Pragmatic Meaning in Lexicographical Description: Semantic Prosody on the Go

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Abstract

The present paper focuses on ways in which the pragmatic (functional) meaning, known in corpus linguistics as semantic prosody, is treated in monolingual and also bilingual dictionaries. We have analysed a selection of lexicographical descriptions, as they are represented in the *Slovene Lexical Database* (SLD), comparing them to a number of English and Slovene lexical sources, and demonstrated how corpus-derived pragmatic meaning can become an integral part of dictionary definitions. This is particularly important for the treatment of phraseology and idiomatics, where greater involvement of pragmatics is demonstrated. A tentative typology was compiled for the purpose of this analysis in order to categorise lexical units according to their inner semantic-pragmatic relations, with a view to examining the implications for the monolingual dictionary treatment of individual items, as well as any potential strategies that could be applied, on the basis of the posited categories, to their translation. We have also pointed out the treatment of individual lexical units in the selected bilingual dictionaries.

Keywords: lexicographical description; lexical database; monolingual/bilingual dictionary; pragmatics; semantic prosody

1   Introduction

The present paper is based on some results obtained in the course of doctoral research into the ways in which the pragmatic (functional) meaning that arises from various contextual features, known in corpus linguistics as semantic prosody (Sinclair 1991, 1996; Louw 1993; Stubbs 1995, 2001; Partington 1998; Tognini-Bonelli 2001; Whitsitt 2005; Hunston 2007, etc.) can become an integral part of (monolingual and bilingual) dictionaries. We will attempt to demonstrate the value of the explicit description of pragmatic meaning, i.e., semantic prosody, as implemented in the Slovene Lexical Database (SLD),[1] while also presenting some conclusions based on the exploration of the possibilities of recording semantic prosody in a bilingual perspective. We posit various types of meaning that are codified in specific types of linguistic form or patterns of use. Of central concern to us is the meaning de-

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scribed as "peripheral" or "underspecified" (see Philip 2009). This can only be studied in context, as it is completely dependent on collocation and syntagmatic relations, and therefore cannot be attributed solely to a concrete word form. The basic pattern of language use is represented by collocation based on the distributional features of words, while a more abstract type of pattern is derived from "inter-collocational" generalisations, which include semantic prosody (Ellis et al. 2009: 89-90). In other words, we not only speak of lexicogrammatical patterns, but also of pragmatic patterns of language use. In the present paper, we adopt the view that the function of a dictionary should not be limited to presenting the "referential", "denotative", "cognitive", "semantic", "dictionary", etc., meaning, but should contain a comprehensive description of inherent semantic features of words, as well as the pragmatic circumstances of their use. A number of successful (English) language learner's dictionaries have been designed to take into account functional aspects of meaning. Although still lagging behind, bilingual dictionaries have also moved on from being mere "glossaries" expected to provide no more than "prototypical", "systemic" or "cognitive" equivalents to not only corpus-based but "corpus-like" language resources, in which the user can explore words in real use. With space restrictions no longer in place, electronic lexicography now has the means and the opportunity to devote more attention to the textual and pragmatic dimensions of meaning, such as the complexities of semantic prosodies, which, as research shows (Hunston 2002; Zethsen 2006; Zhang 2009, etc.), contemporary monolingual lexical databases and dictionaries still fail to convey, typically implying them in examples of (typical) usage. Moreover, in bilingual dictionaries semantic prosody is typically ignored altogether.

2 Forms of Encoded Pragmatic Meaning: Semantic Prosody

Semantic prosody is an integral part of an (extended) unit of meaning, identifiable only by examining its repeated occurrences in a large amount of (corpus) data. For example, at first glance "situation" seems perfectly neutral, but examining a large number of contexts of situation shows that it typically occurs as the node of units of meaning in contexts conveying negative events, facts or features that evoke negative associations and carry negative semantic prosody. In the 112-million BNC reference corpus there are 19,569 hits (174,4 per million). Collocations are very dispersed, with some of them being seemingly neutral, e.g., *present, given, similar*, but the wider context reveals negative circumstances of meaning. The most frequent collocations are: *the situation is [complicated, worse, hopeless, conducive, analogous, desperate, unsatisfactory, unstable, confusing, confused, vacant, tense, grave, favourable, different]* and *[current, present, given, dangerous, similar, particular, intolerable, economic, stressful, difficult, ideal, financial, complex, deteriorating, worsening, etc.] situation*. In the first collocate set, we can identify 11, and in the second 5 out of 15 collocates that could be marked as "negative", i.e., carrying negative implications and associations arising from the extended units of meaning. The concordance shows that prosody is neutral mainly in (semi)terminological contexts. Even though semantic preference and semantic prosody overlap to an extent in general

