Buletinul Ştiinţific al Universităţii Politehnica Timişoara
Seria Limbi moderne

Scientific Bulletin of the Politehnica University of Timişoara
Transactions on Modern Languages

Vol. 25, Special Issue:
From Lexicographic Heritage to Specialized Knowledge: Dictionaries, Terminology, and Translation at the Timișoara School of Communication and Languages, 2026

Simona Șimon, Claudia E. Stoian, Anca Mihaela Dejica-Carțiș, Andrea Kriston. 2018. *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English-German-French-Romanian*. Szeged: Jate Press. ISBN 9789633153758. 214p.

Simona Șimon, Anca Mihaela Dejica-Carțiș, Claudia E. Stoian, Andrea Kriston. 2018. *Dicționar explicativ poliglot de termeni din domeniul educației (română, engleză, germană, franceză).* Timișoara: Editura Politehnica. ISBN: 978-606-35-0251-4. 230p.

Book Review

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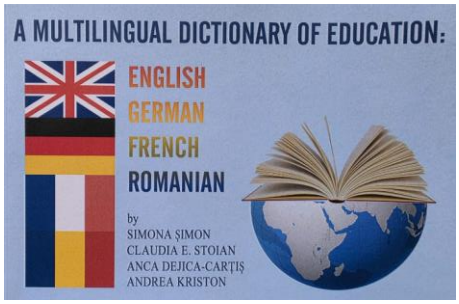



The internationalisation of higher education has favoured international academic mobilities of students, teachers and staff alike, strengthening connections among educational systems (Knight 2004; Teichler 2017). In this educational context, in-person and virtual interactions have facilitated multilingual communication for pedagogic, research and administrative purposes among international institutions. This

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has increased the need for language resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries, databases, corpora and AI-enabled tools, to help people navigate linguistic, cultural, institutional and discipline-specific differences.

The two dictionaries under review (Șimon et al. 2018a, 2018b) are two examples of lexicographic projects that aim to support multilingual and multicultural communication in the field of education. *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English-German-French-Romanian* (2018a) and *Dicționar explicativ poliglot de termeni din domeniul educației (română, engleză, germană, franceză)* [*Multilingual Explanatory Dictionary of Educational Terms (Romanian, English, German, French)*] (2018b) are noteworthy examples of attempts that aim to bring together four languages, four educational cultures and systems. The two dictionaries were compiled by the same group of researchers and address multilingual educational terminology encompassing Romanian, English, German and French. Although the two dictionaries share the same authors and thematic focus, they differ in scope, organisation and lexicographic objective.

A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English-German-French-Romanian (2018a) centres around multilingual lexical coverage of terminology used in the field of education and related subfields, for example curriculum and instruction, critical pedagogy, educational psychology, educational leadership, educational technology, and distance education. The dictionary (2018a) contains around 2,000 terms and expressions that are relevant for today's educational landscape. A highly valued and visionary contribution of the dictionary is its focus on educational technology used in traditional but also in virtual teaching environments, thus anticipating the post-COVID developments and transformations in educational practice.

The dictionary (2018a) is divided into two parts. The first presents the selected English terminology in alphabetical order, together with its German, French and Romanian translation. The second part comprises alphabetical indexes for all four languages.

Considering all this, the dictionary (2018a) is a valuable lexicographic work from at least three perspectives. First, it covers a broad scope reflected in the terminology equated in the four languages. Second, it combines two Germanic languages – English and German – and two Romance languages – French and Romanian. Third, it is user-friendly because the alphabetical indexes allow search for information in any of the four languages, English, German, French and Romanian alike.

Dicționar explicativ poliglot de termeni din domeniul educației (română, engleză, germană, franceză) (2018b) complements *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English-German-French-Romanian* (2018a) because it offers definitions of 500 fundamental educational terms. The selected terms are defined in Romanian and further translated into English, German and French. An interesting challenge faced by the authors was mentioned in the preface and it had to do with the multiple meanings a term might have in different languages. As such, the authors decided to include in the definitions provided in the dictionary only the meanings common to all four languages.

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In terms of the structure, the dictionary has three parts. In the first part, the Romanian terms, their English, German and French translations as well as their definitions in Romanian are comprised. In the second one, seven annexes are included. These are organised thematically and address, in the four languages, important organisations in the field, structure of the education system, management bodies, teaching and management positions in the preuniversity and university education, and subfields of education. Finally, the third part, contains alphabetical indexes in English, German and French.

All in all, the dictionary stands out in the lexicographic landscape due to the combination of approaches it resorts to, namely definitions, multilingual translations and contextual thematic information found in the annexes. The alphabetical indexes enhance the value of the dictionary as they facilitate access to the linguistic information in all four languages.

As stated in their prefaces, the dictionaries (Șimon et al. 2018a, 2018b) mainly address pupils, students, teaching and administrative staff, managers, translators, and interpreters working in education. The educational terminology is presented in English, German, French and Romanian, defined in Romanian, from the perspective of the meanings shared by the term in all four languages, and further clarified by the contextual information contained in the thematic annexes. Additionally, the two volumes include alphabetical indexes that help the user navigate meanings across the four languages used in the dictionaries. Through this approach, the volumes make a meaningful and valuable contribution to Romanian educational lexicography while offering practical support for multilingual communication in increasingly internationalised and multicultural educational settings.

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