LEXICOGRAPHIC FIXATION OF NATIONALLY MARKED UNITS OF MINORITY LANGUAGES (ON THE EXAMPLE OF ELECTRONIC DICTIONARIES OF SCOTS AND SCOTTISH GAELIC)

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Summary

This paper considers the peculiarities of the lexicographic fixation of nationally marked units of minority languages in Scotland, in particular Scots and Scottish Gaelic. The aim of this paper is to analyse dictionary entries and to determine the features of lexicographic representation of nationally-marked units at the microstructural level by identifying common and distinctive features. The source base is represented by such online dictionaries as The Dictionaries of Scots Language and Am Faclair Beag. The paper presents a brief overview of the creation of dictionaries, which constitute the source base of the research, and also provides a brief overview of their macrostrcture. The common features include the presence of interpretation (translation), transcription and grammatical commentary, while the differences include different formats of illustrating the usage of a lexical item (territorial – in Scottish Gaelic, situational – in Scots). Methods used in the study: general scientific (analysis and synthesis), critical dictionary research, diachronic and synchronic methods.

Key words: dictionary entry, lexicography, microstructure, macrostructure, lexicographic process.

1. Introduction

The cultural and historical value and significance of each language is primarily due to the fact that language is not only a means of communication, but also a way of preserving the numerous knowledge and traditions of a particular nation, a means of communication between generations, an integral component without which the very existence of a nation as such becomes impossible. Language is a mirror of culture that reflects the real world of a person, his or her living conditions, national character, mentality, customs, traditions, beliefs, and the system of values of a nation. Language is a tool, an instrument of culture that shapes a person's personality and system of values. The loss of a language, therefore, leads to the loss of the culture and history of a particular people, and its further assimilation into the dominant language and nation. That is why, at the present stage of development of linguistic science, more and more attention is paid to the correlation between language and culture. It is worth noting the interest of linguists in the reflection of culture in language, which is realised by recording nationally labelled lexical items in dictionaries that serve as carriers of the genetic memory of the people, their life and activities.

The issues of historical development and functioning of minority languages in the territory of modern Scotland have repeatedly been the object of interest of foreign researchers. In particular, the main problems of the formation and standardisation of the Scottish Scots

language are highlighted in the scientific researches of J. Aitken, C. Wilson, L. Voigt, C. Jones, M. Dureau, E. Eagle, G. Closs, R. Crawford, T. MacArthur, I. McLeod, G. Price, S. Rennie, J. Sinclair, and others. The problems and peculiarities of the processes of revival, spread and functioning of the Gaelic language in Scotland are considered in the scientific studies of S. Bell, M. Denson, R. Edwards, J. Knipp, A. Lang, K. Levin, M. Mazukiewicz, S. MacDonald, M. McConville, I. MacLeod, L. Milligan, K. Parsons, D. Chalmers and others. At the same time, the issue of the specifics of the Scottish lexicographic process in both Gaelic and Scots remains poorly understood. Moreover, the lexicographic traditions of recording nationally labelled units in these languages have not yet received proper theoretical and practical study.

Considering the complex historical path of development of both languages, as well as the current uncertainty against the background of official recognition with a lack of institutional support, Lorna Pike and Christine Robinson aptly note "In the field of lexicography, Gaelic and Scots have turned the global status of their closest neighbour to their advantage. This is a direct result of the contribution the Scots have made to historical lexicography. Sir James Murray, from Denholm near Hawick in the Scottish Borders, pioneered the application of historical principles to English lexicography which resulted in the structure used in the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED)" *(Pike & Robinson, 2010)*.

However, it was the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century that saw intensive work on the first online dictionaries of Scots and Scottish Gaelic.

2. History of the creation of the Dictionaries of the Scots Language

The first online dictionary of the Scots language, The Dictionary of the Scots Language (DSL) (URL: https://www.dsl.ac.uk), was published in 2004 as a defining milestone in twentieth-century Scottish lexicography. The project was led by the scientific director Dr V. Skretkowicz and Dr S. Rennie, who acted as editor and lexicographer. In fact, DSL Online consists of two prominent lexicographical works of the Scottish language – The Scottish National Dictionary *(SND, 1931–1976)* and The Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue *(DOST, 1931–2002)*. Together, they comprise 22 volumes, 12,000 pages, 79,000 entries, and 710,000 illustrative quotations taken from 6,000 texts *(Dictionary of the Scots Language, 2021)*.

