J. Huang's "Grand contemporary chinese-french dictionary (2014)" and the story behind it

Bing TIAN(1), Jianhua HUANG(2), Fang HUANG(3)

(1) Directeur du Centre des études lexicographiques,
Université des études étrangères du Guangdong (Chine)
(2) Professeur titulaire, Centre de linguistique et de linguistique appliquée,
Université des études étrangères du Guangdong (Chine)
(3) Maître de Conférences, Centre des études lexicographiques,
Université des études étrangères du Guangdong (Chine)

Abstract : *Le Grand Dictionnaire Chinois-Français Contemporain* (GDCFC, for short), published in 2014, is the largest of its kind in China and contains a number of innovative features. It helps to learn a dictionary and its design features to know its editor and his academic career in the first place. This is especially true for GDCFC given that dictionary-making projects are in most cases chief-editor-oriented in China., GDCFC editor, Jianhua Huang, accumulated a rich experience in lexicographical practice and spent two decades exploring theoretical lexicography before he started compiling the dictionary. This paper first addresses Huang's practice in dictionary- making, in translation and in the exploration of theoretical lexicography as a preparation for the GDCFC. Next, we move on to introduce the GDCFC itself. The study is carried out at two levels. At the macro structural level, the focus is on its coverage and headword selection, in comparison mainly to its sole source dictionary, *A Modern Chinese Dictionary* (6th edn, 2012). The microstructural level focuses on sense translation, illustrative examples of allocations and their translations, and grammatical and pragmatical labelling, when compared with *A Chinese-English Dictionary* (3rd ed., 2010), a well-established Chinese-English counterpart. Our study reveals that the GDCFC is lexicographically well-designed in all major respects, as manifested in its nine design features.

Key words : J. HUANG, Le Grand Dictionnaire Chinois-Français Contemporain, bilingual lexicography, Chinese lexicography, design features

1 Introduction

Le Grand Dictionnaire Chinois-Français Contemporain was published in 2014, the year that marked the 50^{th} anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China, bearing in mind that France was among the first Western countries to embrace Communist China. Ever since, the French language has been warmly welcome in China. In 2018, French, together with German and Spanish officially became endorsed as languages to be taught in China high schools thus sharing the same status with English, Japanese and Russian. It was also in 2018 that

the *GDCFC* was conferred with the triennial Chinese Central Government Award for Book Publications, the highest of its kind in China ; its editor being Jianhua Huang, Emeritus Professor at the Centre for Lexicographical Studies, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

Given that Huang is also the editor of *A New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary* (1983), the author of two monographs, *Studies in Lexicography* (1987 ; 2001) and *An Introduction to Bilingual Lexicography* (with Chen : 1997 ; 2001), and the (co-)translator of about twenty academic and literary works mainly from French into Chinese, the *GDCFC* could, in a sense, be viewed as the culmination of his practice in translation and lexicography for the last four decades. Huang's career as a lexicographer coincides with the period of China's reform and opening-up. His four-year work as a full-time senior translator at UNESCO, shortly after China opened its doors to the outside world in the late 1970s, gave him the opportunity to see the Western world ahead of his contemporaries. Huang, as a lexicographer, could, in a sense, be viewed as a representative of China's reform and opening-up. For the dictionary and the lexicography it embodies are the state-of-the-art of bilingual dictionary-making and bilingual lexicographical studies in China, and Huang himself, is one of the most distinguished lexicographers in this period as well.

The *GDCFC* bears some noticeable features that distinguish it from its counterpart Chinese-English (C-E) dictionaries. For instance, its target audience in China is much smaller, which means that its target market will sustain only one or two of its kind, unlike the huge market for C-E dictionaries, having already nourished five large-scale ones. However, *GDCFC* also shares some common grounds with its C-E counterparts. The same benchmark can therefore be used to compare them to find out how well they have actually depicted the vocabulary of contemporary Chinese language. It is thus necessary for this study to refer both to the Chinese monolingual dictionary, as its source dictionary, and to the C-E bilingual ones, as its counterparts.

2 Huang's embarking upon a lexicographical career

Early 1978, Huang was recruited to work for the UNESCO after he finished working as the editor of *A New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary* (NCFCD) which was prolonged to publish in 1983. While working for the UNESCO in Paris, he was invited in 1979 to write a paper for the first issue of the newly started *Lexicographical Studies (LS)*. The article, entitled 'A tentative exploration into the headword list, sense definition, and illustrative example of a French-Chinese dictionary', revisits his experience in compiling the dictionary (Huang 1979 : 143-154) and is an in-depth reflection upon his lexicographical practice and project-managing experience, foreshadowing his life-long career in lexicography. On another occasion, Huang recalls how he embarked upon his lexicographical career as follows :

> I had not even heard of the word *lexicography* until 1979. In fact, when I was in charge of the compilation of *A New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary*, I was in reality as well as in name 'learning the art of war

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

> from fighting actual battles in a war', i.e. learning the work of dictionary-making in the process of making it.[1] (Huang 1992 : 9)

Huang graduated in 1961from Sun Yat-sen University where he taught French until 1970 when the whole Department of foreign languages of the university was transferred to Guangzhou Foreign Studies College. In the mid-1970s, he was given the task of compiling the *New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary*.

