How I came to lexicography ...

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Join-in Lexicography:
User Participation in Electronic
Reference Works

Andrea Abel unibz – Eurac Research













Forms of political participation









Forms of political participation

Direct, indirect and accessory forms of user participation

Historical perspective

- User participation in the compilation of dictionaries already in the pre-electronic era, e.g., the Oxford English Dictionary (19th century): reading programmes
- With the emergence of the World Wide Web new forms of participation: bottom-up (<-> top-down) approaches = turning point in the lexicographic process (cf. Carr 1997: 214)
- Increasingly blurred boundary between users and producers of dictionaries → prosumer (producer & consumer) (cf. Lew 2014: 9)

Previous work

• Research into user participation internet dictionaries: fairly new topic area, e.g., Wiegand et al. (2010: 17):

"Allerdings sind die lexikographischen Prozesse, wie man sie bei der Entstehung von gemeinschaftlich erstellten Online-Wörterbüchern, wie dem Wiktionary, beobachten kann, mit der traditionellen Phaseneinteilung nicht mehr adäquat beschreibbar; ihre Abläufe sind bislang auch erst ansatzweise erforscht."

("In any case, the lexicographic processes that we can observe in the creation of collaboratively compiled online dictionaries like Wiktionary can no longer be adequately described with the traditional division of phases; hitherto, research into the way these processes work is only rudimentary.")

Previous work

- Mostly focused on a specific type/dimension of user participation, e.g. Carr (1997), Storrer (1998, 2010), Køhler Simonsen (2005), Fuertes-Olivera (2009), Melchior (2012), Lew (2011, 2013)
- Ambiguous, partly overlapping → lack of a common and consistent terminology

(fuzzy) simultaneous feedback
collective free multiple-language
bottom-up lexicography
collaborative-institutional dictionaries
USER CONTRIBUTION
collaborative lexicography
lexicographic democracy user involvement
semi-collaborative dictionaries
user participationdemocratization

Classification

• Classificazione proposed by Abel and Meyer (2013, 2016), based on the work of Mann (2010):

1. Direct user participation	2. Indirect user participation	3. Accessory user participation
 Contributions to open-collaborative dictionaries Contributions to collaborative-institutional dictionaries Contributions to semi-collaborative dictionaries 	 Explicit feedback Implicit feedback 	 Exchanges between dictionary makers and dictionary users Unidirectional communication Bidirectional communication Exchanges between dictionary users

Additions, modifications, deletions of dictionary articles (or parts of them) performed by a dictionary user

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Contributions to open-collaborative dictionaries

- dictionaries completely built by users without editorial control
- fixed lexicographic instructions vs. structural openness
- dictionary-specific vs. general-purpose user interface (e.g., wiki)













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Contributions to collaborative-institutional dictionaries

- provided by major dictionary publishers (→ success?)
- usually no direct modifications/deletions of existing articles
- collect evidence and suggestions for improving editorial dictionaries
- keep dictionary users interested in the publisher's activities







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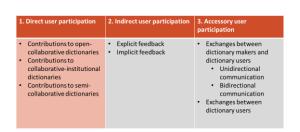
Contributions to	semi-collaborative	dictionaries
	Scilli Collabolative	GIGGIGITGS

- submissions of new entries, donations of word lists
- carefully examined by professional editors
- directly integrated into the dictionary if valid



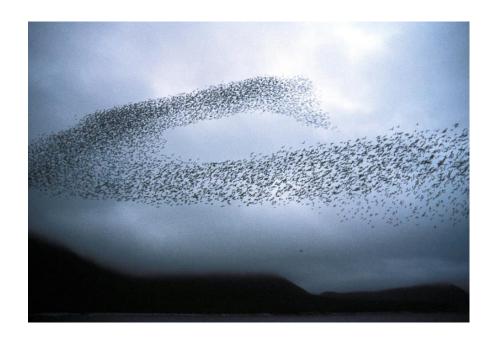






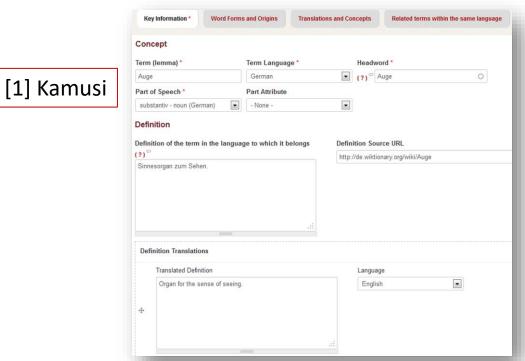
Additional details:

