

**Andronov A., Материалы для латышско-русского словаря. Филологический факультет СПбГУ, Санкт-Петербург, 2002. 403 стр.**

Reviewer: William R. Schmalstieg , State College, Pa.

In the foreword (pp. 5-8) Andronov (= A.) notes that although there is a fair number of Latvian-Russian dictionaries, most do not give sufficient information about the pronunciation and the grammatical forms of the Latvian word. It seems that not a single dictionary gives information about the correct pronunciation of some of the ambiguous letters used in Latvian, viz. whether we have to do with an open or close *e* and whether the letter *o* denotes a short or long monophthong or a diphthong. Therefore in this dictionary the digraph *æ* and the sequence *uo* have been introduced where appropriate in order to aid the non-Latvian in pronunciation, and the student is instructed on the use of the letters *e* or *o* respectively when writing Latvian (p. 8). The majority of the dictionaries do not provide the principal parts of verbs or necessary accentual information for the student of Latvian, so this is also provided here.

Thus, for example, Dāle (1953: 133) and Turkina (1964: 140) list *doties* 'to set out for' as opposed to Andronov (p. 54) who gives *duōtiēs/duōtiēs*, grammatical information on the conjugation, 3 pres. *duōdas/duōdas*, 3 pret. *devūs* plus the definition *отправиться-отправляться; направиться-направляться*. Dāle (1953: 142) and Turkina (1964: 143) list *dzeltens* 'yellow,' whereas Andronov (p. 54) lists *dzæltæns* which supplies both the accentuation and the correct pronunciation of the letter *-e-* in this word.

The various supplements to the dictionary provide further important information. The correct rendering of Latvian proper names into Russian is discussed on pp. 225-227. Latvian proper names are to be rendered in Russian along with the grammatical ending, e.g., *Imants Kalniņš* becomes *Имантс Калниньш*, but the possessor of names of non-Latvian origin may have a choice, e.g., *Ivanovs* can be either *Ивановс* or *Иванов*. A complete table with rules of transcription is given on p. 226. A list of Latvian first names with Russian equivalents is given on pp. 228-223 and a list of Latvian last names is given on pp. 234-241.

Geographical names and their Russian equivalents follow on pp. 242-264 and abbreviations in common use in Latvian are spelled out and a Russian translation and/or abbreviation is also given. In some cases the Latvian abbreviation and the Russian abbreviation are the same, e.g., *BAM Baikāla-Amūras maģistrāle* — БАМ Байкало-Амурская Магистраль 'The Baikal-Amur Route.' In other cases the abbreviation really wouldn't work in Russian, e.g., FBR *Filolōgu biedribas raksti* is explained as Записки общества филологов. Certainly the corresponding Russian letters ФБР wouldn't be appropriate here.

There is a list of works of world literature, art and music arranged alphabetically by author (pp. 272-296) and then by title (pp. 296-321). In addition to the expected Latvian and Russian authors such as J. Alunāns *Dziesmiņas* 'Songs' = Ю. Алунан(с) Пёсенки, А. Čehovs *Kaija* 'Seagull' = А. П. Чёхов Чайка we encounter foreign authors such as Dž. Pučīni *Bohēma* 'La bohème' = Пуччини Богёма, E. Hemingvejs *Sirmgalvis un jūra* 'The old man and the sea' = Э.М. Хемингуэй Старик и море. This was interesting for me, because it seems to me that most Americans would stress Hemingway's name on the initial syllable as, I assume, Latvians would also.

The grammatical outline of the Latvian language (pp. 325-375) begins with a presentation of the vocalic system which is presented as a rectangle:

ī	ū	i	u
ie	uo		
ē	ō	e	o
æ	ā	æ	a

Except for *ie* and *uo* the diphthongs are considered to be sequences of two vowels or a vowel plus the hard or soft variants of *r*, *l*, *m*, *n*. A. writes (p. 326, fn. 11) that the biphonemic interpretation of the diphthongs is non-traditional and 'строго не доказана'. In most descriptions of the diphthongs *ai*, *au*, *ei*, *eu*, *oi*, *ou*, *iu*, *ui* (like *ie* and *uo*) are considered independent phonemes. Concerning the similar analysis in Lithuanian Girdenis (1995: 84) has written: 'Vienafonemė sudėtinių dvibalsių traktuotė šiuo metu įdomi tik kaip savotiškas anachronizmas, nes jau 1929 m. Trubeckojus yra visiškai tvirtai įrodęs, kad tie garsai tikrai yra dvifonemiai.' I suspect that one can go farther and analyze *ie* and *uo* as /i/ + /e/ and /u/ + /a/ respectively. But the old analysis will probably be with us for a time yet, even though the recent trend of science has been to introduce increasingly small elements into the analysis of natural phenomena. According to Max Planck: 'A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents

and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it' (as quoted by Barber 1961: 597).

A table of consonants (p. 326) is accompanied by comments on their pronunciation in various environments, e.g., the fact that a velar nasal is pronounced before a velar stop. Thus *baņka* 'bank' is pronounced [baŋka], something which English speakers would probably do naturally, but perhaps not speakers of Russian for whom the dental articulation would be the norm.

In the representation of the Latvian intonations on long syllables the macron is used in addition to the sign for the type of intonation (or pitch stress), e.g., *dūmi* for usual *dūmi* 'smoke,' *prāts* for usual *prāts* 'mind' and *vāks* for usual *vāks* 'cover.' A. notes (p. 327, fn. 15) that a similar practice which B. Jēgers and I (1971) had adopted for the English translation of J. Endzelins (1948) was criticized by Zeps (1974: 588).