The article addresses the three core parts in making a dictionary : headword selection, sense definition, and the sorting out and allocation of illustrative citations. First, the headword selection. The coverage of a bilingual dictionary can directly borrow from that of a monolingual dictionary for a native speaker. In so doing, time and labor can be saved which would otherwise be spent in collecting quotations to determine whether a given word should be included, whether the word is polysemous, which one of its senses is the most frequent, which uses are the most typical, and what factors should be considered decisive when it comes to deciding the inclusion and the order of particular words and their senses. In choosing the source dictionary, these factors are necessarily already taken into account. For the *Concise French-Chinese Dictionary*, the sole source dictionary of the predecessor of *the New Concise*, its was a small French-Russian dictionary published in the Soviet Union. The *Concise* had thus included 'quite a few obsolete or outdated words and phrases no longer in use in present day French', 'quite a few unnecessary French 'loan words from Russian', but neglected 'a large number of common French words' (Huang 1979 : 143-145).

The second issue is sense definition, or to be more specific, sense translation. Huang is one of the earliest Chinese scholars to use 译义[3] (*yiyi* : sense translation) for bilingual lexicography, reserving 定义 (*dingyi* : sense definition) and 释义 (*shiyi* : sense explication) principally for monolingual or general lexicography. Such a treatment highlights the essential difference in making a bilingual dictionary from a monolingual one. The fundamental task of bilingual dictionary-making is to translate, i.e. to find an expression in the target language equivalent to the headword in the source language. One common error frequently encountered occurs when the lexicographer coins or invents an equivalent while in fact there is one which he or she has merely failed to detect. Another problem is that the equivalent available is not exact but exhibits nuances in connotation or use that need to be resolved or explained in sense translation. A third problem is the lexical gaps between the two languages, which call for new naming and novel sense expounding. Huang also addresses five types of errors in sense translation. Some are common with translation in general, e.g. hasty translation upon reading the word literally, being satisfied with near exact translation, and not being meticulous enough with the wording in Chinese. Others are peculiar to bilingual dictionary-making, e.g. 'adding word meanings that are nonexistent in the source language' and 'transporting "equivalents" from some French-Japanese dictionaries'[2](Huang 1979 : 149-151). When there exist no strict equivalents between the two languages, one preferred way of treatment is to add notes whose function is 'to

[1]Unless stated otherwise, the quotations from Huang's works, originally written in Chinese, such as this one, have been translated into English by the present authors.

[2]In the late 1970s and early 1980s, bilingual Japanese dictionaries were important references for bilingual Chinese dictionary-making. Compared with western languages, Japanese and Chinese share a similar

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

highlight some necessary restrictions on sense translation'. Another type of note is introduced to explain or advocate the editor's opinions. The usefulness of the latter is questioned by Huang and, consequently, he recommends that the lexicographer be cautious in applying it.

The third issue concerns the illustrative examples. In this part, Huang points out three types of errors in sorting out and arranging examples. The first is that the headword in an example sentence bears a different meaning from what it intends to illustrate. The error mainly comes from the practice of 'emphasising the multiple and different sources for illustrative example collection [to reduce the risk of plagiarism] but with less attention given to discrimination before adopting them for use' (Huang 1979 : 152). The second type is the mismatching of parts of speech between the headword's labelling and its use in the example sentence. The third type is that the illustrative example violates the norms of use in the target language, which might result from 'the practice of inventing illustrative examples in making a bilingual dictionary' (Huang 1979 : 153). As to the function and assessment of illustrative examples, Huang has laid emphasis on their role in supplementing the deficiency in sense definition and in illustrating collocations or idiomatic multi-word expressions.

When supervising the compilation of the *New Concise*, Huang made extensive explorations into dictionary use, bilingual translation, and comparative analysis of the French and Chinese languages, but he conducted little research into lexicographical theory. It is from the actual experience of dictionary-making that he gained a better understanding of the dictionary making process, a more comprehensive and systematic grasp of the lexis of the French language, and a more in-depth comparative perspective on the vocabularies of the French and Chinese from the point of view of translation. This has laid a solid foundation for his exploring theoretical lexicography in the following two decades.

3 Huang's experience of French lexicography while in Paris

While working at UNESCO, Huang was further requested by the *LS* editor to write more about the situation of dictionary making and lexicographical studies in France or in the West as a whole. He voluntarily regarded it his responsibility to serve as a messenger to inform the domestic lexicographers what lexicography is like as far as he could see in Paris.

From 1979 to 1982, Huang published about ten papers in LS on lexicographical studies in France. The first was in the second issue of 1979 which gives a short portrait of French lexicographer Paul Robert (1910-1980), his career and his two best known dictionaries, i.e., *Dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française* (1953), and the *Petit Robert* (1967).

In 1980, three papers appeared in the second issue of *LS* : 1) an excerptive translation from the first volume of Robert's *Au fil des ans et des mots* (2 volumes, 1979 and 1980), for which Huang personally visited Robert and asked him for the permission

tradition in dictionary-making and more common grounds and conceptual ideas in life and in learning. Consequently, it was often thought that Japanese bilingual dictionaries were a convenient shortcut for making Chinese bilingual dictionaries.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

to translate it for the benefit Chinese lexicographers ; 2) 'a glimpse of French lexicography', i.e., an overview of its achievements in the past centuries and the *status quo* of the twentieth century, serving as a guidance to the other papers in this group ; and 3) a brief introduction to *Trésor de la langue française* (1971-1994) whose sixth volume (out of 16) had just been published.

