

A Methodological Framework for Making a Dictionary of Discriminative Synonymies in Croatian

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Abstract

The Croatian monolingual lexicography misses different types of dictionaries either in printed or in electronic form. One of the mostly missing is the dictionary of discriminative synonymies. This paper discusses a methodological framework for making such a dictionary. The macrostructure and the microstructure of the dictionary are proposed. The macrostructure is based on contemporary theoretical postulates of metalexigraphy. The proposed structure of lexicographical entries is thoroughly described. It is shown that lexicographical sources are not sufficient for synonymous ranges creation. In this context the corpus importance is emphasized, particularly for the inclusion of new members in the synonymous ranges. The exclusive criteria for ordering of the members in a synonymous range are the sameness or similarity in the meaning with the headword. The proposed model of the dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian is illustrated by three examples, each presenting different part of speech.

1 Introduction – a short look in Croatian monolingual lexicography

Croatian bilingual and multilingual lexicography had taken up very emphasized and representative place in European lexicography from the 16th to the 19th century. The beginnings of the Croatian monolingual lexicography were in the 19th century when the work on the monolingual "Dictionary of Academia" started. In almost 125-year time period, from the second decade of the 19th century until beginning of the 21st century, there were published several types of Croatian monolingual dictionaries of different extent and purposes, whose value should be certainly seriously valorised in a comprehensive monograph. The development of Croatian monolingual lexicography in the 20th century mostly went alongside with the process of Croatian language standardisation, and both processes can be considered in five time phases.

Croatian monolingual lexicography mostly misses the different types of general monolingual dictionaries and particularly a dictionary of discriminative synonymies with examples of usage. The first dictionary of synonymies in Croatian lexicography was printed in 2003 under the name *Rječnik sinonima* (Šarić and Wittschen 2003). It is not clear why the dictionary was named *Rječnik sinonima* (Dictionary of synonymies) and not *Rječnik sinonima u hrvatskome jeziku* (Dictionary of Croatian synonymies). It is a cumulative type of dictionary of synonymies organized in two parts. Authors' idea was to make the dictionary as a practical handbook so they focused mostly on active language fund. As the main criteria in choosing the lexicographical entries was their frequency of usage, stylistic neutrality, scope of meaning and number of sub-meanings. This

dictionary, as a precious lexicography work, will surely be unavoidable starting point in making the proposed dictionary of discriminative synonymies.

The first and clearly defined proposal for making a dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian was made by Vinko Pacel in the second half of the 19th century. In the nine issues of the magazine *Dragoljub* (1867) he published the addendums *Iz hrvatske sinonimike (From the Croatian Synonymies)* in which he described, with insufficiently elaborated metalanguage, the differences between synonymies in Croatian language, choosing various semantic fields as models. It is also interesting that synonymous ranges he described belong to different parts of speech. Pacel's intention for better and more accurate description of the meaning of particular synonymous range members is clearly visible from his descriptions of the semantic fields. Pacel's idea about Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies has unfortunately left just as an idea until today. Since the beginnings of the "*Dictionary of Academia*" until the eightieth years of the 20th century, Croatian lexicographers were only concerned with the realization of that monolingual dictionary, ignoring the needs of users for different types of monolingual dictionaries. It would be sad if Pacel's very advanced thinking about Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies remains a dead letter in the 21st century.

2 A conception of model of dictionary of discriminative synonymies

One of the main and most urgent tasks for the Croatian lexicographers is making a dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian. When making such a dictionary it is possible to use different methodological approaches. Petrović (2005) thoroughly describes methodology of making a model of dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian and illustrates it by the sample entries *čabar-čvrstorički*. The approach of making the dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian, which is presented for the very first time in this work, is based on methodological foundation given in Petrović (2005).

The proposed dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian is a descriptive monolingual dictionary with thorough explanations of the differences in usage of the members of a synonymous range. It is intended for native speakers of Croatian who are at higher level of education and for non-native speakers who are well educated in Croatian. The dictionary therefore assumes that users possess basic literacy and basic knowledge of grammatical terms.