contexts, semantic prosody is usually about a particular "scenario" rather than merely a "preference" related to a semantic field. Amongst the verb collocates *[react, respond, adapt, adjust, correspond, apply, refer, relate, etc.]* stand out. These are again rather neutral at first glance, but are confirmed as predominantly negative upon the examination of the wider co-text and context:

> *(1) Clientelism is a strategy used by capitalists and workers to adapt to a **situation** where there is <u>limited mobility</u>.*
>
> *(2) In parliament it was difficult to adjust to the new **situation**, whereby the party was supposed <u>to abstain from all criticism of the government but had no say in its decisions</u>.*

Of the verbs with "situation" as the prepositional object, the most typical are *[cope, deal, face, confront, compare, etc.] with the situation; the first 6 collocates in the genitive relation, which indicate difficulty, are [seriousness, gravity, urgency, reality, complexity, absurdity] of the situation, while an even more explicit reference to concrete sociopolitical conditions is made by the first* 6 telling collocates in the prepositional phrases *the situation in [Somalia, Yugoslavia, Gulf, Russia, Africa, Iraq].* The research presented in the continuation is based on an examination of the possibilities of including pragmatic information in lexical-lexicographical descriptions from two perspectives: 1) as above, monolingually, identifying and recording pragmatic components in the context, and 2) exploring options for conveying pragmatic information, especially semantic prosody, in bilingual dictionaries. For this purpose, we have analysed a selection of meaning descriptions from the SLD and studied *a prima facie* translation equivalents of the relevant lexical units, drawn from the DANTE lexical database, the selected EFLs[2] and Collins English Dictionary (CED), which were then checked against a selection of bilingual (corpus-based) dictionaries.[3] The bilingual focus remains throughout on the Slovene-English rather than English-Slovene perspective. We did, however, consult two English-Slovene sources to check the degree of bidirectionality of the translations. A tentative typology was compiled in order to categorise lexical units according to their inner semantic-pragmatic relations, with a view to examining the implications for the monolingual dictionary treatment of individual items, as well as any potential strategies that could be applied, on the basis of the posited categories, to their translation. The schematic representation is not based on the structural relations between the components of the lexical units, but is driven by the semantic-pragmatic relations established by each category.

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2   Monolingual learner's dictionaries: COBUILD, MED, LDOCE and MWLD. See bibliography.

3   Bilingual Slovene-English dictionaries: Concise Slovenian-English Dictionary DZS (1st Ed.) (PSA), Slovenian-English Pocket Dictionary DZS (MSA), PONS Slovenian-English (& English-Slovenian) Dictionary, DZS-Oxford Comprehensive English-Slovenian Dictionary (VASS) and the automatically reversed VASS database with 120,000 entries, nicknamed OXZILLA DZS.

3 Pragmatic Analysis Based on the Different Situations of Meaning

3.1 Meaning as an Inherent Markedness (at the Morphosyntactic Level): Connotation

Some words can be identified pragmatically as morphosyntactically non-neutral. In the case below, the SLD fails to convey the pragmatic meaning either with a label or in the description:

Example 1: *debeluh* – fatso; fatty

SLD: debel človek (Eng.: a fat person)
(3) ***Fatties*** who lose a lot of weight talk about the need for mental adjustment. /.../[4]
The English sources label both lexical items, "fatty" and "fatso", as informal or slang (DANTE and MWLD), also indicating their connotation with the label "insulting" or with the inclusion in the definition of "an insulting word for" (CED, LDOCE and MED).

DANTE: fatty: 1 n **[offens] [inf]** nickname or appellation or a fat person; fatso /

(4) He reviewed a gallery of the great ***fatties*** of all time, from Nero through Falstaff to Arbuckle.
(5) Go on ***fatty*** !