In 1982, three other papers xx : 1) an excerptive translation – this time the entry of 'dictionary' cited from *Trésor de la langue française* – by which Chinese scholars can both have a snap of what the dictionary may be and how a dictionary is designed and compiled by their French counterparts as well ; 2) 'the policy for compiling the *Petit Robert* (2nd edn., 1977)' whose content was mainly based on the dictionary itself and 'the editor's explanation' by Alain Rey (1928-2020) ; 3) 'a tour of the encyclopedic dictionaries by Éditions Larousse' – whose content can be recognized from its title.

In addition to the above seven articles on French lexicography, there were three miscellaneous ones. Two were published in 1980 : one is about the requirements for professional interpreters in international organizations and the other is about the design features of three English dictionaries : *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (1978), *Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (1974), and *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* (6th, 1976). The third article, published in 1982 has to do with the classification of bilingual dictionaries in general.

Huang's experience of French lexicography made him see more clearly what lexicography was like in China – theoretical lexicography was absent in China but it was of crucial significance to the future of the country.

4 Huang's inquiry of general lexicography

From 1983 to 1985, Huang published fourteen articles, i.e., a series 'On the Dictionary'. These articles cover almost all the major fields in general lexicography except that of bilingual dictionaries. They are integrated into his monograph *Studies in Lexicography* (1987) as its first six chapters. This book is one of the first few monographs on general lexicography in China. The titles of the six chapters are : 1) dictionary and lexicography ; 2) dictionary typology ; 3) philological dictionary ; 4) macro-structure of a dictionary ; 5) micro-structure of a dictionary ; and 6) definition.

The six sections of Chapter One are : 1) what a dictionary is ; 2) functions of a dictionary ; 3) dictionary and society ; 4) dictionary and ideology ; 5) dictionary and language study ; 6) dictionary and linguistic study. We will take the first section as an example to illustrate.

What is a dictionary ? Firstly, three definitions for a dictionary are given from the latest editions of three best-known dictionaries : 1) *Cihai*, a large-scale dictionary and encyclopedia of standard mandarin Chinese :

> 汇集语言里的词语，按照某种次序排列，并一一加以解释，供人查阅的工具书。（《辞海》第二版 1979）[A reference book for people to look up a word and read its relevant information, which is a collection of words

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

and phrases in a language and arranges them in a certain order, with each being explained (*Cihai* (2nd, 1979)).]

4.1 Oxford English Dictionary :

A book dealing with the individual words of a language (or certain specified classes of them), so as to set forth their orthography, pronunciation, signification, and use, their synonyms, derivation, and history, or at least some of these facts : for convenience of reference, the words are arranged in some stated order, now, in most languages, alphabetical ; and in larger dictionaries the information given is illustrated by quotations from literature (from *OED-Supplement* (vol. 1, 1972))

4.2 Trésor de la langue française :

Recueil des mots d'une langue ou d'un domaine de l'activité humaine, réunis selon une nomenclature d'importance variable et présentés généralement par ordre alphabétique, fournissant sur chaque mot un certain nombre d'informations relatives à son sens et à son emploi et destiné à un public défini. (vol. 7, 1979)

Huang abstracted four basic constituents of a dictionary as follows : 1) a collection of words and phrases or some parts of them ; 2) each word being individually treated ; 3) a provision of a certain amount of information ; 4) being arranged in a certain order. Then he composed his own definition of a dictionary :

词典是汇集词语（含词语的组合或词语的某些成分、加以分别处理、提供一定数量信息、并按一定方式编排的工具书。[A dictionary is a reference book which collects words and phrases (including their combinations or some of their constituents) and treats them individually by providing a certain amount of information to each of them and arranging all the information in a particular order.]

Entries from different dictionaries and even some 'pseudo dictionaries' were thereafter given/quoted to illustrate what a dictionary is and what it is not. What is of crucial importance is the application linguistic theories to help clarify some misunderstandings concerning the nature of a dictionary. For instance, he used the differentiation of words (signifier) and objects (signified) to show that 'a dictionary is a list of words' but not 'a list of objects' – a statement evoking such a tense debate among Chinese theoretical lexicographers that he revisited it and further elaborated on it in an article "a dictionary is a list of words" reopened in 1993.

Huang's *Studies in Lexicography* (1987) is one of the few lexicographical works that have long lasting impacts on the practice of dictionary-making and on the exploration of lexicographical theories in China.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

5 Huang's bilingual lexicography : general lexicography + translation

In the first half of the 1980s, Huang also concentrated on the practice of translation, a natural continuation of his career as a pro-translator at the UNESCO. He co-translated five French classics which were all published by the renowned Commercial Press. He also co-translated two French literary works in this period.

The year 1987 was of crucial importance to Huang's academic career, especially his job as a lexicographer, after which period his academic research took the direction of two fields : lexicography, especially bilingual lexicography, and translation practice, aiming at integrating them into bilingual dictionary-making.

Huang's lexicographical took a new turn in 1987 from general lexicography to bilingual lexicography, leading finally to his compilation of *An Introduction to Bilingual Lexicography* (co-authored with Chen, 1997 ; 2nd, 2001). There were two prominent articles on bilingual lexicographical studies : one 'on bilingual dictionary and translation' (1988) and the other, coming out a decade later, 'on improving the translation in bilingual dictionaries' (1998).

