

Lexicographic Traditions: A personal view

Janet DeCesaris



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona

IULA
Institut de Lingüística Aplicada

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EURALEX 40th Anniversary Series

Introductory remarks

- Anniversaries are important:
 - Looking back and looking forward
- Looking back
 - Dictionary-making a practice with a long tradition in certain societies
 - My own relationship to and interest in dictionaries

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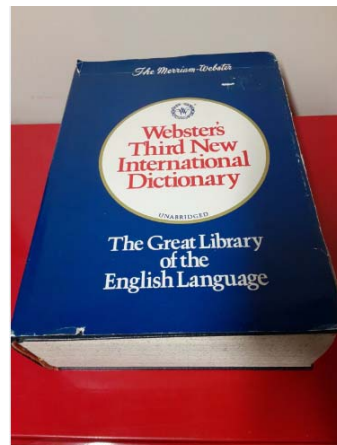
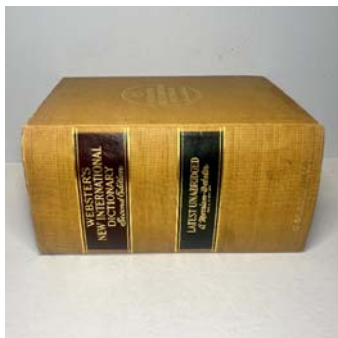
Janet's interest in dictionaries



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Janet's interest in dictionaries



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Gifts

- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary
- American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language
- Cassell's English-Spanish/Spanish-English Dictionary

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Academic interest

- Studied translation at Georgetown University
- Pursue graduate studies at Indiana University
 - Phonology
 - Romance languages, phonology is often conditioned by morphology
 - Dissertation on dialectal variation in Catalan verb morphology
 - Dictionary representation of morphology, both inflectional and derivational

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Applied linguistics at UPF

- Dictionaries as the core of a research program in linguistics
- EURALEX 1998
- English, Spanish, Catalan
 - Study dictionaries to improve them
 - Historical perspective interesting and necessary
 - Account for current practice
 - Account for word meaning and usage
 - Changes in word meaning and usage

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Generally negative view that linguists have of morphological information in dictionaries

Geoffrey Pullum (“Lexical categorization in English dictionaries and traditional grammars,” *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik*, 2009):

“Many dictionaries actually do—quite wrongly—include subentries for numerous nouns that list them as adjectives. And in doing so, they frequently ignore both their own definition of noun and the definition of adjective.”

American Heritage Dictionary (2020, online edition):

n. Abbr. **a.** or **adj.**

1. The part of speech that modifies a noun or other substantive by limiting, qualifying, or specifying and distinguished in English morphologically by one of several suffixes, such as *-able*, *-ous*, *-er*, and *-est*, or syntactically by position directly preceding a noun or nominal phrase.
2. Any of the words belonging to this part of speech, such as *white* in the phrase *a white house*.

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Pullum (2009)

“The AHD, like many other dictionaries, both American and British, is making a mistake with the double categorization of a large number of words like *head*. The right treatment is to categorize them as nouns but to mention their sometimes special meanings when used as attributive modifiers.”

- His conclusion begins as follows:

“It is time to revise the conception of grammatical categories that is currently built into all dictionaries of English. The traditional categorizations given in the dictionaries for numerous items are simply in error. Some brave dictionary publisher must take the risk of being the first to abandon mistaken but well entrenched traditions, and of being out of step with all other dictionary publishers for a while as a result.

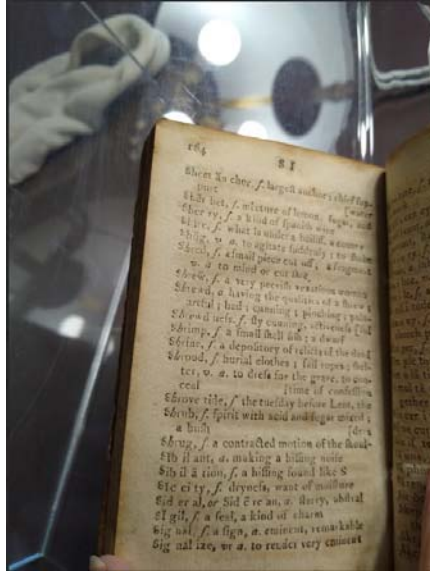
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Lexicographic traditions: dictionaries of American English



