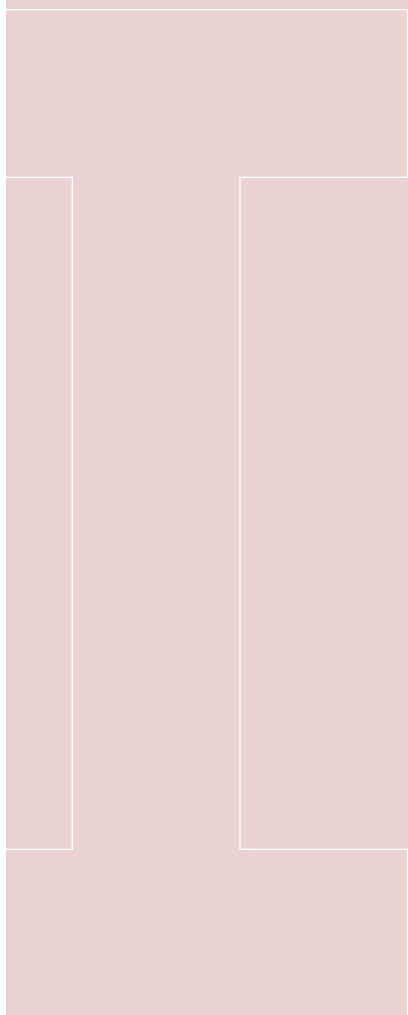


Introduction



In the autumn of 2015 we published a monograph titled *Slovar sodobne slovenščine: problemi in rešitve* (Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete UL, 660 pages), which presents the results of studies focussed on some of the key questions in the conceptualisation of a state-of-the-art dictionary of Slovene; a dictionary that would address the challenges of modern lexicography, and would promote Slovenian lexicographic theory and practice internationally. The monograph contained 32 chapters, co-authored by as many researchers.

Our point of departure were two main aims of the dictionary: to inform Slovene native speakers and other users about lexical and grammatical characteristics of the Slovene language using state-of-the-art lexicographic practices, and to provide a lexical and grammatical resource for the development of language technologies. In order for the dictionary to be useful for language technology applications, it should be conceptualised as a machine-readable database, available under open access. This will also enable the compilation of dictionaries for other target users, as we are aware there is a need for language resources that meet the needs of different types of users, from pupils and students to language professionals such as translators and editors, from native speakers to non-native speakers of Slovene.

Although the monograph focussed on the Slovene language, the presentations of the results abroad have shown that the studies are also of great interest to colleagues in other countries. This led to the decision to make a selection of relevant chapters, and translate them or adapt them for international audience. Several contributions have been in the meantime published in international journals or conference proceedings, so this monograph contains only those that have not yet been published in English.

The monograph, containing 13 chapters, presents the compilation of a dictionary that utilizes different technologies available, and is conceptualised around language technologies, i.e. it uses state-of-the-art methods of language analysis, data extraction and data storage, and visualisation. The technical aspects of the dictionary such as designing the dictionary database are presented and discussed by Klemenc et al. Then, Dobrovoljc, and Dobrovoljc et al. discuss the role of morphological information in dictionaries of Slovene, and the role of the Sloleks morphological lexicon in future dictionary projects and planned developments of the resource, respectively. A dictionary project needs to pay a great deal of attention to its users, and Rozman et al. and Mikolič provide some insights into the needs of Slovene users, with particular focus on language learners (both young native speakers and non-native speakers) and creative writers. Language is constantly changing, and at the same time, language technologies are being improved; consequently, corpora as a basis of modern language description need to be updated regularly. Thus, chapters by Logar, Erjavec et al., and Erjavec et al. address the role of the reference corpus for Slovene in dictionary compilation,

and discuss improvements needed. One of the most important aspects of the proposed dictionary is a new approach to lexicographic analysis, which includes automatic extraction of lexical data from the corpus, presented in detail by Gantar et al. In the modern society, specialised lexis plays an increasingly important role, and the chapter by Vintar discusses to what extent such a lexis should feature in the dictionary, and the methods of its selection for inclusion. The monograph is concluded by chapters by Fišer and Čibej on the potential of crowdsourcing in lexicography, and a few suggestions on its implementation in different stages of dictionary compilation.

This research undertaking, started at the Centre of Language Resources and Technologies, University of Ljubljana, has established a wide research network and prompted collaborations between researchers from different disciplines, extending its influence and relevance far beyond lexicography. One of the aims of this monograph is to extend our collaborations internationally, to start or strengthen links with researchers and lexicographers working on similar research topics.

Editors

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