

Dictionaries of Linguistics and Communication Science / *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft* (WSK)

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Abstract

The “WSK” is a German online dictionary series which will be published in print in 2019/2020. Each of the dictionaries is a terminological special field dictionary on the subject of “Linguistics and Communication Science”. The dictionaries will be partially translated to English, are intended for experts and semi-experts, and they will serve for comprehension of technical terms, information, and translation. Currently, 25 dictionaries are envisioned for the series, which will contain more than 50,000 lemmas. Eleven thousand of these dictionary articles have been published online since 2013. About 800 people are working on the project worldwide.

In this paper, the structure of the whole project, the organization and management, and the work flow of article writing will be presented. By taking volume 1, “Grammar”, as a basis, the text compound structure, the function of the systematic introduction, and the article structure will be introduced.

Keywords: special field lexicography, terminology, WSK, grammar, dictionary project

1 Preliminaries

In the book industry “WSK” has been a brand for a couple of years now. The WSK were established by the publishing house de Gruyter, which is responsible for the publication of the dictionaries. The abbreviation “WSK” is for the German title *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft*, which you will find in the title of this contribution. Please consult the following website for more information: www.wsk.uni-erlangen.de. WSK was founded by Herbert Ernst Wiegand and Stefan J. Schierholz in 2003, and was planned as a print dictionary series first. For more details on the project see Schierholz (2007, 2008, 2010, 2015), Schierholz/Wiegand (2004), and Wiegand (2002, 2003, 2004, 2006a, 2006b, 2009). Since 2013, the dictionary articles have been published in a WSK online version, and Stefan J. Schierholz has been the sole editor of the series since 2018.

2 General Description of the WSK

The WSK dictionaries will be published as print dictionaries and every one of them will be an autonomous, alphabetically organized terminological subfield special field dictionary, and will be partially bilingualized to English. Intended for experts and semi-experts, the books will serve as specialist dictionaries for reference and study. The terminological breakdown of the overall conceptual domain “Linguistics and Communication Science” and the distribution of the lemmas to the dictionaries will not and cannot be dictated by any abstract pre-assignment of disciplinary boundaries, whether theoretically or historically based. Rather, although being aware of such boundaries, the distribution will be fundamentally practical and pragmatic: who will actually use which of the subfield special field

dictionaries under what circumstances, and with what kind of information goals? In light of various possible answers to such questions, 25 volumes are envisioned and work on the following 18 subject fields is underway (volume editors in brackets):

Grammar with two sub-volumes: Morphology, Syntax (Stefan J. Schierholz/Pál Uzonyi)
 Word Formation (Peter O. Müller/Susan Olsen)
 Historical Linguistics (Mechthild Habermann/Ilse Wischer)
 Phonetics and Phonology (Bernd Pompino-Marschall)
 Writing (Martin Neef/Rüdiger Weingarten/Said Sahel)
 Text Linguistics and Stylistics (Christina Gansel/Constanze Spieß)
 Dialectology (Heiko Girth/Peter Rosenberg)
 Quantitative and Formal Linguistics (Peter Grzybek/Reinhard Köhler/Sven Naumann)
 Linguistic Theory and Methodology (Bernd Kortmann)
 Lexicology and Phraseology (Christiane Fellbaum/Ingo Warnke/Daniel Schmidt-Brücken)
 Language Typology (Johannes Helmbrecht/Dagmar Jung)
 Cognitive Grammar (Constanze Juchem-Grundmann)
 Philosophy of Language (Christoph Demmerling/Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer)
 Language Teaching: Native and Foreign Language (Jörg Kilian/Jutta Rymarczyk)
 Onomastics (Kirstin Casemir/Eckhard Meineke)
 Media Sciences (Michael Bachmann/Christoph Bläsi)
 Terminology (Rute Costa/Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair/Klaus-Dirk Schmitz).

So far, volume editors have not been found for the following subject fields: Language Technology and Computational Linguistics, Semantics and Pragmatics, Clinical Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Science of the Translation, Lexicography and Dictionary Research, Language and Interaction, and Language Names.

All volumes will provisionally bear the same subtitle (here showing vol. 1 as an example):

“Grammar. Study and Reference Dictionary. With a Systematic Introduction and English translations” (“*Grammatik. Ein Lern- und Konsultationswörterbuch mit einer Systematischen Einführung und englischen Übersetzungen*“).

In the organization structure of the project four different roles can be defined: series editors, volume editors, authors, and publishing house.