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Samuel Johnson's 1798 dictionary



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Noah Webster

- Definitions good, etymologies terrible
- Spelling reform
- Establishing English as the national language in the United States
- Reference for people learning English
- Linguistic information vs. encyclopedic information

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Century Dictionary 1888

No English dictionary, however, can well include every word or every form of a word that has been used by any English writer or speaker. There is a very large number of words and forms discoverable in the literature of all periods of the language, in the various dialects, and in colloquial use, which have no practical claim upon the notice of the lexicographer. A large

group not meriting inclusion consists of words used only for the nonce by writers of all periods and of all degrees of authority, and especially by recent writers in newspapers and other ephemeral publications; of words intended by their inventors for wider use in popular or technical speech, but which have not been accepted; and of many special names of things, as of many chemical compounds, of many inventions, of patented commercial articles, and the like. Yet another group is composed of many substantive uses of adjectives, adjective uses of substantives (as of nouns of material), participial adjectives, verbal nouns ending in *-ing*, abstract nouns ending in *-ness*, adverbs ending in *-ly* from adjectives, adjectives ending in *-ish*, regular compounds, etc., which can be used at will in accordance with the established principles of the language, but which are too obvious, both in meaning and formation, and often too occasional in use, to need separate definition. So also dialectal, provincial, or colloquial words must be excluded, so far as they stand out of vital relation to the main body of the language which it is the object of a general dictionary to explain. The special limitations of the technical and scientific vocabulary will be mentioned later.

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Funk and Wagnalls' Standard Dictionary of the English Language 1893-1895

Run-in Words.—It has been the aim to give vocabulary place to all words occurring in ordinary reading. Frequently, however, it has been found that much needed space could be saved, or that a clearer definition could be given, by placing a derivative under its primitive (with or without a definition), or by defining a word under some nearly related word or under its combining form. Thus many adverbs will be found under their adjectives, and nouns in *-er* under their verbs. This general rule, however, has been followed: Remove from vocabulary place and run in under nearly related words or combining forms only those words that are strictly technical, nearly or wholly self-explanatory, or rare, obsolete, or otherwise of little importance; less important variants place generally under the usual or more important forms and mark ‡ or †. If a word belonging to one of the classes just mentioned should not be found in its alphabetical place in the vocabulary, it should be looked for under a nearly related word, or under its combining form.

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Webster's New International Dictionary Preface, 1909

To the two great revisions of Noah Webster's work, the "Unabridged" and the "International," the present volume adds a third as the "New International." The book has been entirely remade: the previous material has been sifted and rearranged; a radical change in the construction of the page has been introduced; the definitions have been treated with nicer discrimination and a more historic method; and in every department there has been an enlargement of the vocabulary and an enrichment with new information. Its salient features in comparison with its predecessor are: A more full and scholarly treatment of the whole field of the English language; a great addition of words and definitions; a greatly increased amount of encyclopedic information; a more exhaustive and discriminating treatment of synonyms; a greater comprehensiveness in the illustrations; and an arrangement of material that makes the dictionary much easier of consultation. In short, the New International is essentially a new book.

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Webster's New International Dictionary Preface, 1909

The third device for saving space is the defining of many purely formal derivatives by references to their prefixes or suffixes. From a primary word or stem, derivatives can be formed, almost at will, by the addition of suffixes like *-hood, -ship, -ness, -ish*, or of such prefixes as *non-, anti-, contra-, infra-, super-, sub-, over-, un-*. Any word formed by means of such a general suffix or prefix, although occurring in literature in only one or two of the senses of the main word as modified by the suffix or prefix, might legitimately be used in nearly any other sense appropriate to that of the root word. Great care has been taken to show clearly the meaning of each prefix and suffix in the various combinations in which it may occur, and derivatives have been referred to the proper prefix or suffix, thus leading to an amount of information as to the actual or potential meanings of the derivative that could not possibly be given if each one received independent treatment. By this device the utility of the book has been distinctly increased, and the consulter has also been put in the way of acquiring a knowledge of the force of the formative parts of the English language that might otherwise be overlooked or neglected.

