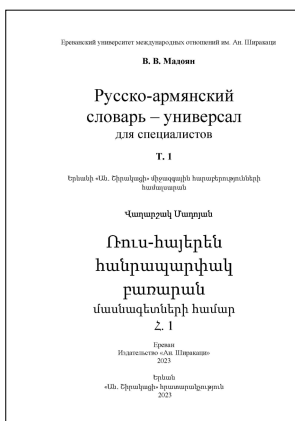


## ԳՐԱԽՈՍԱԿԱՆՆԵՐ

### BOOK REVIEWS

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**MADOYAN V.V.**

### **RUSSIAN-ARMENIAN DICTIONARY- UNIVERSAL FOR SPECIALISTS, VOLS. 1–2**

**(Er.: Publishing House "An. Shirakatsi", 2023), or A  
Step Forward in World Lexicography**

Armenian lexicography has rich traditions, the beginning of which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It reached its perfection in the works of the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice. Among the linguistic dictionaries, a special place is taken by Russian-Armenian bilingual dictionaries, the practical significance of which is compelling both in the political aspect and in terms of intercultural cooperation. A great contribution to the development of Russian-Armenian lexicography was made by A. Daghbashyan [2] and A. Gharibyan [3]. The publication of the dictionary of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR [9] and others, valuable in practical application and in terms of vocabulary, should be particularly noted. In this series, a completely new word in lexicography is the "Russian-Armenian Universal Dictionary for Specialists" by Professor V.V. Madoyan [5], which actually includes almost the entire vocabulary of modern literary Russian, as well as comments on all the features of the Russian word (since the dictionary is intended for the Armenian user): word-formation, morphological characteristics (including inflection), pronunciation, origin (borrowing), syntactic norms, semantics, stylistic data, usage, in some articles - encyclopedic data, so that the reader is not forced to turn to other dictionaries (linguistic or encyclopedic). This is the reason why the dictionary is called "universal". It includes 110,000 words and phrases, idioms and winged expressions, it presents the terminology of new technology related to the computerization

of the modern world in particular detail. In reality, V.V. Madoyan's dictionary replaces all the existing linguistic (and in some cases encyclopedic) dictionaries of the Russian language and all Russian-Armenian bilingual dictionaries. This huge information is placed almost in the same volume as in the outstanding dictionary of A. Gharibyan. V.V. Madoyan's dictionary is extremely significant in content, and is still the only one in the world. It can deservedly be considered a breakthrough in the world of lexicographic theory and practice. It is written not only taking into account the latest achievements of modern lexicography but also a number of new provisions that are developed and presented by the author in his famous monograph "Meaning and Thought in the Statics and Dynamics of Two Languages" [6, pp. 198–208].

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia should be commended for recommending this work for publication.

In the preface, the author carefully and thoroughly describes the principles by which he has been guided when compiling the dictionary. In terms of translation the dictionary is an exception, since he translates the Russian word with an Armenian word (word by word) – the one with which the first is replaced in the context. Hence the author calls his work a speech dictionary in contrast to linguistic ones, for it represents in translation not only the equivalent of the translated unit, but often the equivalent of its interpretation. The interpretation is due not only to the absence, for example, of a corresponding analog in Armenian but also to the polysemy of the lexical unit, which manifests itself in different ways in the context, that is why the author fixes all the meanings of the Russian word "in the Armenian sense" and gives them use (if they are not in Russian dictionaries). Thus, the Russian word *go* has "two opposite vectors", which requires in Armenian to fix not only *q'uwł*, *nıŋŋıłı*, but also *qıwł*. And the number of similar examples is quite large.

The dictionary entry, following N.Y. Shvedova [8], is assembled by taking into account word-formation derivations, that is why the family of words is visible in it.

