

THE PROBLEM OF RELIABILITY OF ELECTRONIC ENGLISH-RUSSIAN DICTIONARIES

A. Ivashkevich

Orsha College VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Orsha, Belarus

It's impossible to imagine learning a foreign language without using a dictionary. In the last decade electronic dictionaries have gained special popularity due to some undeniable advantages of using them. However, the reliability of transcription, meanings of words and their contextual usage are often misleading not only beginners but also profound learners of English.

The main goal of the present article is to compare most frequently used English-Russian on-line dictionaries and some Play Market versions with a printed edition considered as a model pattern in order to ascertain which are likely to be more reliable for consulting and outline some advantages of electronic dictionaries.

Material and methods. Critical analyzing on-line and Play Market dictionaries, comparing, describing, sorting out and questioning are helpful in our investigation of the problem.

Findings and their discussion. A diversity of modern on-line and off-line dictionaries seems to be endless, which hampers the process of choosing a convenient and immediately accessible reference book. Modern learners of English prefer to use electronic dictionaries due to some of their undeniable advantages.

1. Various types of search are possible in electronic dictionaries [1].
2. Storage capacity in the ED is almost unlimited. "Some EDs are provided with entire "bookshelves" containing, for instance: an encyclopedia, a technical dictionary, a reverse-order dictionary, an etymological dictionary, a thesaurus, a searchable corpus of authentic text" [2, p. 146].
3. The process of searching a word takes relatively little time.
4. Electronic dictionaries don't take up space on bookshelves. They are easily carried if used in mobile phones.
5. They are versatile in regard to the place where you can use them.
6. Some researchers say that electronic reference tools are helpful in language learning. However the others prove they are no better than paper dictionaries in facilitating student's vocabulary acquisition and retention of the consulted words [2, p. 148].
7. Some EDs give sound examples of pronunciation, which is one of the greatest advantages over paper dictionaries.
8. Language learners are entitled to keep up with the latest developments in vocabulary due to constantly provided upgrades on websites.
9. Electronic reference tools usually cover well terminology and neologisms.

Electronic dictionaries are undoubtedly superior to paper dictionaries in a number of ways. But their full reliability raises doubts. We carried out a survey among the students of our college to find out most commonly used electronic dictionaries. According to its results 90% use on-line English-Russian dictionaries, 9% prefer to consult Play Market versions and only 1% trust a printed edition.

To investigate the degree of reliability of WooordHunt, Cambridge Dictionary, ABBY Lingvo Live, Reverso Dictionary, Pons and Bab.la English-Russian electronic dictionaries we compared them with “Modern English-Russian dictionary” by V. Muller taken as a model pattern.

A traditional indispensable part of any entry is pronunciation guide which includes transcription and a recorded version of a word. All the electronic dictionaries have recordings of pronunciation. At the same time Bab.la and Reverso dictionaries don't provide written transcription. Transcription in WooordHunt and Bab.la dictionary can be unreliable for such tricky words as the noun “resume”([rɪˈzju:m]), for example [3].

The other constituents of the entry, that is grammatical information, the field in which words are used, synonyms or related words and contextual usage are widely presented in WooordHunt, Cambridge Dictionary, ABBY Lingvo Live and Bab.la dictionaries. Pons and Reverso Dictionary give only translation variants and some example sentences. WooordHunt provides a diversity of variants of contextual usage for some words (more than ten examples for “headache” and “sore throat”) [3]. By the way, Muller's Dictionary doesn't give synonyms to words [4].

The range of meanings provided by the dictionaries differs as well. The lexeme “to put” is introduced in a more profound way in ABBY Lingvo Live (14 meanings) [5] and Muller's Dictionary (12) [4, p.583]. Cambridge Dictionary (4 meanings) is the last in the rank of giving Russian equivalents to words [6].

Phrasal verbs present the problem of a paramount importance for some learners of English. If there's a necessity to study the verb “to take”, a student had better consult Muller's Dictionary (11 phrasal verbs) [4], Cambridge Dictionary (14) [6], WooordHunt (13) [3] or Pons (13) [7]. ABBY Lingvo Live (6) [5], Reverso Dictionary (10) [8] and Bab.la dictionary (6) [9] provide a less wide array of meanings.

The differences between English and American variants of some words are introduced in all the dictionaries except Bab.la dictionary.

5 out of 20 Play Market English-Russian dictionaries have reliable pronunciation guide, traditionally structured entries that fit basic requirements. The greater part of the investigated off-line versions has either wrong transcription or recorded pronunciation of words. The presentation of entries and lexemes is poor, as a rule. English and American variants are confused.

The range of Play Market dictionaries is wide enough, which makes it much more difficult to choose a really reliable one.

Conclusion. Prevailing number of English-Russian electronic dictionaries are very good beyond any doubts but there is no perfect one that learners of English can rely on completely. The students of our college disregard other reference resources and use only one or two electronic dictionaries. Moreover they don't consult paper editions.

In order not to be misled by information or pronunciation guides provided in any presumably good dictionary it's desirable to question its reliability and use several reference tools at once (paper or (and) electronic).

Reference list:

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**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH EVALUATION
PREDICATES AND THEIR CORRESPONDENCIES IN TRANSLATED
EDITIONS OF NOVELS “INVISIBLE MONSTERS”
AND “SURVIVOR” BY CHUCK PALAHNIUK**

K. Filipovich

VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Vitebsk, Belarus

In contemporary Russian linguistic society there are an increasing number of translations of English literary texts. The peculiarities of the reproduction of evaluation lexis in English-and-Russian translation as a dominant layer of English literature don't have the full reflection in modern researches. The