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Translators deserve better tools for their job: how to improve them?

Translators deserve better tools for their job: how to improve them? The presentation will focus on the quality of bilingual dictionaries as translators' tools. The translation process often involves considerable interaction between translators and dictionaries. Therefore, improvement of bilingual dictionaries is of crucial importance. On the one hand, bilingual dictionaries are expected to generalize what is valuable in the translation practice of a language pair. It can be achieved by searching for translation equivalents and collocations in translated texts. This approach is fruitful especially in those cases where a bilingual lexicographer is also an expert translator. Unfortunately, most bilingual dictionaries in Estonia do not meet these expectations (especially with regard to the B side of the dictionary). On the other hand, a lexicographer has, in fact, to go further and study comparable authentic texts in the respective languages in order to come up with fresh translation equivalents and collocations that are valuable for translators. The presentation will show various methods of lexical enrichment (i.e. overcoming lexical poverty) of bilingual dictionaries drawn from the personal experience of the author. It will be argued that the best results can be achieved by electronic reversal of two specially created bilingual dictionaries (e.g. English-Estonian and Estonian-English) with subsequent post-editing of both dictionaries.