

# BILINGUAL ENGLISH/KOREAN DICTIONARIES

## New Millennium Dong-A Prime English-Korean Dictionary 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (DAPEK) ELECTRONIC EDITION

(Assessed by Chunho Yang, a student in the postgraduate translation and interpretation program, Macquarie University, 2006)

### Features of the electronic dictionary investigated in this study - Specifications

Dictionary	9 dictionaries installed
Display Size	264 x 129dots
Filter Search	Yes
Jump Function	Yes
Spellchecker	Yes
Calculator	Yes
Word Time	Yes
Battery	AAA x 2
Dimensions	136 (W) x 76(D) x 18(H) mm
Weight	150g (including batteries)
Flash Memory	256KB



**Model: RD-6200**

**Manufactured year: 2000**

<http://www.sharp-korea.co.k>

### Introduction

This paper investigated a corpus of problematic lexemes from two combined lists: one including words and phrases identified by former students as problematic and another one compiled by students enrolled in the Research Methods in translation and interpreting unit in the second semester of 2006. Similarly to a group of former students, we were asked to make a list of words and phrases whose meaning or concept in the texts given to was not clear enough translate them into Korean. The texts used for this study were selected from *The Economist*.

The number of the words collected from the two sources was 585. These words were investigated to find out whether appropriate equivalents were

found in the entries of the DAPEK and whether entries found were useful in solving translation problems identified in context.

### **Findings**

Only 3 out of 586 words or phrases were not covered by the entries of the DAPEK. Each of these words was the name of a company or a robot. That is, the study indicates that the DAPEK supplies sufficient entries, except names of certain entities, such as Cisco, Flextronix and Roomba.

Additionally, there were three phrases whose definitions were listed in the DAPEK, but students experienced difficulties in comprehending the contexts where those words were put. The definition of each word in the context was well described in the DAPEK (See Table 4, 5, 6). Namely, each word of the phrases itself was fully understood, but when these words were combined each other, the meaning of the combination in the contexts became so complicated that students could not easily understand the meaning of them and find equivalents.

As can be seen in the above, all the words, phrases or clauses in the lists that the students described as problematic words when translating were found in the entries of the DAPEK, except for words referring to the name of a certain entity.

While a large amount of data and various dictionaries were not explored due to limited time available, the study of the *New Millennium Dong-A Prime English-Korean Dictionary 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* (DAPEK) in an electronic form indicates that a sufficient number of word entries are included to make it an effective tool for English-Korean translators. The difficulties in finding equivalents that the students faced in this study were caused by lack of entries referring to some idiomatic or fixed phrases.

In conclusion, one should add that electronic dictionaries provide various convenient functions as well as the advantage of bilingual dictionaries. The portable size of electronic dictionaries is the most attractive part to translators. With these benefits, many English Korean translators use electronic dictionaries during their studies and professional work.

# Yahoo Online Dictionary

<http://kr.dic.yahoo.com/search/eng/>

(Assessed by Gyeyoung Lee, a student in the postgraduate translation and interpretation program, Macquarie University, 2006)

## Introduction

I chose to assess Yahoo Online Dictionary as a tool for a translation student. It is meaningless or almost impossible to study Yahoo English Korean Online Dictionary only as many useful dictionaries are linked to this website and they aim to make up for each other.

Yahoo Online Dictionary is based on three dictionaries from three different publishing companies: YBM Sisa Dictionary, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, and BBI Word Combi. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary provides illustrative sentences, and BBI Word Combi is a revision of The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combinations, which Chonghab Publishing published in 2000. Sisa Dictionary is the one this essay will examine closely. All these dictionaries were updated in 2006.

The assessment was done by checking if the dictionary provides translation solutions to a list of 600 words and phrases selected by translation students as problematic. Due to a relatively small sample used in the study, it's reliability is limited – a larger sample might produce a different result.

The criterion used in choosing problematic words was whether they are translatable or not in the context of the in which they appeared in the text. The texts used for the selection of problematic words and phrases were excerpted from *The Economist* and were rather formal and used business terms.

Yahoo provides a dictionary service as other portal sites do. In this service, Yahoo Online Bilingual Dictionary is included. Before looking into this dictionary, it is necessary to look over the entire contents of this dictionary service as all the dictionaries which Yahoo offers are linked together. When users go to Yahoo English dictionary, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and BBI Colloquial Dictionary appear on the same page as complementary dictionaries.

In the first window of Yahoo Online English Korean Dictionary, there are five basic buttons; All, Korean-English, Idiom, Collocation, and Sentence. Next to these five buttons, there are English-English, Business English, TOEIC, and SAT English.

When the user clicks Search, a total of five results from different dictionaries are displayed. The order of the result is English-Korean definition, idioms, collocation, sentence examples, and examples from Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Then, users click one of them in accordance with their purpose.

In this study, the focus was on whether a word or phrase could be translated with the help of Yahoo Online Dictionary. There were four categories of problematic words or phrases: single words which may have less frequency so that they are not familiar; single words which are familiar but not translatable as used in an unfamiliar context; compound nouns which are newly coined; proper nouns which have appeared recently in a specific field. The problematic words were examined twice. The first examination was to check their coverage and translatability, and the second was to analyze and find out shortcomings of Yahoo Online Dictionary.