The appropriate semantic-pragmatic profile of this lexical unit can thus be created with the use of labels or, as in most sources, with a combination of the label and the definition. A key component of meaning is the speaker's intent to insult, in the case of direct address, and, in the case of third person use, to establish a certain distance and/or to express disdain in relation to such a person. Below is a summary of monolingual and bilingual treatment of this lexical unit in the relevant dictionaries and lexical databases.

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4   The examples taken from the SLD are translated into English as literally as possible to preserve the original meaning.

COBUILD fatty	LDOCE	MED	MWLD	CED
/	fatty [countable] informal. **an insulting word for** someone who is fat	noun [countable] informal. **an insulting word for** someone who is fat	[count] informal + **offensive :** a fat person	(informal) a fat person
fatso				
/	[countable] informal. **an insulting word for** someone who is fat	**an insulting word for** someone who is fat	[count] informal + **offensive :** a fat person	fatso: **(slang)** a fat person: used as an insulting or disparaging term of address
bilingual				

PSA *debeluh*	MSA *debeluh*	OXZILLA *debeluh*	PONS *debeluh*	VASS *fatty*
pejor. fatso, fatty	pejor. fatso, fatty	inf. Am. **fat-ass**; inf. Br. **lard-ass**; inf. pejor. **fatso, fatty;** inf. Am. **blimp**; [...]	fatty; fatso Am.	pog. žalj. baj(i), bajsa; **debeluh(ar)**, debeluhinja

Table 1: The treatment of *debeluh* in the selected monolingual and bilingual sources.

3.2 Meaning as a Matter of Attitude Towards a Pragmatic Situation

Another tentative, but lexicographically significant category has been posited that will not be treated in detail here due to a lack of space. In some situations of meaning, such as in *plezati* 'make one's way through/over/out of an uncomfortable position with effort', a set of circumstances has been identified that differs considerably in terms of prosodies from the main sense, thus calling for a separate (sub) sense:

Example 2: plezati (čez/skozi kaj; iz česa) – climb (over/through/from sth); clamber (over/across/into/out of)

SLD: če ČLOVEK pleza preko OVIRE, skozi ODPRTINO ali iz neudobnega POLOŽAJA, se skuša s pomočjo celega telesa premakniti v želeno smer, navadno s trudom ali težavo
(Eng.: if a HUMAN climbs over an OBSTACLE, through an OPENING, or from an uncomfortable POSITION s/he, using all limbs and her/his whole body, attempts to move in the desired direction, usually with great difficulty or with some effort)
(6) The studio personnel must sometimes **climb** over heaps of presents, nappies and various toys.

(7) The track is in parts unsurpassable, we have to **climb** up on the dug up deviations.

(8) At that point, the angry supporters at the west stand began to **climb** over the fence, while objects were being thrown to the area next to the play field where the referees were.

(9) Thousands tried to come into the stadium **climbing** over the fences and closed gates.

(10) Often they would have to **climb** through the windows, the side exits and run away from the girls through the kitchen.

(11) The airbag had already emptied itself and released the pressure on my body. I slowly unfastened the safety belt and started **climbing** out of the vehicle – through the co-driver's window!

In this case, with the subject typically human, the act of climbing is largely unplanned or undesired, bringing with it the semantic prosody of anguish or despair arising from the frustration at not being able to move faster or with greater ease. All of the examples of use above contain some element that indicates unfavourable circumstances surrounding the central event, accessible through the speaker's attitude, which is not at all typical of climbing a ladder, a tree or a mountain; therefore, a separate sense is in place to capture adequately the identified pragmatic components.

COBUILD climb	LDOCE	MED	MWLD	CED
/	with difficulty [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to move into, out of, or through something slowly and awkwardly	*[intransitive/transitive] to use your hands and feet to move up, over, down, or across something*	always followed by an adverb or preposition [no obj] **:** to move yourself in a way that usually involves going up or down	/
bilingual				
PSA plezati	MSA plezati	OXZILLA plezati	PONS plezati	VASS climb
(*with difficulty*) to clamber; to scramble	(*with difficulty*) to clamber; to scramble	clamber; scramble; climb	climb	splezati, (po) vzpeti se na; plezati po; vzpenjati se po

Table 2: The treatment of *climb* in the selected monolingual and bilingual sources.

