

Syntactic and Semantic Specifications in Online English Learners' Dictionaries*

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ABSTRACT

Among the multifarious linguistic resources currently available on the Internet, learners of English as a foreign language, as well as teachers and translators, can effortlessly access a vast variety of electronic dictionaries well suited to a multiplicity of lookup operations. A particular kind of lexicographical work on the Web is the monolingual learners' dictionary of English (MLD), basically a digitized version of its printed publication. While ease of access and quick searching characterize MLDs online, users not conversant with the microstructure of these works may fail to distinguish among the large number of language specifications within entries. This article is aimed at giving a concise description of the treatment of syntax and semantics in online MLDs.

Keywords: Online lexicography, monolingual learners' dictionaries, syntactic and semantic specifications.

1. INTRODUCTION

English lexicography boasts an unparalleled development of monolingual learner's dictionaries, compiled mainly for pedagogical purposes. In this day and age marked by the huge expansion of technological advances and "instructional technology" (Battenburg & Lant 2003: 5), electronic dictionaries (EDs) are heavily marketed as an alternative resource guide to the (English) language. Thus, printed editions of the "big five" – *Cambridge Advanced*, *Collins Cobuild*, *Longman Dictionary*, *Macmillan Dictionary*, and *Oxford Advanced* –

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