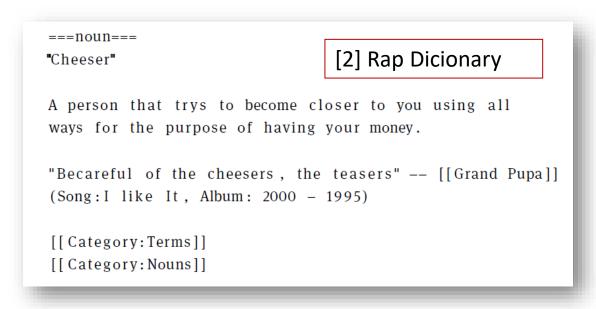
- Swarm intelligence approach (cf. Krause/Krause 2011, Surowiecki 2005)
- Motivation for participation: *money, love, glory* (Malone 2010)



Additional details:

- Data entry 2 types:
 - Online input form fixed microstructure [1]
 - Mark-up language (e.g. Wiki technology) flexible microstructure [2]





Suggestions, corrections, supplementary material, comments, external content, usage data provided by users as feedback

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Explicit feedback

- Suggestions, wishes, error corrections on existing content
- Supplementary material (e.g., illustrations, quotations)
- Quality judgements
- Form-based vs. free form feedback

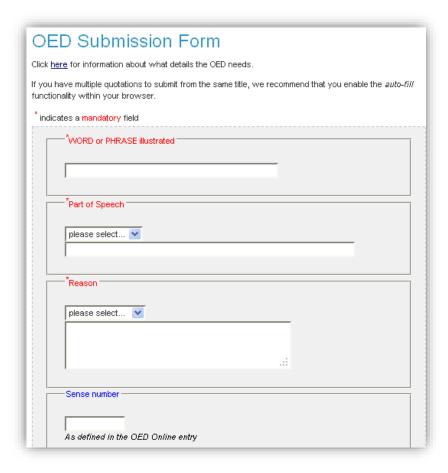


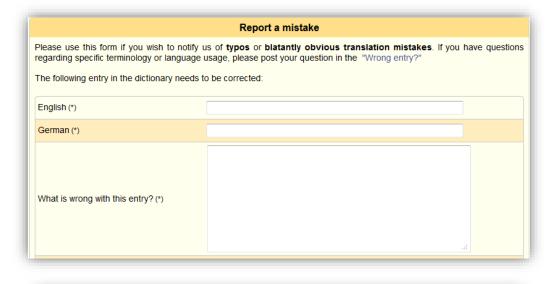


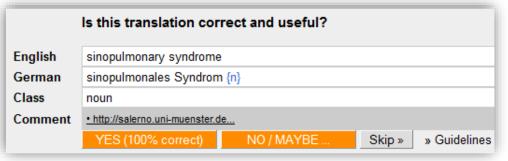




Examples: predefined forms for giving feedback







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Implicit feedback

- Provided by users through their usage of the dictionary
- No explicit user effort
- Contribution often not realized
 - Log files, Google Analytics
 - Favorite articles, word lists
 - External user-generated content (e.g., Flickr, Twitter)





Exchange between the dictionary makers and their users or among the users themselves beyond the dictionary content

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Exchanges between dictionary makers and dictionary users

- Blogs, newsletters, social networks, etc.
- Language games, professional language service
- Unidirectional communication vs. bidirectional communication







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Exchanges between dictionary users

- Forums
- Discussion pages
- User comments







Example: entry and discussion page in Wikipedia



Conclusions

New classification of user participation in lexicography

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Conclusions

- Relevance of classifying user participation:
 - Tool for describing existing lexicographic products
 - Tool for designing new lexicographic resources

Conclusions

Evaluation:

- Strengths of user participation, e.g.
 - Unlimited number of participants and diversity of users
 - Corrections and addition of missing entries and/or information
 - Cost reduction (open-collaborative participation)
 - Free accessibility of lexicographic products and services
 - Playful and educational aspects
- Weaknesses of user participation, e.g.
 - Increased cost and time (institutional-collaborative participation)
 - Limited value (log file analysis)
 - Qualitative shortcomings
 - Plagiarism

Further readings

For further information and bibliographical references on the subject:

- Abel, Andrea/Meyer, Christian M (2016): Nutzerbeteiligung. In: Klosa, Annette/Müller-Spitzer, Carolin (eds.): Internetlexikografie. Ein Kompendium. Berlin Boston: de Gruyter. 249–290.
- Meyer, Christian M/Andrea, Abel (2017): User Participation in the Internet Era. In: Fuertes-Olivera, Pedro A (ed.): The Routledge Handbook of Lexicography. London New York: Routledge. 735–753.

Thank you for the attention! Danke für die Aufmerksamkeit! Grazie per l'attenzione!

Andrea Abel
anabel@unibz.it
andrea.abel@eurac.edu