

Heming Yong. *English Lexicography from British Tradition to World Englishes*. 2022, viii + 194 pages. ISBN 978-1-4331-8696-7 (Hardback), ISBN 978-1-4331-8697-4 (eBook PDF), ISBN 978-1-4331-9258-6 (ePub). New York/Bern/Berlin/Brussels/Oxford/Vienna: Peter Lang. Price: US\$ 97.80 (Hardback), US\$ 94.95 (eBook).

Broadly speaking, English lexicography encompasses dictionaries of British English and other native varieties such as American English, Australian English, Canadian English, etc. Dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, it has a history of at least 400 years (Cowie 2009). Since the 1970s, many monographs have explored English lexicography from various perspectives: Some provide a comprehensive account (e.g. Zgusta 1971; Landau 1989; Svensén 1993; Atkins and Rundell 2008; Svensén 2009); some give a historical description (e.g. Collison 1982; Cowie 2002, 2009; Béjoint 2010; Miyoshi 2017; Yong and Peng 2021); and some expose the existing limitations of present-day English dictionaries and offer some solutions to these issues (e.g. Dixon 2018). There are also some volumes focusing on the history of world lexicography (e.g. Considine 2019). However, except for Martin (2019) on American English lexicography, little research has been conducted to investigate the development of English lexicography in other English-speaking countries.

English Lexicography from British Tradition to World Englishes, the volume in question, explores the evolution of English lexicography from British tradition to other major native varieties, viz. American English, Australian English, Canadian English, New Zealand English, and South African English. It reveals the historical relations and inheritance between British lexicographical tradition and the development of English lexicography in those varieties, giving an integrated, diachronic, and comprehensive account of how English lexicography in those varieties started and has gradually evolved into modern shapes.

With a total of 194 pages, this volume comprises seven chapters, plus a bibliography and an index. The first two chapters, which make up half of the whole volume, depict British English lexicographical tradition and American English lexicography respectively. The following four chapters illustrate English lexicography with regard to other major native varieties such as Australian English, Canadian English, New Zealand English, and South African English. The last chapter describes the prospects for the development of world English lexicography.

Chapter One documents British lexicographical tradition and the development of world English lexicography. Adopting a linguistic approach, this chapter traces the evolutionary trajectory of British English lexicography from its archetype to the prescriptive, the historical, the descriptive, and finally to the cognitive paradigms. It begins with an investigation into the seeds of Latin lexicography in Old English glossaries such as *The Leiden Glossary*, and the genesis of English bilingual lexicography from Latin traditions, especially the making of Latin–English and English–Latin bilingual dictionaries that embrace

a Latin heritage. Next, it explores the prescriptive tradition of Latin grammar and the making of monolingual English dictionaries in Britain. The publication of Samuel Johnson's monumental *A Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) signifies the firm establishment of the prescriptive paradigm in lexicography. Then, it examines the European philological tradition in English lexicography and the making of historical dictionaries in Britain. This phase is marked by *The Oxford English Dictionary* (Murray et al. 1884–1928), which illustrates the consistent, comprehensive, systematic and scientific implementation of the historical principles in dictionary-making and signifies the firm establishment and adequate application of the historical paradigm to English dictionary-making (p. 18). Subsequently, it surveys the descriptive linguistic paradigm and the development of English descriptive dictionaries. Philip Babcock Gove's (1902–1972) *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged* (commonly known as *Webster's Third*, or W3, 1961), is regarded as 'the first dictionary that applies the descriptive principle in a systematic and down-to-earth manner' (p. 21). Finally, it introduces the cognitive linguistic paradigm and the making of active English dictionaries, viz. British learner's dictionaries, which have undergone three generations of evolution represented by the *New Method English Dictionary* (West and Endicott 1935), *A Grammar of English Words* (Palmer 1938) and *The Idiomatic and Syntactic English Dictionary (ALD1)* (Hornby et al. 1942) in the first generation, *ALD2* (Hornby et al. 1963), *ALD3* (Hornby et al. 1974) and *LDCE1* (Procter 1978) in the second generation, and the *OALD4* (Cowie 1989) and *LDCE2* (Summers 1987) as the foundation and *COBUILD1* (Sinclair et al. 1987) as its representative work in the third generation. This chapter concludes with an analysis of British lexicographical tradition and its impacts upon the development of world English lexicography.

Chapter Two examines American English lexicography and its inheritance and reformation of British lexicographical tradition. It first explores the socio-linguistic background for the emergence and development of American English lexicography, and traces the extension and reformation of British lexicographical tradition in the making of first American English dictionaries. Then, it elaborates on Noah Webster's dictionaries and their leading innovation upon British lexicographical traits, and the American "War of Dictionaries" and Joseph E. Worcester's lexicographical predicament. As a strong rival and equivalent to *OED*, Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language (ADEL, 1828)* is the most representative and notable one of his dictionaries, and its publication opened up a brand-new era for the compilation of American English dictionaries. Recognized by the American public as the symbol of the independent national identity and the signifier of cultural and linguistic divergence of the New World from its source language and culture, *ADEL* not only reflects Webster's linguistic and political views but also redefines, to a certain extent, the American social, cultural, and historical significance (p. 60). Worcester's most significant, influential, and widely recognized work is *A Dictionary of the English Language* (1860), and it sets the precedent of both using pictorial illustra-

