

## THE PROBLEM OF PROFESSIONAL AND MODERN LEXICOLOGY

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### Abstract:

This article examines the concept of professionalism in modern lexicography. It explores the challenges and complexities lexicographers face in maintaining high standards of professionalism while adapting to the evolving needs of language users in the digital age. The problems facing these professionals today are multifaceted and complex. They should not only keep up with the rapid introduction of new terms and applications influenced by technology and cultural shifts, but also meet the increasing demand for dictionaries to be both comprehensive and usable on various digital platforms.

**Keywords:** professionalism, modern lexicography, language evolution, digital age, lexicon, language users, standards, problems, complexities.

### Introduction

Lexicography, the study of the compilation, writing, and editing of dictionaries, is an important branch of linguistics and provides invaluable resources for language learning, translation, and everyday communication. Traditionally, the field has been characterized by meticulous attention to detail and strict adherence to scientific rigor. However, the evolution of language in the digital age, together with rapid social changes and technological progress, has significantly changed the landscape in which modern lexicographers operate [1, 349-350].

Today, the problems facing these specialists are multifaceted and complex. Not only must they keep pace with the rapid introduction of new terms and usages driven by technology and cultural shifts, but they must also meet the growing demand for dictionaries to be both comprehensive and accessible across a variety of digital platforms.

In addition, the role of lexicographers has expanded to include how language shapes and is shaped by social issues, which has increasingly entangled their work with ethical and cultural debates. This article aims to explore these issues in depth, exploring how the profession of lexicography responds to challenges posed by technological advances, changes in public interactions with language resources, and broader cultural influences on language itself [2, 187-188]. Focusing on the intersections of linguistics science, technology, and societal needs, this study sheds light on the current state and future directions of the field.

**Methodology section:** Qualitative interviews with lexicographers: In-depth interviews were conducted with 30 professional lexicographers from various fields, including those working for major publishers, independent consultants and academics specializing in lexicography

[3, 567]. A semi-structured interview format allowed participants to discuss their experiences, challenges, and perceptions of the evolution of their fields. Interview questions focused on the impact of digital technologies, economic pressures, and changes in public expectations.

**Dictionary Revision Analysis:** A comparative analysis of the last two editions of three major English dictionaries. This analysis focuses on changes in definitions, additions of new words, and updates that reflect cultural sensitivity. The aim was to understand how professional values and methodologies have changed in response to external pressures and technological progress [4, 34]. **Quantitative Survey of Dictionary Users:** An online survey was distributed to 500 dictionary users across various demographic groups, gathering information about usage patterns, preferences, and dictionary reliability and authority in the digital age. The survey included questions about the frequency and context of dictionary use, preferences for digital and print formats, and expected outcomes of modern dictionaries.

### **Results section:**

The results of the study provided important insights into the current practices of lexicography and the public's interaction with lexicographic products:

**Technological Adaptation:** Interviews with lexicographers showed unanimous agreement on increased reliance on digital tools and data analysis [5, 9]. While many believe these technologies facilitate a more robust and efficient workflow, there is a gap in comprehensive training to take full advantage of these advanced tools, especially in semantic analysis and real-time language trending.

**Inclusion Issues:** An analysis of vocabulary revisions has shown a deliberate shift toward more inclusive language, particularly in terms of gender and race. However, lexicographers have expressed concern about the tension between describing language in use and setting more inclusive standards. This has often led to public debate and the need for clear guidelines and consistent approaches in the field.

**Economic Pressures and Priorities:** From an economic perspective, almost all lexicographers surveyed mentioned constraints affecting the scope of their work. Due to budget cuts, updates are often spaced out and focus on high-impact changes. This prioritization sometimes leads to delays in the acquisition of emergent language events [6, 71].

**Crowdsourcing and authority:** The survey found that while traditional dictionaries are still more authoritative, new generations of users are increasingly turning to crowdsourced platforms for convenience. This shift makes it difficult for professional lexicographers to maintain the authoritative status of their work while adapting to the digital preferences of users.

**Digital Versus Print:** Despite the clear trend toward digital usage, there is a segment of users who continue to value print dictionaries for their reliability and depth. This dual advantage suggests a market for both formats despite the growing dominance of digital platforms [7, 152].

Discussion section: The findings show that although modern lexicography has benefited greatly from technological advances, these tools have also created new challenges. The balance between comprehensive coverage and economic sustainability remains a critical issue. Furthermore, increased public scrutiny and participation in the lexicographic process, although beneficial in some respects, complicates the traditional roles and methods of professional lexicographers.

### **Conclusion:**

Contemporary lexicography stands at a crossroads of unprecedented opportunities and critical challenges. Professionalism in this field now requires not only linguistic and editorial expertise, but also skills in technology management, public relations, and cultural sensitivity. To advance the field, training programs must be developed, funding models must be revised, and a new framework for public engagement must be developed. These steps help ensure that modern dictionaries remain accurate, relevant, and respected resources in an ever-changing world.

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