In the second research, besides Yahoo Online Dictionary, an online search engine Google, and Naver Dictionary were used as complements. When the given word was not found or translatable, Google and Naver English Dictionary were used together to find out if the problem is due to insufficient information of Yahoo Online Dictionary, or lack of language competency of dictionary users.

### **Findings**

Yahoo Online Dictionary proved to be good as a general purpose dictionary. Out of the six hundred problematic words and phrases, only twelve words or expressions were left unresolved until the end of the research process. Average users will not have big problems to read and understand English articles, using Yahoo Online Dictionary.

However, there were several weak points about this dictionary as well. Of the twelve problematic items, only one was a single word, the rest were phrases consisting of two or more words: two business terms, three proper nouns, four coined phrases, and the remaining two were prepositional phrases.

Although the tested sample was too small to generalize the result, two business terms and three proper nouns (from a business field) are enough to make Yahoo Online Dictionary rather out of date and less professional. One of the biggest benefits of online dictionaries is they can be updated more often than paper based dictionaries. Fast update and interaction with users enable online dictionaries to include up-to-date information and newly coined words

In particular, although Yahoo Online Dictionary offers sentences derived from web sites, proper nouns, such Babel fish or Cisco System were not found. It may indicate Yahoo Online Dictionary does not update enough and serves out of date information.

Finally, considerable information which Yahoo Online Dictionary supplies, is not well linked. The layout is user-friendly, but information is scattered here and there. If an expression is found through Google, it should be found in Yahoo Word Search as well. When all the information on Yahoo Online Dictionary is integrated better, the website will be even more useful to translators.

# 'Paran English to Korean, Korean to English dictionary

<http://endic.paran.com>'

**(Assessed by Jee-soo Min , a student in the postgraduate translation and interpretation program, Macquarie University, 2006)**

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this paper is examine one of the popular Korean Internet dictionaries, 'Paran English to Korean, Korean to English dictionary; <http://endic.paran.com>' and find out how it would be helpful in the comprehension of unknown words in the process of translation. Furthermore, it discusses how translation students can find solutions to problems using this dictionary.

Paran English to Korean, Korean to English on-line dictionary provided by Paran Internet search engine is one of the well-known portal sites in Korea. It has integrated search tools which give encyclopedic information particularly including World Wide Web, dictionaries, news and other information. It provides bilingual dictionaries, New Ace English-Korean and Korean-English dictionaries by Kumsung publishing company. It does not give details on New Ace English-Korean and Korean-English dictionaries so that publishing year of dictionaries could not be confirmed. According to the web page, it contains about one hundred thousand entries for each English to Korean and Korean to English dictionaries.

Paran search engine has a bi-directional search function and shows clear definitions, explanations, cross-references, such as a list of adjacent words, usage in technical terms, if applicable and searched words are all linked to other pages.

Paran E-K, K-E on-line dictionary has a few different functions, 'All over' 'Vocabulary', 'Explanation', 'Example/idiom/compound'. This helps users to find out compound words, multi-word expression and even phrases can be possibly searched directly. Moreover, it has a function that users can add entries with equivalents. The pages navigate reader to get more examples, glossaries and additional resources.

Typefaces and fonts in the web pages are easy to read. It also has pronunciation tools for each word in different contexts. However, changing font size is not available.

The testing was done on translation problems identified in 5 different articles from *the Economist* magazine: 'Shrinking wireless', Vol.380, 'Computing the future', Vol.378, 'Manufacturing complexity', Vol.379, 'Trust me, I'm a robot', Vol. 379, 'How to build a Babel fish', Vol. 379. They were issued between year 2006 March to July. As a result, 269 problematic words and phrases were identified from articles on science and technology. In addition, 323 more terms

were added from all different section of the same magazine: international news, politics, business and science and technology. Altogether 592 words and phrases were chosen as test items. The testing focused on two aspects of the dictionary: coverage and provision of a solution to a specific translation problem.

## Findings

The coverage rate words and phrases from the five articles and the additional 323 words from other sources are shown in the table below.

Article	Coverage		Solution Found	
1. Shrinking wireless	33/33	100%	29/33	87.9%
2. Computing the future	48/50	96%	46/50	92%
3. Manufacturing complexity	90/92	97.8%	79/92	85.9%
4. Trust me, I'm a robot	47/48	97.9%	46/48	95.8%
5. How to build a Babel fish'	44/46	95.7%	38/46	82.6%
<b>Total of articles 1-5</b>	<b>262/269</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>238/269</b>	<b>88.5%</b>
6. International news	315/323	97.5%	273/323	84.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>577/592</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>511/592</b>	<b>86.3%</b>

The result shows that the total coverage rate is 97.5% but solutions to specific translation problems were not found in each case, in fact, 511 or 86.3% solutions to comprehension problems in context were found. We may therefore conclude that , Paran E-K, K-E on-line dictionary showed good rates of coverage and solutions found. Furthermore, their web page design and layout are easy to read and use.

This paper attempted to find out why Paran English to Korean and Korean to English on-line dictionary is useful for translating students and how it helps them. By checking the coverage rate of the dictionary and to further discuss the findings of analysis. However, it must be emphasized that the result obtained cannot be fully generalised due to the limited size of the sample tested. Had a larger sample of translation problems been tested, the result may have been different.