As far as translation is concerned, he (co-)translated in the following 15 years about a dozen literary or academic works into Chinese, the best known of which are : *Les essais de Michel de Montaigne* (with Z. Liang) in 1987 ; Jacques Gernet's *Le Monde Chinois* (with X. Huang) in 1994 ; and *Discours sur l'Esprit positif 1844* in 1999. The practice in translation greatly facilitated his research and practice of bilingual lexicography.

6 Six desiderata for designing an ideal bilingual dictionary

Huang's research into theoretical lexicography has a distinct orientation towards dictionary-making. This might be explained by the fact that his first involvement with lexicography was linked to the compilation a French-Chinese dictionary. Another possible reason might be his conscious awareness as a teacher, of target dictionary users' needs given his experience of teaching Chinese students French as a foreign language for more than a decade. A third possible reason might be his working experience with UNESCO, as a professional translator.

Also in 1987, when he felt better-equipped with lexicographical theory, he moved on to work on recompiling the *New Concise*. There are six points that he elaborates and advocates for compiling a contemporary bilingual dictionary (Huang 1987a : 1-8) :

1 Observing the principle of strict synchronicity

2 Adopting the method of distributional analysis

3 Perceiving the vocabulary as an organic whole

4 Revealing word function in particular contexts

5 Translating quotations for functional equivalence

6 Highlighting the specific information of cultural words

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

His orientation towards dictionary making is also observed in his 1987 paper about his case study on the *Dictionnaire du français contemporain* which identifies more clearly the design features of a newly produced dictionary by their French counterparts in depicting a language in current use.

7 *GDCFC* and its source Chinese dictionary

MCD-6 (2012) is one of the source dictionaries of the *GDCFC*[3]. During the sixteen years it took to compile *GDCFC*, the *MCD* went through three editions (2002 ; 2005 ; 2012), with an intake of respectively 1,200, 7,200 and 3,000 new entries. How to capture the description of contemporary Chinese ? How to make a better use of the *MCD* ?

Let us have a comparison of the macrostructure of *GDCFC* and *MCD*. They all possess a bi-level structure : the single-character entry level and the multi-character sub-entry at a subordinate level.

At the single-character level, the main work is subtraction, i.e., to reduce the number of single-character entries by deleting the rarely used or least frequently occurred ones. We randomly take letter M and see the changes in the number of single-character headwords. There are 441 entries in *MCD-6* but 423 entries in *GDCFC*, i.e., 18 fewer words. To be more specific : 19 deleted ; 4 combined to 2 ; 3 split into 6 ; and 2 moved to other places under M. See the following tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Entries deleted (under M)

Word types	**Instances**
Words used in ancient books	厖、瑂、媄
Proper names in ancient times	蓦[山]（地名）、嶵（山名）、祕（姓氏）、菔[蔓]（植物名）
Variants in ancient times	眽（同‘脉’）、俛（同‘[黽]勉’）、俛（同‘黽[勉]’）、幎（同‘幂’）、楙（同‘茂’）、痳（同‘麻’）、末（同‘么’）、么（旧同‘吗’和‘嘛’）
Dialectal spoken words	冇、咍、呣（[叹词]/□/表疑问）、呣（[叹词]/m̀/表应诺）

[3] *A Normative Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese* (2004 ; 2010 ; 2014) is another main source dictionary for the *GDCFC*. The other source dictionaries occasionally used involve those of common dialectal words, newly coined words, words from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and new abbreviations.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

From Table 1 we see that the entries deleted are mainly those of low frequency used in ancient books only, concerning archaic ones, ancient proper names, the different variants in spelling, and some dialectal ones. In addition to deletion, there also exist some other means used to adjust, such as 'combination', 'splitting' or 'movement', as illustrated in table 2 :

Table 2. Single-character entries adjusted by 'combining, splitting, or moving' (under M)

	MCD-6	***GDCFC***
combining	缅 [1][=缅（怀）] 缅 [2][=缅（袖子）]	缅[=缅（怀）]
	没 [1][=没（入）] 没 [2][=没（奈何）]	没[=没（入）]、 [=没（奈何）]
splitting,	密[（稠）密]、 [（机）密]	密 [1][=（稠）密] 密 [2][=（机）密]
	冒[=冒（气）]、 [=冒（雨）]	冒 [1][=冒（气）] 冒 [2][=冒（雨）]
	杩（mà）[=杩（头）]	杩（mǎ）[=杩（槎）] 杩（mà）[=杩（头）]
moving	姆/m/[=姆（妈）]	姆/mū/[=姆（妈）]
	呒/m/	呒/mú/

For 'combination', there are two different situations : 1) pseudo combination but deletion in reality : for instance, the combination of 缅[1] and 缅[2] into 缅 is in fact the deletion of 缅[2] ; 2) 'full combination of two into one', which means that there is no information missing from the two original entries : for instance, the combination of 没[1] and 没[2] into 没.

For 'splitting', there are also two different situations : 1) 'one splitting into two', which means no new information added : for instance, 密 is cut into 密[1] and 密[2] , and 冒 into 冒[1] and 冒[2] ; 2) pseudo splitting but addition in reality, which means that a homonym is brought in : for instance, for the entry 杩, i.e., 杩 mà [= 杩（头）], another entry 杩 mǎ [= 杩（槎）], as a homonym, is added.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

For ‘moving’, it is simply moving an entry from one position to one more appropriate : for instance, two dialectal characters 姆 and 呒 are moved from ‘*m*’ to ‘*mu*’, owing to the fact that their pronunciations are newly transcribed and different from what they were previously.