The structure and format of the dictionaries have been set up by the two series editors. These have written an instruction manual for all members of the project. The dictionary volumes will all have the same structure, obligatorily conforming to certain formal specifications. All lemmas, namely the articles, are entered via a CMS to which the staff has password-protected access. The interactive form is set up in such a way that, upon entry, an XML version is created. The entry mask is part of a web-based editing system so that the authors can write the articles at any location. The series editors are responsible for the conception and organization of the whole series. They have arranged the frame conditions of the series and of the single volumes with the publisher, they decide upon the lists of sigla, abbreviations, etc., and they are responsible for the homogeneousness of the volumes in terms of their general structures. The series editors choose the volume editors and advise on general questions.

The volume editors are responsible for the compliance with the general rules in their own volume. The volume editors have to draw up an open list of lemma candidates, as well as provide the conceptual framework for the Systematic Introduction of their volume. The open list of lemma candidates

is provisional, and will continue to be regularly updated even after the work of the individual authors has begun. As a rule of thumb, it can be estimated that during the “article preparation phase” the number of lemmas will increase by approximately 20% compared to the provisional list drawn up at the end of the “editorial planning phase”. Individual authors will be contacted and invited to work on nets of conceptually linked lemmas. Another rule of thumb is that roughly 50 authors should work on 1,500 lemmas. This is the estimated number of lemmas of a single volume. Thus, the size of a printed dictionary in WSK would comprise approximately 800 pages.

By having 25 volumes, we will have about 1,000 authors involved in the project and the estimated sum of all lemmas we will have to treat in WSK is 50,000.

2.1 Specific Features of the WSK

In this section, selected features of the WSK will be discussed. The intended users of the WSK fall into three groups:

- (a) Students of all philological or linguistic disciplines, both in Germany and abroad, who need to read professional literature in German and English (semi-experts).
- (b) Academic instructors (in Germany and abroad) who teach students of group (a) (experts for some fields, semi-experts for others).
- (c) University graduates who have taken their degree in a philological and/or linguistic discipline and whose profession draws on their field(s) of study (experts for some fields, semi-experts for others).

However, the group of intended users of the WSK is not identical with the group of potential purchasers. In addition, purchasers will include the home institutions (universities, libraries, etc.) of the above-mentioned students and teachers ((a), (b)), as well as other, smaller categories (secondary school teachers, translators, academies, Goethe Institutes, etc.). At all events, the market for the WSK is clearly relatively large, and is moreover in a state of continuous renewal, given the constant (and presumably numerous) turnover of new students. Thus, lexicographic maintenance activities on the part of the dictionary publisher (new editions, updates, etc.) are being planned as well.

The WSK dictionaries will be multifunctional, with various dictionary functions weighted as follows (for the functions of dictionaries see Wiegand 2001):

- (i) Primary functions of the dictionaries include:
 - “comprehension function”: to help in the comprehension of texts
 - “informational function”: to provide specialized information on a given field.
- (ii) The secondary function of the dictionaries is:
 - “translation function”: to help in translating.

The purpose of each of the three dictionary functions is to cover a certain amount of usage situations for a particular dictionary of the WSK series.

The system of dictionary functions applies to every WSK dictionary, and the specific type of users of the respective dictionary determines the overall textual structure of each individual volume, its internal data distribution, the volume’s macrostructure, its cross-referencing system, the microstructure of the individual articles, and – last but not least – the dictionary basis for each volume.

2.2 The Dictionary Basis

The dictionary basis (i.e. the aggregate of all sources used in compiling the dictionary) will naturally differ by dictionary. It is determined for each volume by the volume editors. However, the dictionary

bases for all WSK dictionaries have the same structure. The dictionary basis for each dictionary includes, first of all, the group of *primary sources* for that dictionary. These are the German and English texts in which the terms dealt with in the dictionary actually appear. Additionally, there is the group of *secondary sources*. These include discipline-specific reference works in which the terms dealt with in the present dictionary have previously been dealt with. The used reference works will be listed in a register of secondary sources in the back-matter of the dictionary. The primary sources are given, always in identical format, in the “literature position” at the end of every dictionary article. In this way, the text basis of every dictionary is fully documented within the dictionary itself.