3.3   Meaning as a Matter of Emphasis

The way meaning and use are in fact two distinct, yet inseparable, facets of language is illustrated by the analysis of the following example, which shows how meaning can arise from an emphasis on a

particular aspect of the (pragmatic) situation rather than from the word's inherent (semantic) features:

Example 2: *bobnati (pri kom)* – to drum with/in (=to be the drummer with a group)

The prototypical meaning defined by most (Slovene and English) sources as "to beat or play a drum, or a set of drums" (MWLD) or "to play a drum" (MED, LDOCE) (but not listed in COBUILD) is not the most frequent meaning of *bobnati*. On closer inspection and driven by a pragmatic function of meaning a subsense can be separated out, i.e., to play the drums in a particular band or group on a regular basis:

SLD*: če ČLOVEK **bobna**, se posveča igranju na bobne kot stalni član glasbene zasedbe, navadno v določenem obdobju (Eng: if a HUMAN **drums** s/he is engaged in playing the drums as a regular member of a music group, usually for a period of time)

(12) The new drummer is Nenad Kostadinovski, who used to **drum** with groups such as Scuffy Dogs and Traffic Religion.

(13) Do you then have a drummer for your concerts? At the concerts we use Moreno Buttinar, who is Lara Baruca's drummer. We have also practiced with Janez, who **drums** with Miladojka Youneed.

(14) Meanwhile, Eva and Nataša sing and **drum** on Laibach's concert tour, while Darja has used the short period of lesser working intensity really well and has freshly fallen in love.

(15) Cecil Durkin was a druggy, a knife cutter and a prison rapist, but he also **drummed** in a few good jazz bands.

This use of the verb is distinct, as its colligational behaviour in particular indicates: it typically requires explicit temporal complementation (recently, at night, later, on tour, in the election time, sometimes, etc.) or the time of the action is implied in the context by the use of, typically, a past tense. It is commonly used with prepositional complementation (drum with, at, in, etc.) denoting individual people or groups with whom one drums; proper names, therefore, appear regularly in the co-text as part of listings and/or coordinate structures with "and". Of course, the prototypical meaning "to play a drum" is still present, but it is now a secondary rather than the key component of the conveyed sense. The emphasis is on the fact of being engaged as member of a performing musical group, often in the context of other players who make up the group, i.e., on the role ensuing from the ability to play the drums. A colligational feature is that the verb cannot be pre- or postmodified, e.g., by an adverb. The semantic preference is for musical groups, players and settings, from which the association of an opportunity for success and fame emerges. In some cases semantic prosody, which seems to lie here first and foremost in "renewing the connection of this semantic information with the reality of language in use /.../," (Philip 2009) relies more heavily on the colligates than the collocates alone, "if anything tending to favour the patterns and participants in verbal processes over lexical-semantic features per se" (ibid.).

COBUILD	LDOCE	MED	MWLD	CED
/	to play a drum	Music. to play a drum	to beat or play a drum or set of drums	to play (music) on or as if on a drum
bilingual				
PSA **bobnati**	MSA bobnati	OXZILLA bobnati	PONS bobnati	VASS to drum
(as a profession) to play the drums	(as a profession) to play the drums	to drum	to drum	bobnati

Table 3: The treatment of *bobnati* in the selected monolingual and bilingual sources.

3.4 Restricted Meaning in Semantically Analysable Units: Collocation

This is probably the most widespread, yet lexicographically somewhat neglected lexical category that lies at the very core of semantic prosody. Semantic analysability can be observed along a continuum stretching from collocations – commonly thought to be transparent, but so only in their restricted meanings, i.e., in only one of the possible meanings resulting from the various meanings of their components, as well as of their various combinations – to the most opaque idioms that lie at the other extreme (Philip 2009). The collocation below can be observed in its restricted meaning "dull weather":

Example 4: *kislo vreme* – sour/grey/dull weather

SLD: kislo VREME je takrat, ko ni sonca ali dežuje (Eng: sour WEATHER is when it rains or the sky is overcast)

The only two collocates that stand out are *zagosti* and *pokvariti* ("to spoil"), paralleled in scarcity by colligational patterns. The semantic preference is for cultural and sports events, and, within a limited spectrum, for agricultural products, especially grapes which are expected to ripen and develop sugar in the sun. The semantic association of physical and mental discomfort caused by the weather conditions helps build up the semantic prosody based on imminent danger of poor turnouts at public events or people not going ahead with their outdoor plans, such as tourists cancelling their bookings:

(16) A general characteristic is that the camping sites in Gorenjska are pretty full, and even the **sour weather** of recent days has not chased away the tourists.