It would seem as though word-formative division does not present any special problems, especially since in modern Russian there are fairly complete dictionaries of morphemes of the Russian language, used by the author. However, in the plane in which the words are described in the work under consideration, the author presents a word-formation "biography" of all lexemes of the Russian language, the origin of some of which is not only vague, but also not checked out, therefore the author conducted his own research and presented his conclusions. This applies not

only to foreign words, but also to Russian words, which have passed into the literary language from dialects and have undergone historical changes that are partly unknown to the literary language and its researchers.

This is followed by pronunciation. The author is fair in building his transcription on the basis of scientifically recognized Russian one and showing a creative approach, he replaces a number of signs with those that can be understood by the Armenian reader, since Russian sounds are explained as far as possible through sounds that are somehow known to him. Otherwise, the transcription mark would remain an empty sign. V.V. Madoyan calls his approach "simplified transcription", because, for example, determining the pronunciation of several variants [and] in different positions is hardly possible without hearing. And there are many such cases. Following the author's logic, it must be recognized that if the stressed *a* in the transcription of R.I. Avanesov, which is adopted in Russian studies, is fixed [a], then why do we need the symbol [ʌ] for the unstressed [a], if it can be denoted as [a] without an accent mark [1, p. 58, etc.]. But V.V. Madoyan, having replaced some, still left this sign [ʌ], perhaps in order to avoid unnecessary criticism.

The morphological characteristics of words are given in exceptional detail, and their formation is easy to determine from a large number of tables. Usually, both explanatory and translation dictionaries record three declensions for nouns, two conjugations for a verb, etc. in the Russian language. In reality, taking into account the variations of forms and the place of stress, about 300 inflectional paradigms (for all parts of speech) are distinguished in Russian, which are given in the peer-reviewed dictionary for the first time and allow one to determine any form of any word with a place of accent. Therefore, it is such a dictionary that has truly completed both orthographic (the existing spelling dictionaries include only an indefinite form, the nominative case of the name, the infinitive of the verb, etc.), and full orthoepic forms.

Speaking about morphological factors, it should be emphasized that in this work for the first time participles and verbal adverbs are given. In the Russian language there is a certain rule for the formation of these forms, but it is not rigid, hence very often the forms that are provided by the rule are not formed, and those not provided by the rules are actively functioning in the language. V.V. Madoyan's dictionary is almost the only reference book that allows one to present the real state of affairs.

Syntactic features, as a rule, are associated with the verb. The author in this regard follows the established tradition and along with the indication of the control

of the verb, he presents the forms in use, that is why the transition “from theory to practice” is one step, which, according to structuralists, consists in lexical substitution, which is also facilitated by the fact that the reader can find any form of any word in the dictionary.

Stylistic notes are in every such reference book. In this case, the stylistic marks are associated with a certain meaning, that is why it gives the impression of a complete stylistic description of the word, and the stable phrases given to them in the form of phraseological units, etc. create a complete “stylistic world” of the lexeme.

But the dictionary primarily serves translation purposes. As already indicated, the Russian lexeme is given as “in the Armenian sense”, i.e. through all the meanings that are manifested in the uses translated into Armenian. These are the mental structures about which C. Fillmore wrote: “Giving a special role to mental structures, and not to the abstract mapping of the forms of statements to formal semantic structures or true conditions, enhances the importance of the context (both linguistic and pragmatic) in the interpretation of statements” [10, p.131]. The author in the preface gives a clear theory of the translation of words which makes its repetition in this article unnecessary. But a theory remains a theory, and all explanatory dictionaries in particular cases often depart from their own theoretical postulates. In the present dictionary the Armenian equivalents are chosen so well that they do not raise doubts about their accuracy. Semantics is considered to the smallest detail. Thus, the word *engage* in Russian explanatory dictionaries is explained as “to invite to dances”, but, according to V.V. Madoyan, it either means “to invite” (compare: to engage in a mazurka), or “to invite to dances” (compare: to engage a lady).