2.3 The Components of the Dictionary

Every WSK dictionary represents a heterogeneous composite text: a variety of component text-blocks belonging to different text genres are compiled together into a lexicographical whole. These components are displayed in the following list in the same order in which they will appear in all WSK dictionaries. (The symbol “o” indicates an *obligatory* component, while “f” denotes a *facultative* (optional) component.): Brief user introduction: in German, on the inside front cover (o); Title page (o); Table of contents: the dictionary’s component parts (o); Introduction by the volume editors (o); Preface by the series editors: only in WSK 1 (o); Detailed user introduction: laid out in identical format in all the WSK dictionaries (o); List of abbreviations: Alphabetical list of the sigla used in the Literature position (o), Other abbreviations: general abbreviations, abbreviations for dictionaries used in the texts of the articles (o); List of symbols (f); Phonetic transcription (f); Transliteration (f); List of illustrations which apply to several articles (f); Systematic Introduction (o); Alphabetical index to the Systematic Introduction (o); ALPHABETICAL WORD LIST (o); Alphabetical list of secondary sources (o); List of contributors (o); Index of English-German equivalents (o); Brief user introduction: in English, on the inside back cover (o).

Note that the above ordering scheme may be altered in minor respects prior to the printing of the first volume.

In the following, a few selected components of the dictionary will be briefly sketched (cf. also Schierholz/Wiegand 2004). Particular attention will be paid here to the Systematic Introduction and to the cross-referencing system (mediostrucuture) used in the main body of the dictionary (alphabetical word-list), for these are fundamental to the concept of the specialist “study and reference dictionary”.

Monolingual and bilingual special field dictionaries with a comprehensive Systematic Introduction can be found in many special fields, especially in the natural sciences. In linguistics, however, no such dictionary exists (cf. Haunstetter 2010; Schierholz/Wiegand 2004).

To prevent the following discussion from becoming too abstract, I will present the organizational scheme of the Systematic Introduction to WSK volume 1 (Grammar) here, as drawn up provisionally by Christa Dürscheid (Zürich), Pál Uzonyi (Budapest) and Stefan J. Schierholz (Erlangen). Christa Dürscheid was the volume editor of WSK 1 from 2004 to 2014, Pál Uzonyi has been the volume editor since 2016. The volume will comprise two sub-volumes (Morphology, Syntax); the Systematic Introduction, covering both sub-volumes, will appear only once, i.e. in the first volume “Morphology”. It must be noted that this Systematic Introduction is still in a work in progress, so that the subject division proposed here is not yet the final one. The Systematic Introduction of each WSK volume will be divided into numbered sections.

1. **What is grammar?** § 1 The term *grammar* in linguistic literature; § 2 Historical evolution of the term (grammar as system, grammar as theory, grammar as handbook); § 3 Grammar in WSK volume 1 (the most important components of grammar: *morphology* and *syntax*, justification for this distinction, broad and narrow conceptions of grammar).

2. **Possible ways of typologizing grammars** § 4 Diachronic vs. synchronic grammars; § 5 Prescriptive vs. descriptive grammars; § 6 Language-particular, comparative, and universal grammars; § 7 Scientific vs. practical grammars.
3. **Fundamental concepts of grammar** § 8 Form and function; § 9 Syntactic categories; § 10 Structures; § 11 Relations (syntagmatic and paradigmatic); § 12 Syntactic functions; § 13 Grammaticality and acceptability; § 14 Rules; § 15 Linguistic tests.
4. **Grammar as a system (here: narrowly conceived)** § 16 Morphology; § 17 Inflection (declension: noun, pronoun, article, declension/comparison: adjective, conjugation: verb); § 18 The word (syntactic, phonetic, and orthographic unity, morpheme, parts of speech (declinable, indeclinable), word groups); § 19 Syntax; § 20 The phrase; § 21 The sentence/clause (types of clauses, combinations of clauses, clause mood, main clauses, subordinate clauses, clause combinations: conjoined and embedded structures, sentence types: questions, requests, imperatives); § 22 Valence (concept of valence, government, verbal valence, valence of other parts of speech); § 23 Constituent and dependency structure (constituent structure, immediate and non-immediate constituents, dependency structure, head and dependent, valence).
5. **Grammar as a theory** (selected schools of grammatical theory) § 24 Traditional Grammar; § 25 Phrase-structure Grammar; § 26 Generative Grammar (context-free syntax, Transformational Grammar, X-Bar theory, Government and Binding Theory, Minimalist Program); § 27 Dependency Grammar (dependency grammar and valence grammar, valence theory, evolution of the concept: forerunners); § 28 Lexical Functional Grammar; § 29 Optimality Theory; § 30 Functional Grammar; § 31 Case Grammar; § 32 Pedagogical grammar (language acquisition, language competence, acquisition stages: native and foreign language).
6. **Grammar as a handbook:** § 33 Features of grammar books; § 34 Expectations of a grammar book (prescriptive: normative information, purposes: reference work, compilation of rules, reader); § 35 Users: students, professionals, experts, native speakers, foreign speakers; § 36 Examples of grammar books.
7. **Grammar and allied fields:** § 37 Phonology; § 38 Word formation; § 39 Text grammar; § 40 Pragmatics; § 41 Orthography/spelling.
8. **Alphabetical index to the Systematic Introduction**

