

THE DICTIONARY THAT WAS MISSING

The *English-German-French-Serbian-Russian Dictionary of Electronics* was published by Studentski kulturni centar (Student Cultural Center) in Niš, in 2001. The authors of Serbian equivalents are Nadežda Lainović-Stojanović, Ph.D., and Viktorija Džunić, both long time lecturers of Russian and English language at the Faculty of Electronics in Niš. Nadežda Lainović-Stojanović is now the head of the Department of Russian language and literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, and Viktorija Džunić has, after thirty-five years of work, retired.

The authors had spent over twenty years working together at the Faculty of Electronics. The lasting evidence of their cooperation can be found in numerous articles and publications. Direct involvement into translation of scientific texts had made them put great effort to compile this dictionary and thus enrich the field of knowledge otherwise not so rich in reference books.

The idea for this kind of dictionary was conceived in the encyclopedic publishing house Russky Yazyk from Moscow, in which the material was prepared for publishing. The project was not realised due to the well-known deterioration of economic and political situation. Consequently, the publisher ceded the right of publishing to Yugoslavia. It took nine years for the specialist and translator teams in Russia, and three years for the authors of Serbian equivalents to complete this dictionary. The reviewers of this edition are: P.K. Gorohov, M.S., A.A. Kolosov, Ph.D., N.I. Čistjakov, Ph.D. The reviewers of the Serbian equivalents are Živko Tošić, Ph.D., and Bogoljub Stanković, Ph.D.

In accordance with the existing international agreement the term *electronics* covers several fields under different names: electronics proper, radio-engineering, communication,... Understandably, the focus was on currently most advanced areas of Electronics: quantum electronics, fiber optics, optoelectronics, integrated circuit technology, radiolocation and radionavigation, pulse technique, holography, etc. It is estimated that the number of terms used in Electronics exceeds 50,000. This multilingual dictionary had to be restricted to approximately 9000 entries.

The compilers used encyclopedias, handbooks, dictionaries and periodicals published in the Soviet Union, The United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, Yugoslavia. In preparing Serbian equivalents professors and specialists in relevant fields were consulted.

This dictionary is highly specific. One need not be a linguist to see that it does not have the usual organisation of a dictionary. For instance, there are no lexical paradigms, no phonemic transcription, examples of use in different contexts. In this case, all that would be unnecessary. This dictionary is not a source book for learning languages. Rather, its purpose is to enable a wide range of specialists, students, translators, and all others interested in modern Electronics, to find language equivalents of principal and new terms in this field. Appropriately, this dictionary is supplied with alphabetical indexes of German, French, Serbian, and Russian terms which largely facilitates its use.

Today, English language and Electronics are of utmost importance due to the global dimensions of their presence. An illustration of that is the fact that the Oxford University

Press has specialised, elaborate textbooks for language learning only in the fields of Management and Electronics. However, there is a striking paradox. Oxford University Press, probably the highest authority in publishing dictionaries, offers a single dictionary of Electronics – *Oxford Dictionary of Computing* with somewhat more than 4000 terms. It is primarily a general purpose dictionary. Being a lingua franca of today's world, English has naturally become the main language of communication in Electronics as well. Therefore, scientists and specialists in that field know it far better than the level of the already mentioned Oxford dictionary of Electronics has to offer.

A very special value of this dictionary lies in the relationship between Serbian and English language. Serbian language is today endangered for various reasons. The expansion of science is just one of them. Though reasons may be numerous, we tend to use English words without any justification, out of laziness or irresponsibility. This dictionary has appropriate equivalents precise in meaning, yet in the spirit of Serbian language. As such, it is of great help not only in translating specialized scientific texts but also in translation classes.

It is a challenge when linguists set out to compile a dictionary in an area they are not experts of. Because of that, this kind of a project always requires the cooperation of specialists and translators. Its result is one higher dimension which overcomes its practical use, namely, it is an example of the permanent ties among all kinds of knowledge.

The Faculty of Electronics keeps the pace with the latest scientific and pedagogical tendencies. Developed in such a surrounding, this dictionary has yet another outstanding quality. It proves that in some respect we may be ahead of the world to which we (too) often tend to look up.

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