

The Lexical Equality between Languages as a Ground of Language Learning in the LINT Project

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Abstract

LINT stands for Language in tourism, which is, in turn, an abbreviation from Three-level lexically orientated model for teaching, learning, and evaluation of oral Slavic languages competences in respect with the needs of the tourism (No. 2006-BG/06/B/F/LA-166036). This is a pilot project within the EC Leonardo da Vinci Programme, Phase Two, 2006-2008, implemented by representatives of universities, research institutes and business organizations.

The project is managed by the Institute for Bulgarian Language of the BAS, with participating countries including The Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia. As can be seen, the participating countries are all Slavic countries, which represents the underlying idea of the project – to use the language kinship between languages (in this case between Bulgarian, Slovene, Slovak, and Czech) in order to set up a model for 'equal' study of closely related foreign languages.

The supporting points of the model are as follows:

1. A close kinship between the contemporary Slavonic languages, which is a prerequisite for their easier study by the native speakers of other Slavonic languages, is manifested mainly in the lexical field, that is why the lexical kinship must be taken as the basis of the model;
2. The target group of the project is the young people, which communicate mainly by Internet, that is why the model must be first of all a communicative one and using ICT-devices;
3. Tourism is a field, where people most frequently get in language contact and face the need to find an easy-to-learn instrument for communication; that is why the field of tourism is the most appropriate for testing the effectiveness of the model;
4. Working out a model for an effective learning of closely-related languages, such as the "little" Slavonic ones by people non-educated in philology or "non -specialists", could contribute to the preservation of language diversity.

The practical results are embodied in four uniform handbooks for learning the four Slavonic languages on levels A1 – A2 – B1 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages, in a Multilingual learner's dictionary, in a uniform system of evaluation of linguistic competences in Bulgarian, Slovene, Slovak and Czech, and in a computer translation system, applicable to closely related languages.

All materials are available on-line, which give the users the possibility of self-learning. The multilingual system of translation is an attempt at mutual and simultaneous translation from and into four closely-related languages to be elaborated further on.