
Editorial

Knowledge Organization, Language, and Literature

Recently, on Sept. 28, 1991, at the end of the 22nd Conference of the German Society for Applied Linguistics (GAL) at Mainz, a workshop was held in honor of Alfred HOPPE on the occasion of his 80th birthday and the release of his latest work (1). In an introductory account of Hoppe's life and work it was pointed out that he had succeeded in the past few years in bringing into a coherent system not only a computerized analysis and processing of language contents for cognitive and expert systems, for Artificial Intelligence and for Machine Translation, but also in formalizing and computerizing this system as a semantic-syntactical structure code system in relation to a morphological grammar. With this achievement the foundation has been laid for attaining some day the goals of a necessary semantically-oriented processing of language contents. (A description - in English - of his Communicative Grammar has once been given in this journal, see (2)).

There were three speakers at the workshop: Prof. Helmut GIPPER, Münster, who looked at Hoppe's "Communicative Grammar in the light of linguistics", Prof. Johannes KNOBLOCH, Bonn, who spoke on "Lexematic contents" and who pointed out that concepts should not be regarded as the contents of a word but that their lexematic contents refers to something extralinguistic. He wished to stress especially the possibilities of an intellectual/spiritual understanding of the world of things by ordering principles. He quoted Hoppe thus: "The classification of language contents and contents complexes given by language (must) be retrieved by the procedures and the results of a classification which is concerned with the order of the spiritual and the knowledge of the things of this world and which can only then be successfully applied if procedures and results in their representation are attached to language".

The third speaker was Prof. Harald ZIMMERMANN, Saarbrücken. We are happy to have received his paper on "Language and Language Technology" for publication in this issue in an English translation.

Although the step from language to literature is only a very short one, nevertheless the problem of retrieving knowledge and information concerning the spiritual contents of fiction literature is a most complicated one. Some years ago we had a contribution by Kevin HARRIS from London, England, on the classification of the works by Charles Dickens (IC 86-3), based on such a classification for the Dickens House library. At the 12th SCCAC Meeting in Leinsweiler, Germany, July 10-11, 1991 (for a short report see IC 91-3, p.160-161), Hillel WEISS from Ramat Gan, Israel, explained his "dyna-

mic, poetical, linguistic and analytical index" on the Jewish writer Sh.Y. Agnon and showed by this how well a computer can be used for analyzing and interactively indexing literary texts. We gratefully include in this issue the description of his indexing method, exemplified by many views on the screen for your attention.

At the other end of this scale, on the more distant and masses-surveying end, there are the problems of the classification of fiction literature in libraries as presented by Helmut BECK in his article, who was challenged to write this contribution by our Editorial in IC 89-3 - on the occasion of the long article by Clare Beghtol on the Classification of Fiction - and to reveal and relate systems for the organization of literary knowledge which so far have hardly been spoken about. His contribution, which refers also to the Book House system of A.M. Pejtersen, is somewhat extended by the excellent review by Clare BEGHTOL, Toronto, in the present issue of the 3 volumes on the Book House system, which may not only be used for belles-lettres but some day perhaps also for improved user-oriented access to scientific literature.

Among the further, surely likewise interesting items in the present issue I would like to point (a) to the "left-over article" by Dietrich H. FISCHER, Darmstadt ("Consistency Rules and Triggers for Thesauri") which was to be published in our Thesaurus Software issue (IC 90-3/4) but had to wait for further elaboration; (b) to the review by Julius SCHREIDER, Moscow, of the two large volumes "World Problems and Human Potential", an overwhelming masterpiece by A.J.N. Judge and his collaborators from the Union of International Associations, Brussels as well as his publisher, the K.G. Saur Verlag, München; (c) to the outstanding report on the 5th FID/CR Study Conference in Toronto in June 1991 by Nancy WILLIAMSON, and last not least, (d) to the report on the KOTA'91 Conference of the Bulgarian ISKO Chapter in Varna by Peter PETROV, which shows that a brave little community of enthusiastic young researchers has started to overcome the remainders of the Iron Curtain and joined in pursuing the ideals which guide their colleagues in the "free" world. They, as well as our other colleagues in the East-European countries, now deserve any help we are able to give!

Ingetraut Dahlberg

(1) Hoppe, A.: Grundzüge der Kommunikativen Grammatik. Teil II: Theorie der semantischen Syntax. Feste Fügungen. Bonn: Dümmler Verlag 1991. 135p.

(2) Hoppe, A.: Communicative grammar and machine-assisted text contents analysis. Int. Classif. 11(1984)No. 1, p. 9-12