(17) That is why the construction workers are working at a good pace, but, on the other hand, due to **sour weather** the owners of Bioterme are in no hurry to open the swimming pool.

(18) The expected **sour weather** will cause malaise or indisposition in many people.

(19) When the summer is sunny and September alike, the grapes will be sweet, but **sour weather** will give us grapes that will be hard to sell

An important fact about *kislo vreme* is that it is often used with its verbal collocates to express the opposite, i.e., to convey that unfavourable conditions did not, in fact, have the expected effect and did not put people off from coming and/or having a good time. Colligationally, therefore the use of negation is noticeable:

(20) The good spirits <u>were not destroyed even</u> by somewhat **sour weather**, which towards noon cleared up, so they set off for short or longer walks in the surrounding areas [...].

COBUILD **dull**	LDOCE **grey/dull weather**	MED **dull**	MWLD **dull**	CED **dull**
You say the weather is **dull** when it is very cloudy.	cloudy and not bright	if the weather is dull, there are a lot of clouds and it is rather dark	not sunny : having a lot of clouds ▪ *a dull winter sky*	(of weather) not bright or clear; cloudy
bilingual				
PSA **kislo vreme**	MSA **kislo vreme**	OXZILLA **kislo vreme**	PONS **kislo vreme**	VASS dull sky
bad, nasty, foul	bad, nasty, foul	/	/	oblačno nebo

Table 4: The treatment of *kislo vreme* in the selected monolingual and bilingual sources.

3.5 Meaning as Encyclopedic Knowledge: (Terminological) Compounds

There are some words and phrases that cannot be understood without knowledge of the real world or so-called encyclopedic knowledge, such as compounds (*kislo zelje* - sauerkraut) conveying different degrees of (semi)terminological meaning. Semantic prosody is the least prominent here, as the meaning has already been fixed by word-semantics and extra-linguistic knowledge. Due to this fact, and lack of space, we will not treat this category in more detail.

Meaning as (Pragmatic) Knowledge about Language Use: Idiomatic Expressions

In some expressions, where the salient (or metaphorical) meaning of either of words is insufficient for the reader to know their overall meaning, "word-semantics are redundant and yield entirely to the pragmatic reality of use, both textual and contextual, as the meaning of the phrase relies heavily on knowledge of semantic associations and semantic prosody" (Philip 2009):

Example 5: *deklica za vse* – dogsbody; girl/gal Friday

SLD: nekdo, ki kje opravlja najrazličnejša dela, od najnižjih do najzahtevnejših

(21) Having finished school, she, soon after World War II, got a job with the Slovenian Railways where she persisted for almost 34. She was a ***general dogsbody***: worker, booking clerk and paymistress at the Head Office of the Slovenian Railways in Ljubljana.

(22) Jože Klemenčič is a ***general dogsbody*** in Slovenian langlauf: vodja, koordinator in pomočnik trenerja.

(23) He is now involved fixing computers, in the shop and on the terrain, but he calls himself a ***dogsbody*** as he does all sorts of jobs.

The concordance to *deklica za vse* shows that the expression is used both for men and women, and that, interestingly enough, it is not possible to identify a clearly negative attitude towards this enforced role. The emphasis is on the variety and unpredictability of the tasks that one is expected to perform, which in some contexts even conveys positive prosodies ensuing from the fact that such a person typically displays positive qualities such as dedication, resourcefulness and efficiency in the assigned tasks.

DANTE: dogsbody: n [inf] [non_AmE] sb who has to do any unpleasant jobs that nobody else wants to do

(24) We pull over to the side of the road and 10 minutes later meet George Wolter who is to be our guide, host, translator, organiser and ***general dogsbody*** for the next 10 days. George is a freelance translator in English and Spanish and has been working for the Political Song Festival for the last 10 years.

(25) Then I suppose, when the festival had opened, I'd already gone to the site with the school, before I left, in the Easter of 1951 and then I started an apprenticeship with Vickers, but I had to wait some time before I could actually start, and I was given the job as a ***dogsbody***, you know a fetcher and carrier.