The Systematic Introduction will probably consist of 60 to 70 pages, and is interwoven with the word list of the dictionary by a web of cross-references as follows. Each of the above 41 sections concludes with a cross-reference position, pointing to various lemmas of relevance in the word list of the dictionary. For example, at the end of § 7 (“Scientific vs. practical grammars”) the following cross-references appear in German alphabetical order (only a brief selection is given here): → *Abhängigkeitsgrammatik* [*Dependency Grammar*], *Generative Grammatik* [*Generative Grammar*], *Kategorialgrammatik* [*Categorial Grammar*], *Konstituentenstrukturgrammatik* [*Constituent Structure Grammar*], *Lernergrammatik* [*Student Grammar*], *Lexical Functional Grammar*, *Minimalistisches Programm* [*Minimalist Program*], *Optimalitätstheorie* [*Optimality Theory*], *Schulgrammatik* [*school grammar*], *traditionelle Grammatik* [*traditional grammar*], *Valenztheorie* [*Valence Theory*]. And at the end of § 14 (“Rules”) the following cross-reference address markers appear (brief selection in [German] alphabetical order): → *Generative Grammatik – Phrasenstrukturregel* [*Generative Grammar – Phrase-Structure Rule*], *Schulgrammatik* [*school grammar*], *Struktur* [*structure*], *Transformation*.

Users reading through the Systematic Introduction who may wish to learn more about topics pertaining to “scientific vs. practical grammars” can follow up on the cross-references given by the cross-reference mark. In most cases these will point to synopsis articles on various kinds of grammars. On the other hand, a user-*in-actu* looking up a specific term (e.g. “Lexical Functional Grammar”) may wish, after reading the article, to learn more about the broader conceptual field in which “Lexical Functional Grammar” is embedded. If this is the case, they will find the cross-referencing notation “® §

7” in the article, pointing to Section 7 of the Systematic Introduction. The WSK thus makes use of bidirectional cross-referencing, so that the Systematic Introduction is systematically interwoven with the dictionary articles: cross-references proceed from the former to the latter, and vice versa. This rich network of cross-referencing will serve to strengthen and enhance the “informational function” of the WSK; it will make it easy for readers to systematically familiarize themselves with whole blocks of terminology in any subfield they choose. On “Mediostrukturen” [cross-referencing networks] cf. Wiegand (2002).

The Systematic Introduction will significantly enhance the usefulness of the WSK dictionaries, especially in non-conflict-conditioned usage situations, e.g. in research contexts (e.g. in preparing seminar papers). Together with the cross-referencing network and the synopsis articles, the Systematic Introduction constitutes the essential components of the dictionary qua learning tool. The various possible functions of the Systematic Introduction to any given WSK volume can be summarized as follows:

- The Systematic Introduction can be read as an integral block of continuous text, providing the background knowledge necessary for dictionary consultation on points of detail in the given domain.
- By means of the alphabetical terminological index provided for each Systematic Introduction, readers can consult the Systematic Introduction to answer specific questions. Users who look up any particular issue in this way will be quickly led to further related terms.
- Since the dictionary articles refer to the relevant sections of the Systematic Introduction, the latter can be consulted selectively, in conjunction with the main dictionary, to obtain information on any specific point of interest.
- Since the sections of the Systematic Introduction refer to the articles in the dictionary, readers of the Systematic Introduction can augment their knowledge on any specific point by supplementary consultation of the dictionary articles.

2.4 The Dictionary Articles

In the following I will briefly discuss the format of the single dictionary articles, without giving a precise metalexical description of the different fields and structures that are entered into the format. Here I will lay out the relevant text fields, i.e. those which are fixed and invariant in form and those whose form is open.

All WSK dictionaries will comprise a heterogeneous collection of articles of three types:

- cross-reference articles
- partially condensed single articles
- partially condensed synopsis articles.

In the “single articles”, only a single terminological lemma will be dealt with, reflecting its normal denotation in texts. The single articles thus represent a maximal atomization of information. The “synopsis articles” will generally be devoted to broader terms, e.g. proper names which are relevant to the history of the discipline, etc. These articles will provide an overview of larger chunks of knowledge, with cross-referencing to lemmas that are dealt with in the single articles. The full abstract hierarchical microstructure is identical both in single articles and in synopsis articles, as are the corresponding text fields. For monosemous terms, both single articles and synopsis articles will have the following text fields (“o” = obligatory, “f” = facultative/optional): lemma position (o); position of English equivalents (o); position of the definition (o); position for further explanation and discussion (o); position for selected terminological references, including subfields; position for synonyms (f), position for antonyms (f); cross-reference position (o); position for the name of the author(s) (o); literature position (o).