tions to reinforce definitions and systematically treating synonyms in American English dictionaries. This chapter also discusses the compiling philosophy in other major American dictionaries of the 19th century. In addition, it highlights the link between British lexicographical tradition and the development of different types of American dictionaries in the 20th century, including the inheritance of British lexicographical tradition in the prosperity of American general dictionaries, the continuation of British pedagogical traditions and the making of American learner's dictionaries, the tolerant attitude toward regional variants and the making of American pronouncing and dialect dictionaries, the tradition of British usage studies and the making of American usage and slang dictionaries, and the tradition of British semantic and etymological studies and the making of American thesauruses and etymological dictionaries. This chapter further surveys the making of American encyclopedic, electronic, and online dictionaries in the 20th Century, and other types of dictionaries and the dictionary of world Englishes.

Chapter Three investigates British lexicographical tradition and the development of Australian English lexicography. It explores the extension of British lexicographical tradition in the sprouting of Australian English lexicography, analyzes the diversity of the colonial sociocultural setting and the early development of Australian English lexicography, discusses the extension of British slang studies and the making of Australian dictionaries of slang and colloquialisms, examines the strengthened sociocultural consciousness and *The Macquarie Dictionary*, and surveys Australia's Oxford path of lexicographical development and the making of *The Australian National Dictionary*.

Chapter Four focuses on British and American lexicographical tradition and the making of Canadian English dictionaries. It introduces Canadian English and British lexicographical legacies in the making of dictionaries of Canadianisms, explores the British and American lexicographical heritage in the making of Canadian national dictionaries, and discusses the Oxford collaboration and the making of general dictionaries of Canadian English.

Chapter Five illustrates British lexicographical tradition in the shaping of New Zealand English lexicography. It surveys the pervasion of Māori into New Zealand English and the making of first English and Māori bilingual dictionaries, traces British tradition in nonstandard English studies and their extension into the making of nonstandard English dictionaries in New Zealand, explores the pivotal role of Māori in the development of New Zealand bilingual lexicography, and analyzes the newly emerging factors and Oxford lexicographical involvement in the prosperity of New Zealand lexicography.

Chapter Six examines the extending influence of British lexicographical tradition and the shaping of South African English lexicography. It begins with an explanation of the background for the sprouting of South African English lexicography and the establishment of the Dictionary Unit for South African English (DSAE). Then, it introduces South African English as a new and developing variety and the inception of South African monolingual lexicography. It

also discusses the extending influence of British lexicographical tradition and the making of South African national dictionaries, analyzes the English domination and the development of South African bilingual lexicography, and surveys Pharos dictionaries and other types of dictionary making.

The final chapter depicts the prospects for the development of world English lexicography with respect to dictionary form and function, information presentation and organization, incorporation and interaction in terms of potential areas of lexicographical research, dictionary users, integration of digital, technological and corpus technologies with lexicography and creation of new dictionaries, internationalization and regionalization of English dictionaries, and user segmentation and dictionary serialization.

The volume under inspection is distinguished from other works on similar topics in at least three aspects. Firstly, different from other existing studies on English lexicography which mainly focus on the lexicography of British English or American English, this volume may be the first one to provide a panorama of how lexicography of major native-speaker varieties of English (in addition to British English) has evolved from their British roots to current shapes and prosperity. Secondly, unlike other works which are confined to the dictionary-ontology paradigm, this volume explores the evolution of world English lexicography from both sociolinguistic and lexicographic perspectives. It puts English dictionary-making and research against a broader setting of socio-cultural observations in the world, and traces their evolutionary links with and inheritance from British (occasionally American) lexicographical tradition, their interrelation to the socio-cultural backgrounds, as well as their reformation and divergences through innovation and self-expansion. Thirdly, this volume reveals the lexicographical theories that guide dictionary-making of each English variety, and provides a comprehensive, coherent, and unified theoretical framework of English dictionary paradigms from its archetype to the prescriptive, the historical, the descriptive and finally the cognitive model.

Admittedly, in addition to the merits mentioned above, there is still some room for improvement in this volume. Firstly, this book features in a complete picture of the development of world English lexicography. However, the introduction to the whole history of the lexicography of some English varieties seems a little rough and general. Secondly, as a monograph on the history of English lexicography, this volume could have elaborated on the design features of major dictionaries in different English varieties. A comprehensive diachronic and synchronic investigation would reveal the distinctive characteristics of different lexicographical works. Finally, a glimpse of the major references indicates that there are some important omissions. Although Yong has quoted many dictionaries in the main body of the text, no dictionary is listed in the References. Moreover, there are a few minor mistakes and inconsistencies in the References. Specifically, as far as *The Oxford Guide to Practical Lexicography* is concerned, this volume mistakenly takes Rundell as the first author and Atkins as the second (p. 185). Furthermore, some authors are given the full name,

while some are listed in the format of family name plus the initial letter of the given name.

In conclusion, in spite of the minor criticisms raised above, this monograph deserves recognition as the first volume on a comprehensive history of world English lexicography from both sociolinguistic and lexicographic perspectives, and as a rich resource to English lexicographers and linguists. It presents readers with a clear, coherent, and comprehensive view of how lexicography of core English varieties has developed from its British origin, and how it interrelates to the socio-cultural backgrounds in the world.

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