(26) STRUCTURE N_mod⇨ He started off as '***kitchen dogsbody'*** at 13 and went on to study at Westminster Catering College. /.../

According to the English database, "dogsbody" can be premodified by an adjective, as in "general dogsbody". In the English-Slovene PONS, we do indeed find "general dogsbody" with the translation *deklica za vse*, while for the entry *deklica za vse* it lists "jack-of-all-trades", a unit less frequent and perhaps semantically more comparable with *mojster za vse*, which evokes associations of "to be a jack-of-all-trades (and master of none)" and thus conveys negative attitudes. The suggested translations are relatively consistent in all of the bilingual sources (dogsbody, Br. Eng./girl Friday, informal old-fashioned);

however, the interlingual differences as well as the monolingual differences (synonymy) should be explicitly highlighted. As LDOCE, MED and MWLD report, "girl Friday" is old-fashioned and seems to refer exclusively to women who do several different jobs in an office, or are, in fact, secretaries (e.g., MED, also MWLD). "Dogsbody", on the other hand, is used for both sexes and has, in comparison with the Slovene *deklica za vse*, a much more evidently negative connotation (a person is forced to do the jobs that other people refuse to do). In addition, the functional (pragmatic) meaning of "dogsbody" is different to an extent, conveying feelings of bitterness due to being systematically exploited, which leads us to posit negative prosody.

COBUILD dogsbody	LDOCE	MED	MWLD	CED
British, informal A dogsbody is a person who has to do all the boring jobs that nobody else wants to do.	someone who has to do all the small boring jobs that no one else wants to do	**British informal** *someone who is forced to do all the jobs that no one else wants to do*	**informal + old-fashioned :** a woman who does many different jobs in an office	**informal** a person who carries out menial tasks for others; drudge
girl Friday				
	British English old-fashioned a girl or woman worker who does several different jobs in an office	**informal old-fashioned** *a female secretary*	**informal + old-fashioned** a female office assistant	a female employee who has a wide range of duties, usually including secretarial and clerical work
bilingual				
PSA deklica za vse	MSA deklica za vse	OXZILLA deklica za vse	PONS deklica za vse	VASS dogsbody
dogsbody BR; girl/gal Friday esp. AM	dogsbody BR; girl/gal Friday esp. AM	dogsbody; girl Friday; pejor. Am. ward-wheeler	jack-of-all-trades	deklica za vse; dekla, hlapec

Table 5: The treatment of *deklica za vse* in the selected monolingual and bilingual sources.

4   Discussion

In the SLD, an attempt was made to incorporate, to a maximum degree, corpus-derived pragmatic components, i.e., semantic prosody, into meaning descriptions by means of various definition strategies. One way of highlighting a particular (shade of) meaning is also to introduce a new (sub)sense. Thus the concordance for *plezati čez/skozi kaj, plezati iz česa* shows consistently unfavourable condi-

tions in which *plezati* occurs, expressing a negative attitude of the speaker towards the central act of "climbing", which in the other listed senses appears to be neutral, if not positive. However, with the exception of LDOCE, the English monolingual sources do not identify this use, nor does the Dictionary of Standard Slovene, while both corpus-based Slovene-English dictionaries do, listing it as a new subsense introduced by the semantic indicator (*s težavo se premikati*) (to move with difficulty), which in most cases will yield the translation "clamber" rather than "climb". In the selected subsense of *bobnati* treated in the SLD, the emphasis is on the fact of being engaged as member of a performing musical group, rather than on the actual physical act of playing a drum, which is indicated by a separate subsense. The bilingual sources do not recognise a separate sense, with the exception of PSA and MSA, which list the relevant subsense introduced by (*kot poklic*) (as a profession) and provide an alternative translation "to play the drums". Collocational meaning, such as in *kislo vreme*, is not regarded as semantically transparent but restricted in semantically analysable units. The most extensive collocational range for "X weather" is provided by LDOCE and MED, with the most typical collocates being "dull" and "grey". The semantic equivalent "sour weather" is practically non-existent, but there are some corpus occurrences, e.g., "the weather turned sour with thunderstorms and heavy rain," confirming the translation, albeit hypothetically. The semantic prosody in the case of "dull/grey weather" cannot be paralleled to that of *kislo vreme* as described in 3.4, and there are not enough corpus examples of "sour weather" to establish its prosody, which could be interlingual. The type of meaning referred to as encyclopedic, such as in *kislo zelje (sauerkraut)*, is very much dependent on real world knowledge, but much less sensitive to axiological aspects of meaning, which is generally the case in (semi)terminological lexical units. Determining interlingual equivalence is often rather straightforward and, in a monolingual perspective, is the least prone to language change. Finally, with reference to idiomatic units of meaning, which are normally treated as phraseological units, it can be said about *deklica za vse* that its functional equivalent "dogsbody" conveys the subject's feelings of bitterness due to being systematically exploited, which leads us to posit negative prosody; "girl Friday", on the other hand, can only refer to a woman and is, as COBUILD and MWLD demonstrate, old-fashioned. The choice of the translation – in our case "dogsbody", "girl Friday" or "jack-of-all-trades" – is dependent on the circumstances of meaning, and on whether (or not) semantic prosody, which often plays a part in phraseology, is detected in the source language. The analysis of lexical units has shown that we are not dealing with full equivalents, but, at best, with comparable idiomatic units, where meaning requires greater involvement of pragmatic knowledge.