In a word, the ‘subtraction’ of single-character entry is not a simple deletion but involves more complicated situations to be dealt with with more caution.

At the multi-character sub-entry level, the *GDCFC* has adopted a different policy, i.e., addition. Let us have a look at the multi-character sub-entries under two randomly chosen single-character entries : ‘*mai* (麦 : wheat)’ and ‘*xiu* (秀 : to ear (of grain))’ as depicted in Table 3 and 4.

Table 3. The addition of sub-entries under ‘*mai* (麦)’

***MCD*-6 and *GDCFC*（shared）**		***GDCFC*（only）**	
1. 麦茬	12. 麦口期	1. 麦草	12. 麦垄
2. 麦冬	13. 麦口上	2. 麦垛	13. 麦门冬
3. 麦饭石	14. 麦浪	3. 麦蛾	14. 麦苗
4. 麦秆虫	15. 麦粒肿	4. 麦尔登呢	15. 麦淇淋
5. 麦季	16. 麦芒儿	5. 麦麸	16. 麦乳精
6. 麦秸	17. 麦片	6. 麦秆儿	17. 麦穗
7. 麦酒	18. 麦秋	7. 麦加	18. 麦芽
8. 麦糠	19. 麦收	8. 麦角	19. 麦野
9. 麦克风	20. 麦茬	9. 麦精	20. 麦哲伦海峡
10. 麦客	21. 麦芽糖	10. 麦克马洪线	
11. 麦口	22. 麦子	11. 麦粒	

In Table 3 we see that 22 multi-character sub-entry headwords are shared by both dictionaries and the *GDCFC* has 20 more headwords that are absent in the *MCD-6*. This is a net increase for the *GDCFC*. These 20 new words fall into the fields of ‘wheat’ : things in which wheat is referred to as a crop (6), wheat-relevant farming events (5), as names of different kinds of food (3), as names of herbal medicine (2), and as a constituent of loan words (4) in which 3 are geographic names having ‘mai’ merely as a phonetic symbol.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

Table 4. The adjustment of the sub-entries under '*xiu* (秀)'

***MCD*-6 （only）**	***MCD*-6 and *GDCFC* （shared）**		***GDCFC* （only）**	
1. 秀场	1. 秀才	7. 秀色	1. 秀拔	7. 秀润
	2. 秀发	8. 秀色可餐	2. 秀而不实	8. 秀挺
	3. 秀丽	9. 秀外慧中	3. 秀慧	9. 秀异
	4. 秀美	10. 秀雅	4. 秀劲	
	5. 秀媚	11. 秀逸	5. 秀俊	
	6. 秀气		6. 秀巧	

Under '*xiu* (秀)', the shared words are 11 in total. The *GDCFC*-only items are 9 while the *MCD-6*- only is just 1.

By comparing the multi-character headwords under '*mai* (麦 : wheat)' and '*xiu* (秀 : to ear (of grain))' between the *GDCFC* and the *MCD-6*, we could have a better picture of how the former has inherited, adjusted and supplemented the latter. Through an examination of the new words included in the *GDCFC*, we can tentatively come to the conclusion that they are of the same nature as those in the *MCD-6*, with only one difference in its inclusion of geographic names that are excluded by the *MCD-6.*

To sum up, at the single-character entry level, the main objective is 'to do subtraction', i.e., actually having reduced its number from that of 13,000 in *MCD-6* to 10,786 in the *GDCFC*, mainly 'discarding the outdated ones'. Whereas at the multi-character sub-entry level, the main task is 'to make an addition', i.e., to extend its umbrella to embrace more words and expressions – its number has increased from 69,000 in the *MCD*-6 to over 100,000 in the *GDCFC*, an increase of 45%.

8 The *GDCFC* and its English counterparts

In this subsection, we will first compare it with the *MCD-6* and then with *A Chinese-English Dictionary* (3rd edition, 2010) (abbreviated as *CED-3*), its C-E counterpart, focusing mainly on their design features in their microstructures.

In order to make up for the defects of phonetic sequencing and to take into account the character-based nature of the Chinese language, the *GCCFD* has purposefully added a radical index for single-character retrieval and increased the number of illustrative examples for single-character entries. The examples are listed by the senses of the polysemous head-character, which is intended to help the users learn the character, its meanings and uses. The following example examine a part of the entry 毛 (*mao* :

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

fur, hair, feather, wool), first in the *MCD* and then in the *GCCFD* as a comparison. The portion from *MCD-6* (2012) reads as follows, with the English translation :

毛[1] (1) *noun* 动植物的皮上所生的丝状物；鸟类的羽毛 the silk-like thing growing on the skin of animals or plants ; the feather of birds ; hair ; wool ; fur ; down ; fluff : 羊毛 *wool of sheep*

The *GCCFD*, by contrast, has 16 illustrative examples :

毛 [1] (1) poil m ; plume f ; duvet m > 兔毛 poil de lapin || 山羊毛 poil de chèvre || 骆驼毛 poil de chameau || 软毛 poil doux || 刚毛 poil raid || 全身长毛 avoir du poil sur tout le corps || 鸡毛 plume de coq [de poule] || 鸟毛 plume d'oiseau || 掉毛 perdre ses plumes || 拔毛 arracher des plumes || 小鸡的绒毛 duvet des poussins || 桃毛 duvet de pêche || 长毛犬 chien à long poil || 短毛犬 chien à poil ras || 一套全毛西服 un complet de laine || 像猴子那样浑身是毛 être poilu comme un singe

Mao (毛), as a single-character entry, is treated in the *GCCFD* in the same way as in the *MCD*, both in headword arrangement and in sense demarcation. The most noticeable difference resides in the analysis and allocation of illustrative examples. The *GCCFD*, in accordance with the conventions of Chinese lexicographical practice, has grouped the free combinatorial phrases under the corresponding single-character entry, which helps pack more useful information into a limited space.