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Webster's Dictionary 1864
(Webster-Mahn Dictionary; ed. by Noah Porter)

Beau'ti-ful (bū'tī-ful), *a.* Having the qualities which constitute beauty; pleasing to the sight or the mind.

A circle is more *beautiful* than a square; a square is more *beautiful* than a parallelogram. *Lord Kames.*

Syn. — Handsome; elegant; lovely; fair; charming; graceful; pretty; delightful. See FINE.

— **Beau'ti-ful-ly**, *adv.* — **Beau'ti-ful-ness**, *n.*

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Century Dictionary (1889)

certainty; it has not, however, been possible to employ it in every case. The general definitions have also been supplemented by discussions of synonyms treating of about 7000 words, contributed by Prof. Henry M. Whitney, which will be found convenient as bringing together statements made in the definitions in various parts of the dictionary, and also as touching in a free way upon many literary aspects of words.

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Merriam-Webster online

Synonyms & Antonyms for *beautiful*

Synonyms

aesthetic (also esthetic or aesthetical or esthetical), attractive, beauteous, bonny (also bonnie) [*chiefly British*], comely, cute, drop-dead, fair, fetching, good, good-looking, goodly, gorgeous, handsome, knockout, likely, lovely, lovesome, pretty, ravishing, seemly, sightly, stunning, taking, well-favored

Antonyms

grotesque, hideous, homely, ill-favored, plain, ugly, unaesthetic, unattractive, unbeautiful, uncomely, uncute, unhandsome, unlvely, unpleasing, unpretty, unsightly

[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#)

Choose the Right Synonym for *beautiful*

BEAUTIFUL, LOVELY, HANDSOME, PRETTY, COMELY, FAIR mean exciting sensuous or aesthetic pleasure. BEAUTIFUL applies to whatever excites the keenest of pleasure to the senses and stirs emotion through the senses. // *beautiful* mountain scenery // LOVELY is close to BEAUTIFUL but applies to a narrower range of emotional excitation in suggesting the graceful, delicate, or exquisite. // *a lovely melody* // HANDSOME suggests aesthetic pleasure due to proportion, symmetry, or elegance. // *a handsome* Georgian mansion // PRETTY often applies to superficial or insubstantial attractiveness. // *a painter of conventionally pretty scenes* // COMELY is like HANDSOME in suggesting what is coolly approved rather than emotionally responded to. // *the comely* grace of a dancer // FAIR suggests beauty because of purity, flawlessness, or freshness. // *fair* of face //

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Some Characteristics that would become part of this tradition

- Inclusion of non-literary vocabulary
- Run-on entries
- Presence of synonyms
- Examples
- Word elements (e.g., affixes) given headword status
- Strong emphasis on description, as opposed to prescription

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Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language (1953)

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C. Derived forms

Every word entered in this dictionary has been fully defined. Nothing has been left to supposition or guesswork. Wherever a common derived form, such as an adverb from an adjective or a noun from a verb, shows the slightest deviation in spelling or pronunciation or offers the slightest doubt as to meaning, such a form generally has been entered, pronounced, and defined.

It is possible in English to form an almost infinite number of derived forms simply by adding certain prefixes or suffixes to the base word. In very many such cases it is possible to understand immediately the meanings of such derived words, if the meanings of the base word and of the affixes (the most common of which have been entered in this dictionary) are understood. For example, if the suffix *-able* is clearly understood to mean "that can be *—-ed*" or "capable of being *—-ed*," the meanings of such derived forms as *contradictable*, *recallable*, and *moldable* are immediately apparent. An analogous situation exists for words compounded with *-er*, *-less*, *-like*, *-ly*, *-ness*, etc. Space for less easily understood forms is therefore conserved by omitting many such words.

For some of the more common prefixes, such as *re-* and *non-*, sample lists of words compounded with such forms have been entered under the proper prefix or suffix merely to indicate the frequency with which such words occur in usage.

For adjectives ending in *-ic* having alternative forms in *-ical*, the derived adverbs (ending in *-ically*) have generally not been entered where such forms mean only "in (the specified) manner." Where the alternative form in *-ical* does not exist, the derived adverb has been entered.