Based on a tentative typology of meaning we have discussed a number of strategies for tackling pragmatics monolingually: first we dealt with an example of connotation where in some sources an adequate label (pejorative/disparaging) was applied, while other sources combined labelling and defining (informal/slang + an insulting word for). The focus of the analysis, however, was on those instances that encode pragmatic meaning as part of their meaning, rather than that which is traditionally subsumed under connotation. In the SLD, some meanings that would traditionally be labelled as "humorous" or "showing disapproval" were, where possible, made part of the definition. Usually the first part

of the definition provides the general semantic-syntactic pattern and the second describes pragmatic circumstances, including the semantic prosody where appropriate. In other words, the first part of the definition is a straightforward explanation, while typically the second part tells us about the speaker's attitude to the meaning situation and, expressing the pragmatic function, clarifies why a particular lexical choice has been made by the speaker. We have also pointed out the treatment of individual lexical units in the selected bilingual dictionaries. Any indication of prosodic meaning is consistently implicit, even when the prosody in the two languages is different, or when only a particular (sub)sense of L1 carries prosodies and the translation differs accordingly. The identified ways of conveying pragmatics in the examined bilingual dictionaries are: functionally adequate translations, i.e., a new (sub)sense (with an appropriate semantic indicator), such as in *plezati: (s težavo se premikati)*, examples of use and labels. The bilingual focus remains throughout on the Slovene-English rather than English-Slovene perspective. Considerable progress is noted in the treatment of language use in contemporary bilingual corpus-based dictionaries and databases, such as PSA and VASS.

5   Conclusion

Corpus-derived facts that concern axiological aspects of meaning, such as those related to "situation" and the other lexical units examined, can be explicitly described in monolingual lexical databases and dictionaries. Lexicography, by definition, is concerned with the investigation and recording of all aspects of lexical meaning. Semantic prosody can be viewed as a link between the lexical and the textual or discoursal levels. By including information not only on collocational but also lexical-textual co-selection, we are bound to improve the dictionary, this practical tool, equally serving language learners, translators and interpreters, as well as communicologists, copywriters, etc. It is well known (cf. Partington 1998: 72) that signals on semantic prosody are particularly important for second or foreign language learners, as they do not have the subconscious understanding of pragmatic meaning that, presumably, native speakers do. However, assuming that semantic prosody is part of a dictionary "sense" and, in many cases, the key to its actual identification, explicating prosodic meaning in native-speaker dictionaries cannot be considered insignificant. Establishing a difference between the lexis that requires labelling due to its connotational meaning that is morphosyntactically coded (*fatty, fatso, bunny,* etc.) and the lexis that displays other, contextual types of pragmatic meaning naturally leads to three basic solutions: a label, a definition or both. Collocational meaning, particularly semantic prosody, which is by nature delexical, functional, phraseological, textual and abstracted from various contextual features – which is why some authors have described the phenomenon as "collocational", "discourse" or "pragmatic" prosody (e.g., Stubbs 1995, 2001), or "semantic harmony" (Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk 1996) – should be presented as part of the definition or in an additional gloss. The question remains as to how exactly semantic prosodies should be presented in bilingual dictionaries, and this is currently under investigation in the doctoral research.

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