The DSL1 team digitised all 10 SND volumes and 12 DOST volumes using a combination of scanning, OCR, and computer programming to create XML text that conforms to TEI vocabulary markup standards. The digitisation process built on a previous pilot project led by Dr S. Rennie, which digitised a sample of the SND using a similar methodology. In addition to lexicographers from Dundee, the project was supported by the Centre for Digitisation and Data Analysis at Queen's University Belfast. The DSL1 search engines used open-source software, and all web development was carried out by Dr J. Triggs of Global Language Resources *(Dictionary of the Scots Language, 2021)*.

Since its first publication in 2004, the DSL website has been updated in 2014 and 2022, and the current version, called DSL2, is now maintained by the University of Glasgow in partnership with Scottish Language Dictionaries. However, in the transition from DSL1 to DSL2, some important parts of the historical data were discarded. These include parts of W. Grant's Introduction to the Scottish National Dictionary (only his Phonetic Description of the Scots Language remains); the original SND Contributors List, which can be used to trace individual contributions to the dictionary; and Sir W. Craig's original preface to the DOST *(Dictionary of the Scots Language, 2021)*.

To date, this online dictionary is the most comprehensive lexicographical publication and an important research tool for anyone interested in the history and languages of Scotland. Thus, The Dictionary of the Scots Language (DSL) is currently one of the most popular and comprehensive dictionaries available: it contains information on the etymology, grammatical features and usage of words from the twelfth century to the present day.

3. History of the creation of "Am Faclair Beag"

"Am Faclair Beag" is an online Gaelic-English dictionary (URL: https://www.faclair. com) that is available on both desktop and mobile web browser platforms.

The dictionary was developed by Mìcheal Bauer and Uilleam MacDhonnchaidh in two phases, first as a digital version of Edward Dewelly's dictionary (launched in 2009), and later that year as a dictionary of modern Scots-Gaelic, which now contains over 85,000 dictionary entries. Thus, in addition to modern lexical entries, the AFB includes entries from Edward Dwelly's Illustrated Gaelic Dictionary (Dwelly 2001). Each Dwelly entry in the AFB contains a direct link to a scanned image of the corresponding page of the dictionary as it appears in print. In order to make the dictionary as functional and relevant as possible for modern speakers of Scottish Gaelic and English, AFB entries include a sound file of the pronunciation of the headword, as well as a map showing where the word is used by speakers throughout Scotland. Search queries can be entered in both Gaelic and English. In addition, native Gaelic speakers can contribute to the creation of articles by assessing the relevance of the words found and the frequency of use of lexical items *(Patton, 2016)*.

The project itself has laid the foundations for many ongoing and future projects, the outcomes of which will include the production of a historically based dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, the alignment of Gaelic dictionary resources with those of Scottish Scots and English, and the means to enable scholars to seriously consider the production of the first comprehensive grammar of Scottish Gaelic.

The Gaelic-English online dictionary "Am Faclair Beag" is a multi-purpose dictionary that is relevant to the Gaelic community and serves as a potential model for other language communities whose languages are also at risk of extinction.

4. Analysing the peculiarities of lexicographic description of nationally marked units at the microstructural level

Before proceeding to the actual analysis of the dictionary entries of both online editions and the peculiarities of fixing nationally marked units at the microstructural level, it is worth defining the concept of nationally marked vocabulary as such.

For a long time, Ukrainian and foreign researchers have not been able to come to a single conclusion as to what is meant by a nationally marked lexical item. In fact, there are many concepts to denote vocabulary with a national component, including equivalent vocabulary, culturally bound words, realities, ethnolexemes, cultures, etc. However, all of them, despite the variety of nominations, are characterised as lexical items with a cultural and national component, which denote concepts that are understandable only to native speakers and cause difficulties for non-native speakers in intercultural communication. In the context of this research, nationally marked units are understood as groups of words that reflect the national and linguistic picture

of the world of a particular nation, as well as the peculiarities of the economy, geography, social system, folklore, literature, all kinds of art, science, life, customs of the speakers of the respective language.

