

Headwords in *Macmillan English Dictionary for  
Advanced Learners* and *Macmillan English  
Dictionary for Advanced Learners of American English*

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In this paper headwords or entered lemmata and their presentation in *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (henceforth to be abbreviated as *MED-B*) and *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners of American English* (henceforth *MED-A*), both published in 2002, are discussed. *MED-A* and *MED-B* are what may be called 'twin dictionaries,' that is, the two different versions of an EFL dictionary (which is to be referred to as *MED* henceforth) from Macmillan, that features American and British varieties of the language respectively. Thus a user of *MED-A* will find *bobble hat* and *knickerbocker glory* (both found in a novel *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*) unlisted as headwords in the dictionary that s/he consults. The difference of coverage and treatment of lemmata as headwords between the two dictionaries as well as between *MED* and some other acknowledged EFL dictionaries are reviewed here.

### 1. Total number of headwords and 'references'

*MED* boasts in its cover blurb of 'over 100,000 references with 30,000 idioms and phrases.' However, we are always puzzled by the word 'reference' used in this way, wondering to exactly what extent it refers to. In Dohi *et al.* (2002, p. 7) a similar question was raised, and they estimated that the total number of main entry of *LAAD* to be around 43,000, about half the claimed number of 'words and phrases' supposed to be included in the dictionary. The present author made a research in the same vein in five EFL dictionaries, although of a little more limited scale (i.e. in smaller

number of sample pages surveyed) in each dictionary. The result is shown in Table 1. The items counted are basically those presented in boldface in the sample pages of every 100 page (page 1, 101, 201, ...) in each dictionary. Then the number of items presented in each dictionary is estimated by multiplying the collected item count by the number of A-Z pages in the dictionary and then dividing the result by the number of sample pages surveyed (in the case of *MED-A* main headwords,  $478 \times 2110 : 21$ ), which may give us some rough idea of the entry count in each dictionary. Here we should bear in mind that it is not always arguable that the more items a dictionary presents, the better, since as the number of items treated increases, the information per item typically decreases, if they are to be presented in the same limited space available in the printed dictionary.

What this count may tell us is that its claim of being 'the new learners' dictionary with more entries than any other,' (blurb on the back cover of *MED*) may be true. *MED-B* has more number of main headwords (i.e. more number of entries) than its Oxford and Longman counterparts. *MED-A* may have less entries than *MED-B*, but it is still comparable in its count to Longman dictionaries. (In this count, *LDOCE3* entry count may have been underestimated, as among our 16 sample pages very large entries (*far*, *serve*, *service*, *stand* and *thing*) happened to fall on four of them, which led to the number of main headwords in these four pages being only 2, 4, 0 and 2 respectively.) Comparing the five dictionaries, *OALD6* seems to have smaller number of larger entries than Macmillan and Longman dictionaries, with phrasal verbs incorporated in main entries as run-ons and perhaps more alternative expressions explicitly shown in the entries. The total number of 'references' shown may be the largest in Longman dictionaries, especially in *LDOCE3*, with apparently more idiomatic expressions and collocations presented in boldface among definitions and verbal illustrations. In terms of the number of 'references,' our calculation still stays some distance below the number (100,000) claimed by *MED*, even if all those items in boldface, counted and estimated in the Table 1, are to be included. *MED*'s tally may also include items given in usage notes and something else.

Table 1 Estimated number of 'references' in the five dictionaries

Dictionary		headwords	phrasal verbs	alternative expressions	inflections	derivatives	idioms	others	TOTAL
<i>MED-A</i>	item count	478	7	8	7	48	47	145	740
	estimated no.	48,028	703	804	703	4,823	4,722	14,569	74,352
<i>MED-B</i>	item count	507	8	12	9	46	80	146	808
	estimated no.	53,077	838	1,256	942	4,816	8,375	15,284	84,588
<i>OALD6</i>	item count	326	35	53	40	46	103	149	752
	estimated no.	32,774	3,519	5,328	4,021	4,625	10,355	14,979	75,601
<i>LAAD</i>	item count	468	22	17	32	83	77	150	849
	estimated no.	49,199	2,313	1,787	3,364	8,725	8,095	15,769	89,251
<i>LDOCE3</i>	item count	423	16	26	37	60	174	183	919
	estimated no.	44,098	1,668	2,711	3,857	6,255	18,140	19,078	95,806

Notes: item count = the number of items found in the sample pages

estimated no. = estimated total number of items given in the specified dictionary

alternative expressions = variants shown as the second headword(s) and items given after 'also . . .'

inflections = plural forms of nouns, comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and verb declensions

derivatives = nominal, adverbial and other lexical items related to the headwords, listed at the end of each entry, normally without definitions but sometimes with an illustrative phrase or sentence

others = other items presented in boldface, such as collocations.