After a careful examination of some randomly selected entries in the *GCCFD*, we come to realize that the illustrative examples are well-analyzed and allocated to implicitly compensate for some of the inadequacies of the *MCD* in sense discrimination and definition. Let us look at the illustrative examples of the entry-毛 in greater details. The first group of examples contains some typical ones about 'the hair or wool of the mammals', i.e. 兔毛 (*rabbit hair/wool* ; *lapin*), 山羊毛 (*goat hair/wool*), and 骆驼毛 (*camel hair/wool*). Then follows two terms of a more scientific classification of hair/wool, 软毛 (*soft hair/wool*) and 刚毛 (*bristle ; seta*) ; and a sentence example : 全身长毛。 (*The whole body grows hair.*). The second group consists of 'the feathers of birds', typically 鸡毛 (*chicken feather*) and 鸟毛 (*bird feather*), followed by two typical examples of verb-noun phrase, 掉毛 (*shed feather/hair ; molt or moult* [BrE]), 拔毛 (*pluck feather/hair*) and two extended usages, 小鸡的绒毛 (*the downy feather of a chick*) and 桃毛 (*the down of a peach*). The third group concerns 'pets', 长毛犬 (*a long haired dog*) and 短毛犬 (*a short-haired dog*). Lastly, everyday life artifacts, 套全毛西服 (*a woollen suit*) and a typical usage, 像猴子那样浑身是毛 (*the whole body covered with hair, like a monkey*). This well-thought-out treatment of illustrative examples will be very beneficial and facilitative to both native speakers and second-language learners in understanding French or Chinese, as well as in translating and interpreting.

The above discussion, centering on 'user-orientation' mainly concerns two aspects of the macrostructure of the *GCCFD*, namely the coverage and selection, and the analysis and allocation of headwords from the perspective of information retrieval.

As to the *CED-3*, we will take 工业 (*gongye* : industry) as an example of a multi-character sub-entry as we examine 工业 in the *GCCFD* :

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

(工业)
化学 industries chimiques chimiques || 轻(重) industrie légère (lourde) || 设备 équipement industriel || 体系 système industriel || 城市 villes industrielles || une zone industrielle || 产品 articles [produits] industriels || 化学 chimie industrielle || 美术 art industriel || 技术 technique industrielle || 污染 pollution industrielle || 布局 répartition géographique, des industries, répartition industrielle || 界 monde industriel ; milieu industriel || 学校 école des arts et métiers ; école polytechnique

The corresponding entry in *CED-3* reads as follows :

(工业)
industry 病 occupational diseases of industrial workers || 国 industrialized (or industrial) country || 化 industrialize || 品 industrial products ; manufactured goods || 园 industrial park || 产权 industrial property right || 粉尘 industrial dust || 革命 Industrial Revolution || 基地 industrial base || 酒精 industrial alcohol || 企业 industrial enterprise || 气压 technic atmosphere || 污染 industrial pollution || 总产值 gross value of industrial output || 无产阶级 the industrial proletariat

With regard to the types of examples, the *CED-3* has just one type, i.e. 工业 (industry) as a pre-modifier in the illustrative constructions, whereas the *GCCFD* has a new type where the headword functions as the head of the illustrative construction, e.g. ' 化学 chemical industry' or '轻（重） light/heavy industry'.

With regard to the number of examples, the *CED-3* has 15 and the *GCCFD* has 14. But upon careful examination, we find that four illustrative examples : '工业国, 工业化, 工业产权, 工业革命' in the *CED-3* are treated as multi-character sub-entries in the *GCCFD*, following the *MCD-6*. In other words, the *GCCFD* has, in fact, three more illustrative examples than the *CED-3*.

With regard to the content, the two dictionaries share only one item, i.e. 工业污染. This can be regarded as proof of the independent compilation of the large-scale bilingual dictionaries in China. It should be added that the *MCD-6,* the source dictionary of the *GCCFD*, provides no illustrative examples for the sub-entry 工业.

9 Design features of the *GDCFC*

We have figured out the 9 design features of the *GDCFC* as follows :

Firstly, it has a well-consciousness of its target audience. A dictionary is more beneficial to its users and more directive to solve their problems and more satisfactory to serve their needs, if its target audience are better looked into and sorted out. Therefore, the guiding principle for its compilation – 'the native's needs, first ; the foreigner's, second'– is a deliberation for 'killing two birds with one stone', or to meet simultaneously two different types of needs – the internally orientated ones and the externally orientated ones.