The lexicography of nationally marked units is a complex and multicomponent process that involves not only the recording of a unit in a dictionary, but also a qualitative interpretation with indication of all national and cultural factors behind the concept, along with all the necessary grammatical and syntactic information. As a rule, printed dictionaries are not able to cover the entire range of data, because one dictionary entry in this case can take up several pages, thus increasing the total volume of the dictionary and making it difficult for the user to find the necessary lexical items. In this case, electronic dictionaries become an exceptional tool that allows you to cover all the necessary information without negatively affecting the user.

To illustrate the peculiarities of fixing nationally marked units in Scots and Scottish Gaelic, only one nationally marked unit denoting a national Scottish holiday was chosen for this paper.

The Dictionaries of Scots Language (DSL) allows you to trace the change of the nationally marked unit in two time periods: before 1700 and from 1700 to the present (you can read both versions separately or at once). There is both a regular (quick) search and an advanced search (Pic. 1).
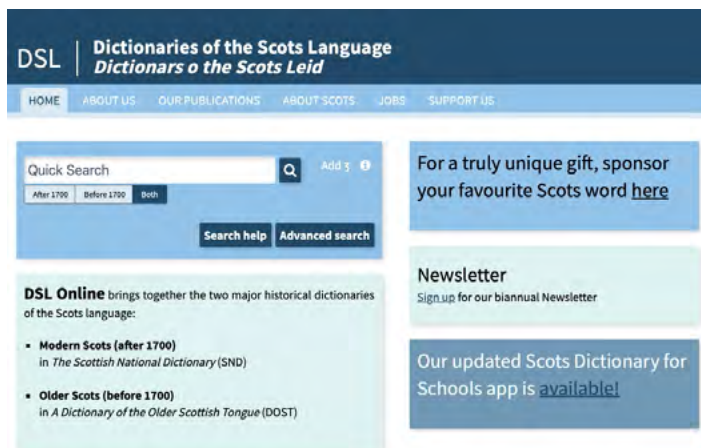
Pic. 1. The entry page of DSL
(Dictionaries of the Scots Language, 2023)

