationship and connection of Spanish with other Romance languages are not shown and substantiated which facilitates understanding and transfer of information

among them all and benefits both the professional linguist and the practical user of the Dictionary.

Also interesting are the linguistically possible connections between our language and Spanish in elements of Arabic culture which have left considerable traces in the Spanish language as also in the languages of the Balkan and Yugoslav peoples, as will be easily recognized in the translations of many of our own Arabisms into Spanish in cases where the target language has retained words of Arabic origin or terms from the Islamic cultural circle.

Naturally, in transferring our own lingual, literary, cultural, geographical and folkloristic peculiarities the translators frequently had to use approximate substitutes or the shortest possible explanations, as for instance in the case of words from the crafts, zoology or botany, although in the case of terms from flora and fauna there was also the possibility of translating by means of Latin and Greek technical terms.

In the **Latin** section of the Dictionary the emphasis is on the basic vocabulary from the classical (ancient) period of the Latin language, though we also entered specific terms which came into being in the rich Latin idiom of the Middle Ages and of the New Age. Everywhere we also tried to include the vocabulary of church (Christian) Latinity from ancient times until the present. Due attention, the greatest to date, was also paid in this Dictionary to the terminology (legal and political, economic, philosophical, etc.) which came into being or was used in a specific manner in the Croatian Latin heritage.

We were not able to indicate words according to these chronological criteria, but words of the classical and post-classical (up to the 6th c. A.D.) periods are in principle entered in the first place, except in the case of certain Latin terms from the Middle Ages which have long since become internationalisms, and in the case of international Graecisms (of ancient and recent origin).

Nor had we the possibility to indicate differences between the prose level and the poetic level of words and their stylistic polysemy.

Wherever for some words, syntagmas, phrases etc. we could find no confirmation in the dictionaries, magazines or texts available to us, from old to most modern ones, we coined them ourselves or used them in their new meaning and marked them with an asterisk\*. Technical terminology, where it exists in Latin, we took over as it has come down to us by tradition (marking the lengths of the penultimate syllables and using large initials in the case of adjectives formed from personal names).

Throughout the text we applied a uniform orthography according to the criteria of modern dictionaries and critical editions of classical authors, with the consonant *u* being always *v*, the vocal and consonant *i* always only *i*. In most cases we reduced orthographic variants to a form which, according to general and our own opinion, is most frequent, except in the case of rare words which we regarded specially important in the cultural and historical sense.

As regards quantity of syllables and accents, we distinguished only in places definite homographs such as *as mālum* : *mālum*, *incĭdere* : *incĭdere*. Otherwise we had to restrict ourselves to marking with a macron the penultimate syllable (where the respective words are also stressed) both in the infinitives of verbs of the Second Conjugation and in all Graecisms.

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In contrast to one-language and two-language school dictionaries the ELED does not put accents on the words of the basic column of the Croatian literary language, nor does it offer otherwise useful information on double plural forms or peculiarities of our verbs. A similar principle was followed in foreign languages. Primarily an encyclopaedic reference work, the ELED tries to offer as much information as possible for as many different entries as possible—and in both directions,—a work principle to which all the others are subordinated.

A multi-language dictionary of this type usually does not give information for any of the languages which can easily be found in any textbooks of an individual language. Since the users of the ELED are assumed to possess basic knowledge of the respective foreign

language (or languages), the entries in the Dictionary do not offer any special information as regards grammar or pronunciation, except that which is necessary due to the very nature of lexicographical processing of entries from the source language into the target languages.

The ELED is not a technical dictionary of any particular profession or trade, nor can it be that, because of the limited number of entries in the basic column of some seventy thousand words, especially today when the terminologies of individual branches of science and professions already exceed a hundred thousand terms and technical expressions. It is only natural that those technical terms should prevail which are more usual in spoken, literary or newspaper language.

However, despite theoretical and practical limitations, the ELED is the first and largest dictionary of its kind in this country.

With systematically grouped and arranged basic words, names, technical terms and expressions, the ELED is a comprehensive manual of a general and technical nature. As a book of wide application it is a useful aid not only for our own people, but also for foreigners. Since the entries in the ELED are accompanied both with the usual grammatical indications of gender or part of speech and with the necessary indications of the application and the sphere of meaning (from mythology and mechanics to medicine and politics), besides a rich phraseology in each of the languages included, such a dictionary is necessarily an *encyclopaedic* handbook offering a wealth of information both of synchronous and of diachronous meaning.

The ELED then includes words and phrases from everyday speech, the literary language, newspapers and mass media, and many technical terms from social, natural and applied sciences thus reaching into all strata of the language system.

Conceived as a linguistic handbook with wide applications, the ELED should prove a reliable aid for various forms of language learning and translating, in education and the sciences, in the press and among the most varied users of multi-language information in this country and abroad.

The ELED Editorial Staff