The following article on the monosemous lemmas *binäres Merkmal* (*binary feature*) demonstrates the possible content of these article items (parts of it are translated into English):

lemma position	binäres Merkmal
German position of the definition	Merkmal eines Objekts, das auf der Kontradiktion zweier zueinander in Opposition stehender Eigenschaften beruht
position of English equivalent and English definition	<i>binary feature</i> : feature of an object which is based on the contradiction of two opposing properties.
Position for further explanation and discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditionally found in phonology, the most basic type of feature is the distinctive feature, which, in contrast to a redundant feature, functions to distinguish meaning. In the structuralist framework, for example, phonemes are described as bundles of distinctive features, e.g. /p/ is [+consonant, -voiced, +bilabial, -nasal]. As such, it differs from /b/ solely according to voicing (the latter being [+voiced]). Since the inception of the phonological analysis of distinctive features in the 1950s, features have traditionally been specified by assigning them binary values, depending on whether the segment described by the feature possesses the property at hand or not. A positive value, [+], denotes the presence of a feature, while a negative value, [-], indicates its absence. In recent theory, however, phonologists have proposed the existence of single-valued, univalent features. These features, in contrast, can only describe the classes of segments that are said to possess them.
position for synonyms	
position for antonyms	↔ monovalent feature
cross-reference position	→ feature // cf. WSK 1.1: feature, binary feature, WSK 4: binary feature
name of the author	[AMN]
literature position	<p>📖 BACON, F. [1623] De dignitate et augmentis scientiarum. In: MAYER, P. [Hg. 1829] De dignitate et augmentis scientiarum libri IX. Nürnberg ■ CHOMSKY, N./ HALLE, M. [1968] The Sound Pattern of English. New York ■ JAKOBSON, R./ HALLE, M. [1956] Fundamentals of Language (JanLing-Minor-H 1). Den Haag ■ JAKOBSON, R./ FANT, G./ HALLE, M. [1969] Preliminaries to Speech Analysis. The Distinctive Features and their Correlates. Cambridge, MA [etc.].</p>

In the following, further information is given about the field “Further explanation and discussion”. This field consists of a text item comprising at least one full sentence, and is separated from the definition by a line-initial bold-faced bullet (•) serving as a microstructural indicator. The series editors will provide only very general guidelines to the format of this text field. The most important guideline is: lemmas that are similar in conceptual type should all have the same type of text items. A “type” of a text item can, for example, be specified as a grid which is filled by the author of the article. Groupings of similar lemmas into types would include e.g.:

- (a) antonyms, synonyms, hyponyms, hyperonyms, meronyms, etc.
- (b) sound, syllable, word, sentence
- (c) grapheme, phoneme, moneme, morpheme, lexeme, etc.
- (d) Ablaut, Umlaut, breaking, etc.
- (e) compounding, derivation, affixation, etc.
- (f) Dependency Grammar, Functional Grammar, Generative Grammar, etc.
- (g) verb, noun (substantive), adjective, adverb, particle, etc.

The grid will present those features and concepts that article authors should take into consideration when treating lemmas of a particular type. The actual textual form of the text item will be left to the individual authors, with the provision that text condensation concerning the syntax is not permitted.

The text items may include, *inter alia*, such items as: expansion of the definition, mention of alternative views and approaches, literature references, brief factual discussion, historical outline, diagrams, graphs, illustrations, linguistic examples.

I omit giving a more detailed specification of the articles' format here. Experience has shown that linguistic terms of all sorts can be accommodated in a user-friendly way using the above format.

3 Current Situation

The project started in 2004 and the original goal of finishing the first volumes five years later (2009) could not be met. This is due to technical and personal reasons and maybe the series editors underestimated the complexity of such a huge project. This does not concern the work of the series editors or volume editors, but in most cases the work and reliability of the single authors who were very often not able to finish their articles in time. The online version of 2013 pushed the whole project forward, because the publishing house sold it very well and thus they were (and are) able to support the ongoing work regularly. Nowadays, more and more articles are uploaded to the online version every year, so that the online version should contain about 20,000 articles in 2020. In parallel to this, the first print dictionaries are in preparation and we think there is a realistic chance to have the first three volumes on the market by 2019.

This project is necessary for the area of our special field, Linguistics and Communication Science. It was, is and will be a lot of work which depends on idealists with considerable courage and great endurance, but, luckily, there are enough people in our subject field who possess these qualities.

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