The names of many sciences or studies ending in *-logy* (as, *psychology*, *histology*) form nouns of agent by replacing the *-y* with *-ist* (as, *psychologist*, *histologist*). In such cases, the derived form is not always entered but can easily be inferred.

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Random House Unabridged Dictionary (1983)



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Random House Unabridged Dictionary (1983)



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Dictionaries of Spanish

- Spanish Royal Academy founded in 1713
- Published dictionaries since 1780
- Current dictionary is the 23rd edition
- Determines the standard for Spanish around the world
Limpia, fija y da esplendor

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Dictionaries of Spanish

- RAE dictionaries
 - Primarily, literary language
 - Few examples and little usage information
 - Lots of labels (regional, register, subject)
 - Stricter interpretation of linguistic information as opposed to encyclopedic information
 - Other than part-of-speech categorization, not much grammatical information
 - Strong emphasis on prescription

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Comparison with American English dictionaries

- Less coverage of scientific and technical vocabulary
- No run-on entries
- Fewer examples, few synonyms
- Absence of usage notes
- Word elements a recent addition to RAE dictionaries
- No indication of pronunciation

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María Moliner's *Diccionario de uso del español*

7 Variedad cultivada de *Chrysanthemum frutescens*, *planta compuesta perenne de tallos ramificados y capítulos con ligulas blancas.

8 Corrientemente, se llaman *margaritas* todas las *flores formadas por una inflorescencia en cabezuela, especialmente cuando son blancas y amarillas, como la maya o la flor de la manzanilla, pero también aunque sean de otros colores. Es una acción tradicional *deshojar la margarita*, arrancando uno a uno los pétalos (hojas en lenguaje popular) de su corola, mientras se va asignando a cada uno una respuesta de dos alternativas, tomando como respuesta definitiva de la suerte la de la última hoja que se arranca. ⇒ Chiribita, galana.

9 Pieza circular de ciertas máquinas de escribir electrónicas e impresoras de ordenador en que están grabados los caracteres.

10 m. Cierta cóctel de tequila, zumo de lima y otros ingredientes.

margarita de los prados *Maya (*planta compuesta*).

echar margaritas a los cerdos [o **puercos**] Dar u ofrecer cosas delicadas a alguien que no tiene capacidad para disfrutarlas o apreciarlas. ⇒ *Desperdiciar.

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Recent addition: [Mapa de diccionarios](#) Overview of 6 dictionaries published over the past 230+ years

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-ción -ción 1992, 2001		Tratado a mano	Tratado a mano
Historial de modificaciones	Ver observaciones	Historial de modificaciones	Ver observaciones
<p>1.1</p> <p>-ción. □</p> <p>1. suf. Forma sustantivos verbales, que expresan acción y efecto. Aparece en la forma -ción, no precedido de vocal, en ciertos sustantivos generalmente procedentes del latín. <i>Función, lección, producción</i>. Los creados en español toman la forma -cción, si el verbo del que derivan es de la primera conjugación. <i>Grabación, edición</i>, si es de la tercera. <i>Emulsión</i>. Si el sustantivo deriva de un verbo de la segunda, toma otro sufixo.</p>	<p>1.1</p> <p>-cción. □</p> <p>1. suf. Forma sustantivos verbales, que expresan acción y efecto. Aparece en la forma -cción, no precedido de vocal, en ciertos sustantivos generalmente procedentes del latín. <i>Función, lección, producción</i>. Los creados en español toman la forma -cción, si el verbo del que derivan es de la primera conjugación. <i>Grabación, edición</i>, si es de la tercera. <i>Emulsión</i>. Si el sustantivo deriva de un verbo de la segunda, toma otro sufixo.</p>	1992	1992
<p>2.2</p> <p>-ción. □</p> <p>2. suf. Además de su significado abstracto, -ción y sus variantes pueden denotar objeto, lugar, etc. <i>Festivación, función</i>.</p>			

Recent addition: [Mapa de diccionarios](#) Overview of 6 dictionaries published over the past 230+ years

