

interesting results. Elizabeth Barquedano discusses the Aztec Earth deities and their political importance while Caroline Karlake provides a very useful overview of the research on Otomi religion. Here she mentions briefly the way in which Christianity is adapted to a polytheistically oriented culture.

The last paper by Teigo Yoshida and Andrew Duff-Cooper is concerned with comparison of a Japanese and a Balinese village, but also with the theoretical problems of comparison.

Polytheistic Systems provides not only interesting papers on various subjects, but also a glimpse of most of the problems concerning studies on polytheism. It is a highly readable book.

Morten Lund Warmind

Willy A Kirkeby: *English-Norwegian Dictionary, Engelsk-norsk ordbok*, Norwegian University Press, 1989

Willy A Kirkeby has long been a supplier of dictionaries from English into Norwegian or vice versa, as well as dictionaries for specialised vocabulary. This time he has produced a compact dictionary of 800 pages, which is still relatively handy compared to the obvious competitor H Svenkerud's *Cappelens store ordbok* (1988), in size comparable to Einar Haugen's now classic *Norsk-engelsk ordbok*. But unlike Haugen, Kirkeby only gives the Norwegian equivalents of the vocabulary in Bokmål, not Nynorsk.

In the English version of the preface the term Bokmål is translated Standard Norwegian – a new and unexpectedly inaccurate translation from a lexicographer. It's a fact that there aren't any good English translations for Bokmål and Nynorsk (partly because the terms are meaningless also in Norwegian), but with two official standards of written Norwegian, neither can be said to be the (more) standard representative of the Norwegian.

The bilingual preface outlines some of the choices the author has had to make, e.g. that Americanisms are included to a great extent – a good choice I think, reflecting the influence that American English has had on British English as well as on Norwegian in the last decades.

You'd expect a book launched in 1989 to include many of the newly created words, and Kirkeby's dictionary is up to date – to a certain degree. You'll find *cashpoint*, *freak out*, *hot pants*, *hardware*, *PC*, *skateboard*, *teleprinter*, *Yuppie*. But a *mouse* is to Kirkeby still only the animal, not yet an application to a computer, and among the words you won't find are *(tele)fax*, *DJ or disc jockey*, *CD or compact disc*, *food processor*, *headhunt(er)*, *breakdance*. The reason may be that some of these words do not yet have a Norwegian equivalent, but in a lexicographic registry that fact ought to be listed.

When in need of translations for relatively new words, it seems that Kirkeby does not look to suggestions launched by Norsk språkråd. In the dictionary *tape* is in Norwegian only *limbånd* or *tape*, not *teip*. Sometimes he chooses his own translations for relative novelties in English, not always successfully. The computer meaning of the noun *prompt* is in the dictionary the same as *spørsmål* while Norsk språkråd suggests the translation *klarmelding* – doubtlessly a better suggestion.

A problem that Kirkeby must have considered, is how to treat a number of novelties in Norwegian borrowed from Anglo-American. Kirkeby doesn't mention his point of view explicitly, but the dictionary obviously avoids Norwegian Angloisms, even more so than the relatively restrictive new dictionaries of Norwegian (cf *Bokmålsordboka*, 1986). *Attraktiv, fasiliteter, å lease, juice/jus* are all listed here, but Kirkeby doesn't include them as translations for the obvious English "mother-words". Probably it is a good thing to insist on the Norwegian equivalent, but sometimes it's irritating not to find whether there is a Norwegian spelling of, let's say *juice* (there is: *jus*), that actually has a slightly different meaning in modern Norwegian than *saft*, which is the only translation the dictionary gives. I find that Kirkeby sometimes unnecessarily omits English loanwords into Norwegian. The dictionary translates the noun *bag* with *sekk, pose, (hand)veske*, but what about the very frequent *bag*, masc, that is now listed in e.g. *Bokmålsordboka* and carries a nuance different from the words Kirkeby gives. I can appreciate how the author puts effort into keeping the two languages apart, but it's not easy to follow Kirkeby's reasonings when the only translation for *shoppingbag* is the hybrid *shoppingveske*. Wouldn't *handveske* or *innkjøpsveske* be more consistent?

The dictionary has a good transcription of pronunciation of the English words. Kirkeby uses an IPA-based phonetic transcript of the English words that Norwegians ideally ought to have learned in school. In spite of the fact that a study has shown that the actual understanding of IPA is not as good as teachers of English like to believe, there is no alternative.

The lay-out makes the dictionary very easy to use. Entry words and compounds or derivations are in bold face, indications of grammatical category and information on the currency of the words/expressions are in italics. Compared to other dictionaries there is extensive labelling of stylistic level of words/expressions, undoubtedly very useful for Norwegian students of English.

The dictionary has a bilingual preface and obviously aims at English-speaking users as well as Norwegians. One could only imagine how useful it would have been for British/American students of Norwegian if the gender of nouns or the verb ending in the past tense had been indicated along with the most important Norwegian translations. Ironically, several of the smaller English-Norwegian dictionaries do give noun genders in Norwegian. With Kirkeby's dictionary an English-speaking student who wants to write in Norwegian will still have to have at hand a Norwegian or Norwegian-English dictionary.

Arne Kruse