As a rule, a dictionary entry in DSL usually indicates:
- variation in spelling and pronunciation;
- transcription;
- grammatical commentary (part of speech, tense, etc.);
- detailed interpretation of meanings;
- etymology of the word;
- each definition is accompanied by examples from the literature of different times (Pic. 2, 3, 4).
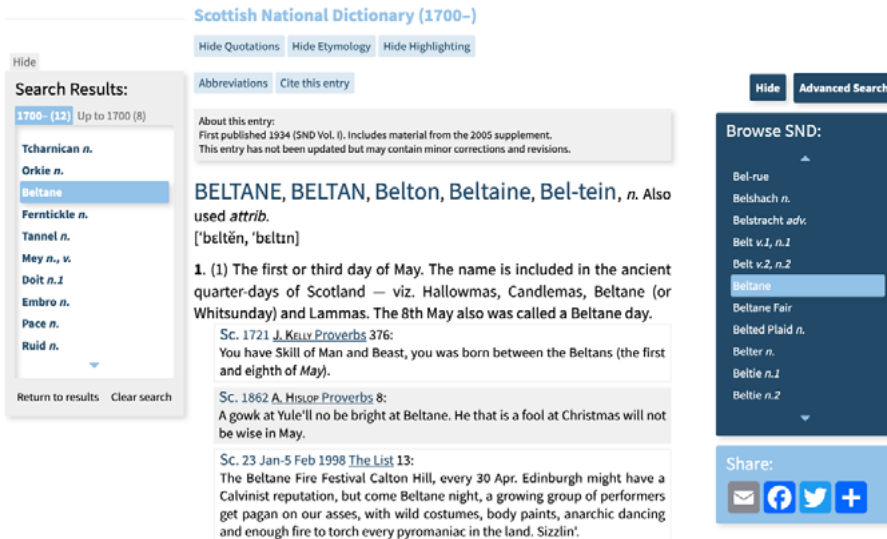
Pic. 2. The dictionary entry to the word "Beltane" – part 1
(Dictionaries of the Scots Language, 2023)
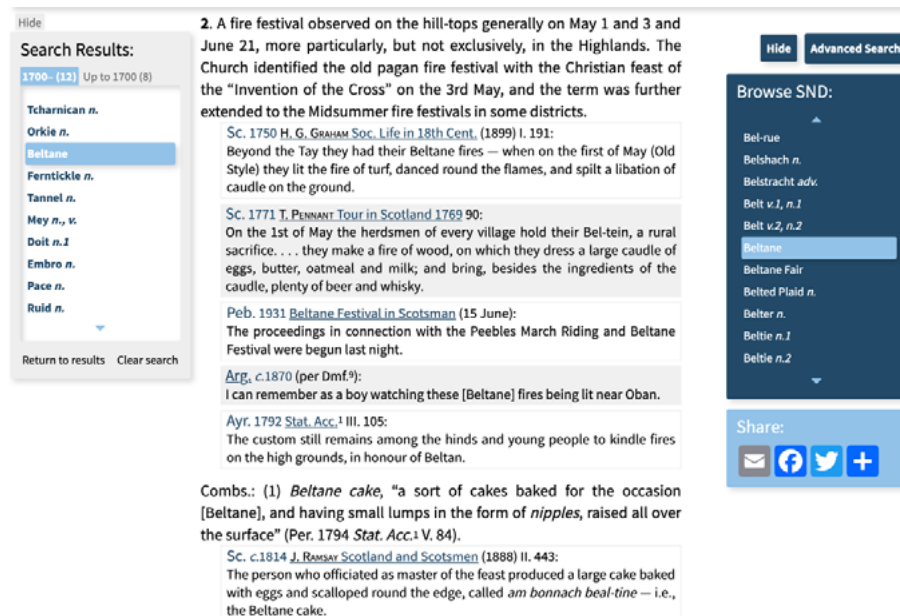
Pic. 3. The dictionary entry to the word "Beltane" – part 2
(Dictionaries of the Scots Language, 2023)

Pic. 4. The dictionary entry to the word "Beltane" – part 3
(Dictionaries of the Scots Language, 2023)

In its turn, the online Gaelic dictionary "Am Faclair Beag" allows you to search for nationally labelled units – English – Gaelic, Gaelic – English. The dictionary allows you to display 10, 25, 50, 100 results per page. It is possible to define word class and domain separately (Pic. 5).

Pic. 5. The entry page of Am Faclair Beag
(Am Faclair beag, 2023)

During the search, the results are displayed in two columns – according to Dwelly's dictionary and modern interpretation (Pic. 6).

Pic. 6. The search page of Am Faclair Beag
(Am Faclair beag, 2023)

In the dictionary entry for the selected result, a brief explanation, transcription, and a narrowed grammatical commentary are provided. The article is accompanied by an interactive map of Scotland, which shows the areas where the selected word is in common use (Pic. 7).

Pic. 7. The dictionary entry to the word "Bealltainn"
(Am Faclair beag, 2023)

Thus, the dictionary entries for the same concept represented in both minority languages of Scotland have both common and distinctive features. The common features include the presence of interpretation, transcription and grammatical commentary, while the differences include different formats of illustrating the usage of a lexical item (territorial – in Scottish Gaelic, situational – in Scots), as well as different amounts of information provided.

5. Conclusions

Since both languages – Scots and Scottish Gaelic – have suffered a number of oppressions during their existence in the same geographical area and were in fact restricted and banned during the anglicisation of the Scottish population, the processes of their lexicographic fixation differ significantly, having their own characteristics and peculiarities.

The development of computer lexicography, in turn, contributed to the recording of nationally marked units that contain the most important cultural and national information. However, the peculiarities of marking and recording units and the presence of additional elements differ significantly in both languages.

The microstructure of online dictionaries has both common and distinctive features, which, in our opinion, is caused not only by the linguistic differences of both languages, but also by the personal approach of lexicographers to the construction of dictionary entries.

The prospects of the further study involve a more detailed analysis to identify the general peculiarities and tendencies of fixation of nationally marked units of both languages.

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