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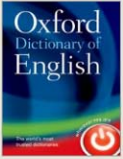
Aljido Aljido 1884, 1925, 1992, 2001		Tratado a mano	Tratado a mano
Historial de modificaciones	Ver observaciones	Historial de modificaciones	Ver observaciones
<p>1.1</p> <p>Aljido. □</p> <p>1. suf. Muy raro.</p>	<p>1.1</p> <p>Aljido. □</p> <p>1. suf. Muy raro.</p>		
<p>2.2</p> <p>Aljido. □</p> <p>2. suf. Acompañado de fijo glacial. <i>Fiebre aljida. Período aljido del color morbo.</i></p>	<p>2.2</p> <p>Aljido. □</p> <p>2. suf. Acompañado de fijo glacial. <i>Fiebre aljida. Período aljido del color morbo.</i></p>	1.2	1.2
<p>3.3</p> <p>Aljido. □</p> <p>3. suf. Se dice del momento o período crítico o culminante de algunos procesos orgánicos, físicos, políticos, sociales, etc.</p>	<p>3.3</p> <p>Aljido. □</p> <p>3. suf. Se dice del momento o período crítico o culminante de algunos procesos orgánicos, físicos, políticos, sociales, etc.</p>		

Why is this interesting?

- Comparison of different traditions leads us to increased understanding of how dictionaries have come to take shape
- Understanding the past provides us with clues as to how to improve future dictionaries

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A displaced person is a refugee

	Oxford Dictionary of English (3 ed.) Edited by: Angus Stevenson	<input type="button" value="Oxford Dictionaries Online"/>	
	Publisher: Oxford University Press Print ISBN-13: 9780199571123 Current Online Version: 2015	Print Publication Date: 2010 Published online: 2010 eISBN: 9780191727665	

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displaced person

- ▶ **noun** a person who is forced to leave their home country because of war or persecution; a refugee.

A migrant is a refugee

Unabridged Dictionary Collegiate Dictionary Collegiate Thesaurus

mi·grant *noun* \ mi-grant 

plural **mi-grants**

: someone or something that *migrates*; such as

a : a person who moves regularly in order to find work especially in harvesting crops
 <farms employing migrants during the growing season>

b : **MIGRANT a**, especially : **REFUGEE**
 <... administration officials announced they would work to swiftly screen migrants seeking asylum at the border ... and penalize people who cross illegally into the U.S. or illegally through another country on their way to the U.S. border.
 — Colleen Long>

c : an animal (such as a gray whale, monarch butterfly, leatherback sea turtle, or Canada goose) that moves usually long distances from one habitat or geographic region to another

— **migrant** *adjective*
 <migrant labor>
 <migrant birds>

Examples of **MIGRANT**

migrants in search of work on farms
 Not all birds are migrants.

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Are displaced persons and migrants refugees?

- Not according to the UN Refugee Convention of 1951:

What is the definition of a refugee?

Article 1 of the 1951 Convention defines a refugee as someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

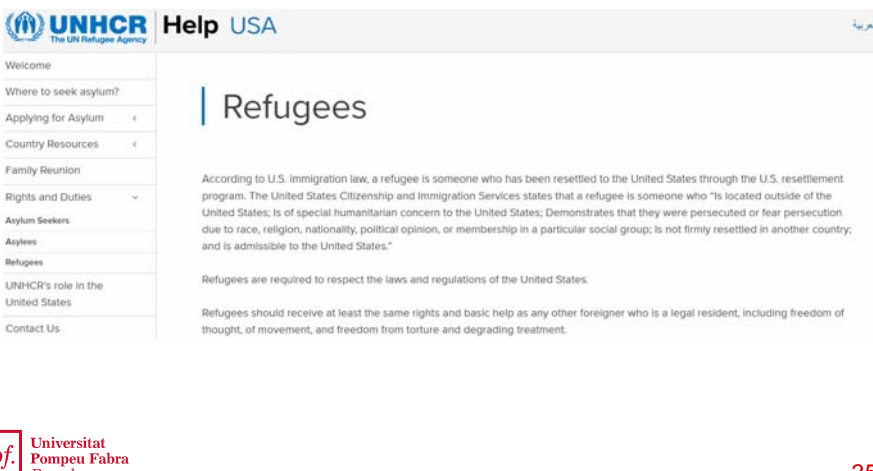
Regional refugee instruments complement the 1951 Convention and have built upon its definition, by referencing a number of 'objective' circumstances compelling refugees to flee their countries of origin. For example, the definition outlined in the [1969 OAU \(Organization of African Unity\) Refugee Convention](#) includes 'external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order' (Article 1 (2)). The [1984 Cartagena Declaration](#) includes 'generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order' (paragraph III (3)).