A table of the consonantal morphophonological alternations (which result from various palatalizations) is given on p. 331 and there is a brief discussion of vocalic morphophonological alternations on p. 332.

The inflection of the noun, adjective, numeral and pronoun are discussed on pp. 331-354 and a grammatical description of the verbal system and adverb are given on pp. 355-375.

Following this section are supplements on the use of close *e*, *ē* and open *a*, *ā* (pp. 376-379), syllable accents and the establishment of norms (pp. 380-383). As is well known only a relative small central Latvian dialect area distinguishes all three types of intonation, i.e., even, broken and falling. A. gives a map (p. 380) delineating the areas in which the various intonation types are distinguished.

In the section on principles of the description of the inflectional classes of the verb (pp. 384-397) the distinction between the present and non-present stem is fundamental and the non-present is then divided into a pre-vocalic and a pre-consonantal variant. Thus we encounter 1st pl. pres. *bālsuōjā-m*, pret. *bālsuōjā-m*, inf. *bālsuō-t* 'to vote.' A few verbs have stems which do not fit into the usual categories, e.g., *duōt* 'to give' pres. stem *duōd*, preterit *deva*. A further classification establishes primary, secondary and mixed verbs. Primary verbs are monosyllabic and without any suffix, e.g., infinitive *dzimt* 'to be born,' present stem *dzimst*, 3rd pret. *dzima*. The base shapes of secondary verbs include syllabic suffixes (i.e., with vowels) and such verbs, even excluding prefixes, are polysyllabic. Such suffixes might be added to the

root or to other suffixes. The verb *bālsuô-t* 'to vote' mentioned above is an example of a secondary verb. Mixed verbs have no syllabic suffix in the present stem, but do in the preterit stem, e.g., *zin-â-t* 'to know,' 3rd pres. *zin-ô-a*, 3rd pret. *zin-â-ja*. According to A. (p. 386) perhaps the mixed verbs should be considered a variety of the secondary verbs characterized by an alternation of materially expressed suffixes with a zero suffix, cf. the previous example.

I repeat here A.'s inflectional classes of the Latvian verb (p.387):

Structural type	Pres.   n°	Examples
Primary	-a-   1	<i>bēgt</i> - <i>bāg</i> - <i>bēga</i> 'to run' <i>nest</i> - <i>næs</i> - <i>nesa</i> 'to carry'
Mixed	-a-   2	<i>drebēt</i> - <i>dræb</i> - <i>drebēja</i> 'to tremble' <i>dziēdāt</i> - <i>dziēd</i> - <i>dziēdāja</i> 'to sing' <i>mīlēt</i> - <i>mīl</i> - <i>mīlēja</i> 'to love'
	-ā-   2	<i>vēdināt</i> - <i>vēdina</i> - <i>vēdināja</i> 'to ventilate' <i>zināt</i> - <i>zina</i> - <i>zināja</i> 'to know' <i>darīt</i> - <i>dara</i> - <i>darīja</i> 'to do'
Secondary	-a-   4	<i>bālsuôt</i> - <i>bālsuô</i> - ( <i>bālsuôjā-m</i> ) - <i>bālsuôja</i> 'to vote'

We welcome a new analysis of the Latvian verbal system which is based more on synchronic than diachronic principles.

This book is primarily valuable for the learner of Latvian, not only for the vocabulary, but also for the very useful supplements which I have mentioned above. As far as I know this is the only Latvian bilingual dictionary which presents the intonation pattern, the difference between *ē* and *ā* and the correct pronunciation of *o* for each Latvian entry. The native speaker does not need this information and thus it was natural for Zeps (1974: 588) to criticize the inclusion of the macrons along with the intonational diacritics in the English translation of Endzelins (1948). Possibly he would have criticized the same practice in this dictionary. But information unnecessary for native speakers may be very helpful for beginning learners.

The book ends with a list of references on pp. 399-402 and the table of contents on p. 403. The writing of this book was supported by the Latvian Cultural Foundation (*Latvijas Kultūras Fonds*) and in my opinion the foundation spent its money wisely. In view of the apparent wish on the part of the Latvian government to encourage the Russian population of Latvia to learn Latvian I would encourage the Latvian government to supply financial support also, so that the dictionary may be made more complete and widely distributed. According to the last page of this book the current edition, alas, numbers only 100 copies.

### References:

Barber, Bernard. 1961. "Resistance by scientists to scientific discovery." *Science* 134.506-602.

Dāle, P. et al. 1953. *Latviešu-krievu vārdnīca*. Rīga, Latvijas valsts izdevniecība.

Endzelīns, J. 1948. *Baltu valodu skaņas un formas*. Rīga, Latvijas valsts izdevniecība.

Endzelīns, J. 1971. *Jānis Endzelīns' comparative phonology and morphology of the Baltic languages*. The Hague, Paris, Mouton. = English translation by William R. Schmalstieg and Benjamiņš Jēgers of Endzelīns, 1948.

Girdenis, Aleksas. 1995. *Teoriniai fonologijos pagrindai*. Vilnius, Vilniaus universitetas.

Trubetzkoy, N.S. 1929. "Zur allgemeinen Theorie der phonologischen Vokalsysteme." *Travaux du cercle linguistique de Prague* 1.39-67.

Turkina, E. 1964. *Latviešu-angļu vārdnīca*. Copenhagen, Imanta.

Zeps, V. 1974. Review of Endzelīns, J. *Comparative Phonology and Morphology of the Baltic Languages*. *Language* 50.586-91.