Secondly, a clear picture of the source language is well-defined for the compilers. Surely what are in use by the Chinese people currently – 'observing strictly the principle of synchronicity', 'capturing the latest changes in the contemporary Chinese', balancing the weight of Mandarin Chinese and that of its major varieties or dialects, and

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

adopting a descriptivist policy in selecting illustrative examples. The *GDCFC* has actually been observing a mainly descriptivist principle, targeting the core vocabulary of standard contemporary Chinese, in collecting, analyzing, sorting out, describing, and presenting the common and typical senses, uses, and collocations of words concerned.

Thirdly, the target language to be used in translation is also consciously decided. To be equivalent to that of the source language, the target language should be the one that the French are currently sing. To be more specific, the French words and phrases used for 'sense translation' of the Chinese headwords of a philological nature should fall into the coverage of either *Dictionnaire du francais comtemporain* or *Le Petit Larousse*. Such a vocabulary control for translating definition and example sentences is a direct response to the new findings of English learner's dictionary-making, which will truly benefit the users of the *GDCFC*.

Fourthly, a labeling system is especially designed for depicting the various kinds of grammatical and pragmatic information. This labeling system is carefully worked out to be applied to both the Chinese headwords and to their French equivalents or the French words and phrases functioning as 'sense translation'. The grammatical and pragmatic labeling is explicit, detailed, and comprehensive for designating the common features that a set of words or phrases shares. As to the idiosyncratic grammatical or pragmatic properties, they are the substantiation of the uses or collocation restrictions on a particular expression. They need to be demonstrated with individual illustrative examples which are in most cases large and complete enough for providing a fuller contextual setting to display pragmatic information either implicitly or explicitly.

Fifthly, the macro-structure of the *GDCFC* has rather adequately met the basic requirements of a large-scale bilingual dictionary. For the headwords listed in the *GDCFC*, there are two basic ratios figured out scientifically – the ratio of philological words to sci-tech words, and the ratio of single-character entries to multi-character sub-entries.

Sixthly, the micro-structure of the *GDCFC* has satisfactorily met the objectives of retrieval for both the internally orientated and the externally orientated kinds of information. They are in fact different in nature. The former is for a bilingual dictionary while the latter is for a learner's dictionary. It is a real challenge for both dictionary design and dictionary compilation to meet these two kinds of need in a single dictionary or to integrate the variety of functions in a more harmonious way. Such an integration, as achieved in the *GDCFC*, could in a sense be regarded as a substantial contribution to dictionary making both in practice and in theory.

Seventhly, the timely introduction of translation studies into bilingual dictionary making. For instance, in the mid-1980s, Huang already pointed out the significance of translation principles, like 'formal equivalence' and 'dynamic equivalence', in bilingual dictionary making. He emphasizes that in a bilingual dictionary, the headwords are of a different nature if positioned as entry head from its use in illustrative examples. As an entry head, it is a 'type', whose translation is to seek 'rigorous semantic equi-

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

valence'. In an illustrative example, it is a 'token', whose translation is to pursue 'functional equivalence'.

Eighthly, the introduction of the achievements of pragmatic studies. When dictionary making is set in the vision field of pragmatics, the role and function of illustrative examples is foregrounded and better appreciated. The allocation of illustrative examples, i.e., in determining their quantity, in guaranteeing their quality, and in bringing into full play of their functions, have been unprecedentedly highlighted. Huang has repeatedly emphasized that a word should be described in a syntactic context when functioning as an element of a sentence so that its function in a particular context can be thus revealed and illustrated.

Ninthly, the impacts of cognitive lexical semantics and systemic functional grammar. Cognitive lexical semantics lay special emphasis on helping users to create semantic networks in their mental lexicons of the target language – making use of 'cross-reference' to link together synonyms, near synonyms and/or antonyms in different entries, and providing synonymous substitutes or equivalents to the headwords in the particular contexts of illustrative examples. These access devices, among others, are all designed to reveal and establish inter- or intra-lingual lexical semantic relations in the bilingual dictionary, which is well fitted with the core ideas of systemic functional linguistics.

10 Conclusion

The *GDCFC* is in a sense, to Prof. Huang, what a Dictionary of the English Language is to Dr. Johnson. The only difference is that Huang was rather well prepared lexicographically before he started compiling the *GDCFC*. In other words, Huang already had a much clearer picture of what the dictionary looks like, i.e. its design features being set up in advance. In order to compile this dictionary, he systematically explored various theories of general lexicography and bilingual lexicography, and spared no effort in practicing translation between French and Chinese which is also one of the two pillars supporting his making of *GDCFC*.

His lexicographical career is also a cyclic one : he starts making a bilingual dictionary, i.e. the *New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary*, steps into the field of general theory of dictionary-making by giving birth to a seminal monograph – *Studies in Lexicography, then explores the theories of making bilingual dictionaries by co-writing An Introduction to Bilingual Lexicography before coming back to the practice of designing and compiling the GDCFC.*

Huang's story of making *GDCFC* is also similar to Yutang Lin's making of the *Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage* (1973). The success and motivation of both lexicographers in dictionary-making resides in their enormous practice in translation and in their show of "fraternity" by helping other translators and learners in need.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

References

A. Dictionaries

A New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary (the compilation team of *A New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary*, from the Faculty of the French major, Guangdong Foreign Languages Institute) (1983) Beijing : Commercial Press. (1174 pages, ISBN 9787100017008).

The Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary (2008) Merriam-Webster, Inc., a subsidiary of Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.

Giles, H. A. (éd.). (1st ed. 1892 ; 2nd ed. 1912) : *A Chinese-English Dictionary.* Shanghai : Kelly & Walsh.

