

Editorial

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More than two hundred years have elapsed since the British missionary Robert Morrison compiled the first Chinese–English dictionary which was simply entitled *A Dictionary of the Chinese English*. Literally several hundred Chinese–English dictionaries have been published ever since, gradually laying a solid foundation for the development of Chinese–English lexicography. This issue of *Lexicography* with a special theme “Chinese–English dictionaries” introduces five papers focusing on different aspects of contemporary Chinese–English lexicography.

Gao’s paper not only traces the historical development of Chinese–English lexicography and discusses the establishment of the lexicographical tradition, but also analyzes the innovative features adopted along the way and identifies the major problems found in the current batch of major Chinese–English dictionaries. Suggestions have also been made by the author as regards the future directions Chinese–English lexicography should take. Three papers coincidentally focus their attention on the new kid on the lexicographic block, namely *The Chinese–English Dictionary* (Unabridged) whose editor-in-chief was the late Professor Gusun Lu. Zhao carries out an in-depth discussion of the representation of literal, conceptual, and cross-cultural aspects in the said dictionary through exemplification. Wan’s paper attempts to probe into the essence of the beyond-equivalence principle proposed by Professor Gusun Lu and his ideas of acculturation and cultural overflow through discussing three major compensation operations in treating culture-bound lexical items. In her paper, Ding explores the Chineseness on different levels as is displayed in

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the lexicographic text of the above dictionary through adopting approaches in Critical Lexicographical Discourse Studies. Zhang's paper scrutinizes the lexicographical treatment of Chinese phraseology in two widely used Chinese–English dictionaries through analyzing corpus data of the collocations of two commonly used Chinese characters.

It is hoped that through these papers the distinctive features of Chinese–English dictionaries (and *The Chinese–English Dictionary* in particular), and problems with Chinese–English lexicography will be made known to a wider audience. Such problems may in fact also be identified in bilingual dictionaries in the Asia context or even in the global context. The solutions to these problems could be found through a heavy reliance upon technological advances, the adoption of innovative practices, and most important of all, the concerted efforts of “harmless drudges” engaging in bilingual lexicography.