The theoretical postulates of Hausmann (1989) were helpful in the development of the dictionary macrostructure. The methodological description of dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian inclines particularly on two dictionaries, which belong to different languages and lexicographic traditions. These are dictionary of discriminative synonymies in English (Hayakawa 1971) and dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Russian (Evgen'eva 1970-71). The reason for choosing these two different methodological approaches and lexicographic traditions is justified. From one side it is taken account about perfectly developed metalanguage presented in English dictionary of discriminative synonymies and from another side attention is directed toward Slavic lexicography traditions to which Croatian language belongs too. Of course, such a demanding and complex task also assumes as a starting point the first alphabetic Croatian cumulative dictionary of synonymies (Šarić and Wittschen 2003) and semantic description of entries used in modern general Croatian monolingual dictionaries (Anić ³1998, Šonje 2002). The dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian could be the base for making other types of alphabetic and

conceptual¹ dictionaries. It would be particularly useful for making a *Croatian semanticon* – a dictionary of related words, which would include not only synonyms, but also antonyms, hyponyms and hyperonyms.

In the creation of the methodological framework as well as the model of the dictionary of discriminative synonymies in Croatian the following assumptions are taken into consideration:

1. The dictionary is descriptive, which means it is founded on the corpus of the examples of usage and left side is opened to all lexical layers.
2. A synonym database is formed from monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, and corpus of the examples of usage form actual written and spoken sources.
3. The entries are defined according to proposed criteria.
4. In dictionary are not entered idioms, part of onomastica (except names of holidays) and non-canonical forms of lexemes (*bolji, gori, mene*, etc.).
5. When making a dictionary the competences and needs of the expected users must also be taken into account.
6. The dictionary will be published in paper and electronic forms.

3 Proposed structure of the lexicographical entry

A lexicographical entry in Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies consists of the head and the body. The head of a lexicographical entry is the left side of dictionary and it contains accentuated entry and morphological determinant. The body of the entry consists of synonymous pair or range, which is separated from the entry head with the mark of sameness or similarity (=). Each member of a synonymous pair or range is followed by its semantic description and an example of use.

A lexicographical entry begins with the *accented headword*, which differs from other parts of entry by size and font type. Headwords have to be confirmed in written or spoken corpus. In the model of the dictionary of discriminative synonymies, only headword is accented, while synonymous pairs or ranges do not have the accent. Accenting the headwords is performed according to the basic prosodic principles of the Croatian standard language. While creating the entries in the dictionary it is important to define which words will have the status of the headwords. The headwords selection should be based on lexicographical and not standardological point of view. Every notice on the right to the headword is a lexicographical metalanguage, to which the system of determinants also belongs.

The morphological determinant is a part of grammatical description of the headword. Because of highly complex morphological structure of the Croatian language, it is not simple to decide which morphological data should be inserted into the dictionary. The dictionary of synonymies causes even more troubles: to enter or not to enter the morphological data? Because grammar and dictionary are parts of a single, integral language description, the morphological determinant should be present in the Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies

A distribution of determinants is quite diverse and no homogenous in linguistic literature. The determinants reflect a word status at synchronous level in the language. However, the determinants are subject to relativization in time and space and they rarely coincide and combine in lexicographic description (Anić³ 1998: 1426). The determinants point out on the *language norm*

¹ About conceptual lexicography in Croatian, especially about its historical, theoretical and methodological postulates and perspective see Nikolić-Hoyt (2004).

stifti, which is not defined linguistically, but socio-culturally, and they, as metalanguage facts, must have restricted meaning. The meanings of different determinants must not overlap. The list of determinants (etymological, time, spatial, stylistic, and terminological) in Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies can be found in Petrović (2005: 222–226).

The references² are part of lexicographical entry referred as abbreviations (v.; *usp.*; v. i; *usp. i*; v. t.; *vd.*; *gl.*), marks (*; →) or numbered marks (→¹; →²; →³...). While making the model of the Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies it was attempted to define as precisely as possible every references, which should appear in the dictionary microstructure. The system of references in the model of the Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies consists of four elements: =, *, → and > (Petrović 2005: 228).

The synonymous pair or range is the part of a lexicographical entry, which is the most difficult to compose. The biggest problem is the ordering of the range members according to the degree of sameness or similarity in the meaning. The frequency of a range member appearing in the corpus does not influence its ordering position in the range. The exclusive criteria for ordering are the sameness or similarity in the meaning with the headword.

In the model of the Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies special attention is paid to the description of differences between the members of a synonymous pair or range. It seems that the most appropriate definition of these differences is obtained by traditional explanatory definition, with somewhat wider, but selected vocabulary. The metalanguage instruments of semantic description must contain the most frequent and stylistic neutral elements.