Huang, J. (éd.). (2014) : *Le Grand Dictionnaire Chinois-Français Contemporain* (i.e., *A Grand Contemporary Chinese-French Dictionary* in English). (the *GCCFD*) Beijing : Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Li, Xingjian. (2004 ; 2010 ; 2014) *A Normative Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese*, Beijing : Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press & Language and Culture Press.

Lin, Yutang. (1973) : *Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage*, Hong Kong : Hong Kong Chinese University

Lu, G. (éd.). (2015) : *The Chinese-English Dictionary* (Unabridged).vol. I. Shanghai : Fudan University Press.

Lü, S. & S. Ding (eds). (1978 ; 1983 ; 1996 ; 2002 ; 2005 ; 2012). *Modern Chinese Dictionary.* Beijing : Commercial Press. (*MCD*)

Wu, J. (éd.). (1978) : *A Chinese-English Dictionary.* Beijing : Commercial Press.

Yao, X. (éd.). (2010) : *A Chinese-English Dictionary.* (Third Edition.) Beijing : Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

B. Other Literature

Aitchison, J. (2003) : *Words in the Mind : An Introduction to Mental Lexicon.* (Third edition). Oxford : Blackwell Publishing.

Atkins, B. T. S. (1995) : 'The Role of the Example in a Frame Semantics Dictionary' In Shibatani, M. and S. Thompson (éds.), *Essays in Semantics and Pragmatics in Honour of Charles J. Fillmore.* Amsterdam, Philadelphia : John Benjamins, 25-42. [Pragmatics & Beyond New Series, No. 32, x, 322 p.]

Barnhart, C. L. (1978) : 'American lexicography, 1947-1973.' *American Speech* 53.2 : 83-140.

Gernet, Jacques (1972) : *Le Monde chinois*, Paris, A. Colin. Translated as *A History of Chinese Civilization*, Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1995. (2nd ed.)

Halliday, M.A.K. (1985) : *An Introduction to Functional Grammar.* London : Edward Arnold.

Huang, J. 1979. 'A Tentative Exploration into the Word List, Sense Definition, and Illustrative Example of a French-Chinese Dictionary.' *Lexicographical Studies* 1 : 143-154.

Huang, J. (1987a) : 'New ConceptsNew Dictionaries : Conceiving the Recompilation of *A New Concise French-Chinese Dictionary.*' *Modern Foreign Languages* 2 : 1-8.

Huang, J. (1987b) : *Studies in Lexicography.* (1st edn, 1987 ; 2nd edn, 2001). Shanghai : Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House.

Huang, J. (1992) : 'A Scholar Should Have His Own Banners Erected.' *Modern Foreign Languages* 4 : 9-12.

Huang, J. (2014) : The Introduction of *Le Grand Dictionnaire Chinois-Français Contemporain.* Beijing : Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Huang, J. & X. Huang (tr) (1994) : *Zhongghuo Shehui Shi* (*A History of Chinese Society*), i.e., *Le Monde Chinois* (1972) by Jacques Gernet, Paris : Armand Colin , Changsha : Hunan Education Press [2008 reprinted by Nanjing : Phoenix Publishing & Media Group, Jiangsu People's Publishing House]

Huang, J. & C. Chen. (1997) : (2nd edn. 2001) *An Introduction to Bilingual Lexicography.* Beijing : Commercial Press.

Huang, J. & Y. Zhang. (2000)[1998] : 'A Tentative Plan for Compiling A Grand Modern Chinese-French Dictionary' In the Academic Committee of the ChinaLex, *A Collection of Papers in Chinese Lexicographical Studies.* Beijing : Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782

Landau, S. I. (2001) : *Dictionaries : The Art and Craft of Lexicography.* (Second edition). Cambridge : Cambridge University Press. [1984. (1st edition), New York : Charles Scribner's Sons.]

Lu, G. (2015) : Preface to *The Chinese-English Dictionary* (Unabridged). (Gusun Lu ed.). Shanghai : Fudan University Press.

Nida, E. (1986) : 'A Functional Approach to Problems of Translating.' *Foreign Language Teaching and Research* 3 : 25-31.

Nida, E. (2001) : *Contexts in Translating.* Amsterdam Philadelphia : John Benjamins.

Nida, E. & C. R. Taber. (1982) : (2nd ; 1st, 1969) *The Theory and Practice of Translation.* Leiden : E. J. Brill

Qigong (1985) : 'Youguan wenyanwen zhong de yixie xianxiang, kunnan he shexiang [Reflections on some phenomena and difficulties in Classic Chinese]'. *Journal of Peking Normal University* 1985 (2).

Tian, B. (1999) : 'A Case Study of the Evolution of *LDOCE* : An Investigation of the Linguistic Principles of Monolingual Learner's Dictionary Compilation.' *Foreign Languages* 4 : 73-78.

Tian, B. (2010) : 'Back-of-the-book Subject Index as a Solid Steppingstone to Academics : Viewing the Traditions and Norms of Academics in China and the West from a Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural Perspective (II).' *Journal of the China Society of Indexers* 2 : 18-27.

Tian, B. & G. Chen. (2009) : *A Study of the Design Features of English ALDs.* Beijing : Science Press.

Published in : BERK, Cybèle (dir.), *Dictionnaires et apprentissage des langues*, Editions des archives contemporaines, ISBN : 9782813003782, doi : 10.17184/eac.9782813003782