



**“COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF BILINGUAL AND
MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARIES”**

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ABSTRACT

The first type of dictionary that is discussed when theory is applied to dictionaries is the monolingual variety. However, there is no justification to believe that bilingual dictionaries are significantly less susceptible to theory than their monolingual equivalents. Word meaning is the area of linguistics that has the most relevance for lexicography. The collection of things a word can refer to, the lexical relationships a word has with other words, how a word has been used, or the semantic information associated with a word that is stored in a speaker's brain have all been proposed as ways to define word meaning.

KEYWORDS

theory, monolingual
dictionary, justification,
susceptible, lexicography.

INTRODUCTION

Lexicography is highly practical-minded field. Lexicography is the editing or making of a dictionary or other reference text; it also includes the compilation and study of dictionaries. The modern study of lexicography has roots in ancient Sumeria where word lists were recorded on clay tablets to teach people the structure of uniform, the world's earliest written language. There is a clear contrast between monolingual and bilingual dictionaries in terms of theory. Let's take a quick look at the category of bilingual dictionaries before we discuss the issue of how the selection of a theory of word meaning interacts with bilingual dictionaries. The amount of effort given to monolingual and bilingual dictionaries is somewhat unbalanced. Van Sterkenburg's (2003) manual is a good illustration of this discrepancy. The alphabetical monolingual general-purpose dictionary is the prototype dictionary, according to van Sterkenburg (2003a: 3), who also emphasizes this in the introduction. Only a brief discussion by Hannay (2003) in the chapter "Special types of dictionaries" is given to bilingual dictionaries. It seems to reason that such a chapter would include sections on reverse dictionaries or etymological dictionaries. The only other part deals with dictionaries for specific fields. Swanepoel's taxonomy of dictionaries places the opposition between monolingual and what he refers to as "multilingual" as the greatest distinction, behind that between dictionaries and encyclopedias, although it makes no mention of specific varieties of multilingual dictionaries. The bias against bilingual dictionaries is perhaps particularly strong in van Sterkenburg's handbook, but when we consider other handbooks, e.g. Zgusta (1971), Atkins & Rundell (2008), Svensén (2009), we invariably find that monolingual dictionaries are treated before bilingual dictionaries and more pages

are devoted to monolingual than to bilingual dictionaries. If you, reader, now think this is natural, this constitutes a further confirmation of the bias. The assumption that bilingual dictionaries are a form of dictionary is one misconception that has to be cleared up before we go on to the application of semantic theories to bilingual dictionaries. This concept was developed from the standpoint that monolingual dictionaries were the norm or default. In actuality, there are several varieties. Four categories are distinguished by Fontenelle (2015) based on the task each is meant to help. Among them, we may also connect monolingual dictionaries with the production and reception duties. The other two, which are unique to bilingual dictionaries, deal with their application in translation, where they can assist with either production or reception. These duties are described by Fontenelle in terms of L1 and L2. However, doing so is not required. The dictionaries only provide facts. The challenges and abilities of the user will determine how they use this knowledge. When used properly, bilingual dictionaries and translation software are beneficial resources for learning a language, thus it is worth the time and effort to make sure that students are supported in developing the necessary abilities to utilize them in regular classes. For instance, it is advised to encourage EAL students to first try to determine the word from context and to think about the word's part of speech (e.g., noun, verb, or adjective). Encourage students to use a dictionary or software to translate an English term back into their native tongue to ensure it is the one they are looking for. However, one advantage of monolingual dictionaries is that they give more thorough information about the intended language. Additional definitions of a target term, more instances of the word being used in context, and helpful information regarding the grammatical behavior of the word may all be included in this material. We can see that the adjective *critical* has five different senses in the monolingual item below, and there are several full-length examples showing how *critical* is employed when it bears each of these senses. Idioms and collocations using the word "*critical*" are marked in bold with their definitions given in brackets with these sample phrases. At the start of each sense, this adjective's comparative ("*more critical*") and superlative ("*most critical*") forms are also displayed. It is crucial to stress that this content would not be suitable for a beginner or intermediate English reader. Among English teachers, there is a notion that utilizing a monolingual dictionary may help students learn a second language. However, not all educators have the same opinion.

Conclusion:

When you're learning a new language, a monolingual dictionary teaches a word's meaning. An explanation or translation in a second language that you are highly familiar with—typically your native tongue—is provided by a bilingual dictionary. It's rather typical for language instructors to advise students to begin using a monolingual dictionary as soon as possible, which is often when they reach an intermediate level of English proficiency. Using a monolingual dictionary has a lot of benefits. One prevalent misconception is that you'll start thinking more in English and cease translating as much. However, this is more of a hypothesis than a reality, and it could or might not apply to your situation. You'll find it more difficult to utilize a monolingual dictionary since doing so will put more mental strain on your brain and need more working memory. You'll need to read the definitions in a language other than your own and determine which definition is the one you're seeking for by reading the example sentences provided. Yes, this needs far more mental effort than merely reading the translation in your own tongue. Additionally, monolingual dictionaries frequently contain a wealth of helpful information, including definitions, sample sentences, pronunciation tips, parts of

speech, derivative terms, collocations, idioms and proverbs, synonyms and antonyms, and even historical notes. Beyond simply definitions, monolingual dictionaries are undoubtedly helpful tools.

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