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They are not refugees according to U.S. immigration law

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The screenshot shows the UNHCR Help USA website. The header includes the UNHCR logo and 'Help USA'. The main heading is 'Refugees'. The content explains that according to U.S. immigration law, a refugee is someone who has been resettled to the United States through the U.S. resettlement program. It also states that a refugee is someone who is located outside of the United States, is of special humanitarian concern, demonstrates persecution or fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, and is admissible to the United States. A sidebar on the left lists various navigation options like 'Where to seek asylum?', 'Applying for Asylum', and 'Country Resources'. The footer of the page includes the 'upf.' logo and 'Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona'.

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

Won't text comparison and AI do this for us?

- October 5, 2023
- Much corpus analysis deals with contemporary usage
 - Different languages have different amounts of source material available
 - Question the assumption that users are able to pinpoint what information they need
- The screenshot shows a list of three bullet points. The first point is 'Much corpus analysis deals with contemporary usage'. The second point is 'Different languages have different amounts of source material available'. The third point is 'Question the assumption that users are able to pinpoint what information they need'. The footer of the page includes the 'upf.' logo and 'Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona'.

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ChatGPT

J what is the past participle of the verb "bear"

The past participle of the verb "bear" is "borne" or "born," depending on the context.   

- "Borne" is typically used when referring to carrying a burden, responsibility, or something physically. For example: "He has borne the weight of his family's expectations."
- "Born" is used when referring to the birth of a person or animal. For example: "She was born in New York."

Please note that there is a distinction between these two forms of the past participle based on their usage.

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American Heritage Dictionary

Usage Note: Thanks to the vagaries of English spelling, *bear* has two past participles: *born* and *borne*. Traditionally, *born* is used only in passive constructions referring to birth: *I was born in Chicago*. For all other uses, including active constructions referring to birth, *borne* is the standard form: *She has borne both her children at home. I have borne his insolence with the patience of a saint.*

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Merriam-Webster

Did you know?

Borne is, just like *born*, the past participle of the verb *bear*, which can mean (among other things) "to contain" or "to give birth to." At first, *borne* and *born* were variant spellings of the same adjective. Used as in *water-borne* (or *water-born*), it means "carried by." In the phrase "borne enemies" (or "born enemies"), it means "from birth." To add to the confusion, the spelling *borne* sees occasional use in the *passive* voice in the "to give birth to" sense, as in "two sons were borne by his wife." In combining forms, *born* is reserved for the adjective related to birth (as in *newly-born* and *Massachusetts-born*) and *borne* retains the sense of "carried" ("airborne passengers").

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Cambridge Dictionary

Born or borne ?

Grammar > Easily confused words > Born or borne ?

from English Grammar Today

Born

We use *born* in the phrase *be born* to indicate that a child has entered the world:

*They say that in China a new baby is **born** every five minutes.*

Warning:

We use *was/were born* when we talk about when or where someone started their life:

*I was **born** in 1988.*

Not: ~~*I am born in 1988*~~ or ~~*I born in 1988*~~

Bear, bore, borne

Bear means to tolerate something, usually something that you dislike. It is most commonly used in the expression *can't bear*. The past form is *bore* and the *-ed* form is *borne*:

*I can't **bear** so much football on television.*

*She has **borne** all her problems with great courage.*

The verb *bear* is sometimes used to describe the act of giving birth. It is most commonly used in the past tense and in rather formal situations. *Have* is more common when talking about giving birth:

*She **bore** twelve children in twenty-two years. (or, more commonly, She **had** twelve children ...)*

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- A note of gratitude to all the colleagues and friends I have met through EURALEX over the years, especially those with whom I worked on successive EURALEX executive boards;
- A kind remembrance for members of the EURALEX community who are no longer with us, especially Sue Atkins, Tony Cowie, Paul Bogaards, Adam Kilgarriff, Tanneke Schonheim and Thierry Declerk;
- And a very special nod to three people I met through EURALEX whose guidance, counsel, and friendship I treasure: Thierry Fontanelle, Carla Marelllo, and Geoffrey Williams.

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Thank you

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