Behind the semantic description of each member in a synonymous range an example of its usage is given, which is found in written and/or spoken corpus of modern Croatian language. Because synonymy of the headword and a member of its synonymous range is affirmed by their mutual substitution in the context, a character "–" is inserted instead of both of them in the examples.

4 A model of the Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies

As the model of the Croatian dictionary of discriminative synonymies three lexicographical entries are selected, the headwords of which belong to different parts of speech: noun (*čovječuljak*), adjective (*čestit*) and verb (*čuti*). The examples of the lexicographical entries are not translated from Croatian to English, since there is a danger of loosing the meaning of the examples.

čovječuljak [m čovječuljka]

= *čovječli*: naziv odnosa za čovjeka niska rasta – *Tako mali i slatki ~! Nabrzdite bih ga na grudi privika!* *patuljak*: čovjek iznimno niska rasta i specifičnih tjelesnih osobnosti – *Gotovo smo se uplašili kada je na vrata slastičarnice Horak hamio dobro poznati zagrebački ~ kojega je većina ljudi poznavala i od kojega je svjesno ili nesvjesno zazirala.* *králjjavae*: čovjek zaoštalo u tjelesnome razvoju – *Cijeli se život osjećao ~em, jer je bio niži i zaoštališi od svojih vršnjaka.* *čovuljak* (razg.): čovjek krhke tjelesne građe – *Taj me ~ zaočupio svojom lovom vanjsinom, ni sama ne znam zašto i kako.* *kepec* (podrug.): čovjek niska rasta i sitne tjelesne građe – *Ti neslušni ~e!, s malikom Titilinkom na čelu...*

čestit [prid. -ta, -to]

1. = *pošten*: koji slijedi moralna pravila, koji nije okaljani ničim ružnim – ~ *čovjek nema prigodu djelovati u tako problematičnom okruženju.* *čustan*: koji ima moralan odnos prema društvu i ljudima: – *U potraživačkome mentalitetu i materijalnom problemu teško je opstati ~ čovjeku.* *krepostan*: koji ne sadrži ništa izvan prihvatljivih normi ponašanja – *Hvala čovame ~ i dragom čovjeku što je svojim djelom obogatio naše živote.*

² About description and classification of references see Petrović (2002).

čudoredan: koji svladava svoje nagone u skladu s odgovarajućim moralnim zakonom – *To je bila djevojka ~ pouzdanja, valjan: koji vrijedi i na snazi je – Zakan je taj valjan, a i prihvatljiv je cijeloj društvenoj zajednici.*

2. = dabar: koji udovoljava očekivanjima, ima povoljne značajke i po želji je pojedinca ili društva – *Čini se ~, ali ako nije, što ćemo tada?* prikladan: koji odgovara zgodi ili prilici – *Taj se izbor čini ~ za dobrobit nekoliko naše zajednice.*

3. = sretan: koji donosi radost, sreću, blagostanje – *~ Božić!*

čuti [svr. i nesvr. čujem]

1. = poslušati: registrirati osjetilom sluha: *Trbate ~ Matijin najnoviji CD.* slušati: imati sposobnost opažanja zvukova, primiti sluhom – *Što se jučer dogodilo na špiči.*

2. = razumjeti: znanjem i iskustvom doprijeti do smisla čega – *Dobro ~ njegov vapaj, ali mu nakolost ne mogu pomoći.* pojmiti: umom spoznati smisao čega – *Nikako nisam uspjela – da se to zbija dogadika.* shvatiti: proniknuti u smisao čega – *Čujte, nebesa!*

3. = osjetiti, osjećati: primiti ili primati osjetilom misla – *da nešto mirišel, oćutjeti: reagirati na podražaj – Oćutnom sam oćutio zvuk njezina glasa.* (na)slutiti: doživjeti što na određeni način – *Koliko je važno čuti glasi!*

5 Conclusion

One of the mostly missing monolingual dictionaries in Croatian language is the dictionary of discriminative synonymies. This paper discusses a methodological framework for making such a dictionary. The macrostructure and the microstructure of the dictionary are proposed. The macrostructure is based on contemporary theoretical postulates of metalexigraphy. The model of the microstructure is obtained by analyzing the dictionaries of discriminative synonymies in a number of languages. The proposed structure of lexicographical entries is thoroughly described and illustrated by several examples. It is shown that lexicographical sources are not sufficient for synonymous ranges creation. In this context the corpus importance is emphasized, particularly for the inclusion of new members in the synonymous ranges. The exclusive criteria for ordering of the members in a synonymous range are the sameness or similarity in the meaning with the headword.

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