“The semantic description of the vocabulary,” writes M.A. Krongauz, “implies a fixed metalanguage and a standard form of description of a particular word. Only in the presence of a single metalanguage can we talk about comparing the meanings of different words and establishing the consistency of lexical meanings” [4, p. 107]. This rule regarding the comparison of the lexical meanings of words of different languages is given in detail in the preface of the dictionary. As the author writes, “a bilingual dictionary is always an attempt to identify the consciousness of two languages. If they are close, it is not difficult to do so. Otherwise, some serious scientific research is needed to equalize different types of options. It can be said (if we bear in mind all the uses of the word) that in Russian and Armenian there are almost no equivalents and completely identical meanings, which often requires

additional interpretation. For example, **ЛОЖБИНА 1. Ձորակ** (գետնի մակերեսին, նեղ և ոչ խորը): **2. Առվակ** (նեղ և ոչ խորը ավերով):” [5, v.1, p.15].

It has long been observed that “in the preparation of a dictionary of a foreign language, the difficulties increase exponentially, according to the degree of linguistic and cultural differences ... However, too often the compilers of dictionaries do not realize the deep structural difference between languages and between cultures” [7, p. 46]. That is why the author periodically includes articles and encyclopedic information.

Naturally, a linguistic dictionary, especially a translated one, cannot cover encyclopedic information completely, but where necessary, the author uses it. So, in the Russian state, the tsars approved the codes – “collections (laws)”. This word is translated as *օրենսգիրք* (“code”) so that it may not be used by the reader in the meaning of “assembly”.

As in any work, there are random errors in this huge dictionary. In conditions when proofreaders have disappeared from our reality, there are shortcomings in any work, even in terms of volume, very small. What can we say about this fundamental work! They, shortcomings, of course, are very rare, but they are there. For example, in Armenian, not *փողեր լվանալ*, but *փող լվանալ*, in some cases the word-formational affix is not indicated in italics (although it is obvious from the highlighted morphemes), etc., but this does not change our opinion about the author as one of the leading scientists of our time – a brilliant connoisseur of Russian and Armenian philology.

The dictionary (it must be emphasized once again!) is certainly a step forward in the world of lexicography as along with the author's theoretical attitudes, serious discoveries at all levels of Russian grammar and lexicology, it creates a holistic view of the Russian language and the doctrine of it – for the first time in the world of science.

Here are some common examples of dictionary entries:

**[ВОД]ЯН//ОЙ**<sup>1</sup> [в’д’ино’й], *գ, ա*, 107, *առաջ* **Ջրային ոգի**, ծովարքա՝ ջրում ապրող ծերուկ, ջրի տերը (սլավոնների դիցաբանության մեջ): *Бояться водяного*. – *Ջ. ոգուց վախենալ*:

**АУТОПСИ//Я** [аут’пс’и’я], [*ֆր* autopsye < *հուն* autos, opsis «տեսնելը»], *գ, ի*, 169 **Դիակերծում** (մահվան պատճառները պարզելու համար): *Прибегнуть к аутопсии*. – *Դիակերծման դիմել*:

**АУТОДАФЕ'** [ʌftɐdʌfɐ], [ʃr autodafé <պորպ auto-de-fé <լապ actus fidei «հավատքի գործ»], գ.չ, չիլվ **Աուտոդաֆե**, հրադատություն՝ միջին դարերում հերետիկոսների և հերետիկոսական գրականության հրկիզում հանրության աչքի առջև: *Устроить а. – Ա. սարքել:*

**[БАЮ'К]А/ТЬ** [bajy'kɐt'], բա, -аю, -аешь, *անկապ, кого-что Օրորել*, նանիկ ասելով, օրոր ասել, քնեցնել: *Б. младенца. – Մանուկին օ.:*

The dictionary under review is extremely useful for teachers of the Russian language and literature, students and graduate students of philological faculties of both Armenian and Russian universities, translators, linguists of all directions, as well as all those who are interested in Armenian and Russian scientific and fiction literature, since the discussed work mentioned above, gives a full answer to all feasible questions.

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**LALIK KHACHATRYAN**

*Doctor of Philology, Professor, Head of the Laboratory of Linguistic  
Research, Armenian Pedagogical University after Kh. Abovyan*

*lingualal51@mail.ru*