## 2. 'Numbers that are entries'

*MED* presents 'numbers that are entries' immediately before the A-Z text of the dictionary, a practice also found in its predecessor, *OALD6*, which lists 16 items. *MED-A* and *MED-B* both records 37 items. All but one each are common to both versions. Unique to *MED-A* is *1040 form*, a US tax calculation form, while the lexical item *the 1922 Committee*, which denotes a certain group of people in the British parliament, can be found only in *MED-B*. Other items are rather international, denoting items on both sides of the Atlantic as well as those used in Australia. Interestingly, these lists include a number of new phonetic representations used in e-mails and text messages such as 1, 2, 4 and 8 (as in *NE1 (anyone)*, *B4 (before)* and *GR8 (great)*). We can find more in A-Z text as well (R for *are*

and U for *you*). They may well all be listed and explained at one place. (Incidentally, even some specialized dictionaries for these text message languages are published!) Listing numeric items at one and the same place is surmised to be very helpful to the user, as it may not only eliminate the user's uncertainty as to where to find them, but allow them to compare related items such as text message expressions, culture-specific emergency phone numbers, and grading numbers. (2.1 and 2.2 are listed in *MED* by the way, but why are 1 and 3 on the same grading scale not explained?)

## 3. Frequency rating

Headwords in *MED* are listed in two colors, red and black. The dictionary classifies the headwords into four levels, according to their frequency. We find the following explanation in 'Using your dictionary in *MED* (p. xii in *MED-B* and p. xiii in *MED-A*).

Some words are printed in red with a star rating to show their frequency. For example, a word with one star is fairly common and a word with three stars is one of the most basic words in English. This helps you to identify the words that you are most likely to need.

The dictionaries (*MED-A* and *MED-B*) themselves do not give any information on what frequency levels of headwords these stars stand for, but the Japanese user's guide in the form of a booklet attached to *MED-A* describes it as follows (translated from the original Japanese by the present author):

- The most basic 2000 words (★★★) — words that are universally used in every type of spoken and written English
- Basic 3000 words (★★) — words that are of somewhat lower frequency, used commonly in a little more specialized fields.
- Quasi-basic 2500 words (★) — words that are often used in specialized fields such as economics and politics.

The adequacy of explanations here (especially the arguments about 'specializedness') aside, the guidebook tells us that headwords that have a star or stars are among the 7500 basic words in English and the thresholds are 2000, 5000 and 7500 respectively.

What attracted the present author's interest was the difference of numbers of stars (i.e. frequency rating) in the two editions of *MED*. The entries *cellphone* and *subway* have two stars in *MED-A*, but no stars in *MED*. On the other hand, *lift* (n.) and *mobile phone* have two marks in *MED-B*, but only one in its American counterpart. In the case of *flat* (n.), the British version is awarded with three, while its American peer has none. All the starred entries from A through to D are surveyed, and the differences of star rating are picked up. There were 745 entries that have any (i.e. one to three) stars in the sections A-D. Among them, 53 items (7.1%) have different numbers of stars between *MED-A* and *MED-B*. The following is the details:

Table 2 Difference of frequency rating by stars between *MED-A* and *MED-B*

Diff. (B-A)	Stars in <i>MED-B</i>	Stars in <i>MED-A</i>	Headwords
2	2	0	caravan, cottage, cricket, cupboard, disc
	3	1	countryside
1	1	0	accelerator, accordingly, cooker, cookery, coroner, correlation, crisp 3 (n.), crown 2 (v.), CV, cyclist, daft, day care, district attorney, dole, downwards
	2	1	abolish, absent, carve, castle, corridor, councilor, deed, directive
	3	2	absence, crown 1 (n.)
-1	0	1	accountable, caretaker, courtroom, cowboy, cute, the death penalty, den, dime, downgrade, downtown 1 (adj., adv.), downward 2 (adv.)
	1	2	abuse 2 (v.), accomplish, cart 1 (n.), counsel(l)or, dessert
	2	3	abuse 1 (n.), accurate, corn, dollar
-2	0	2	accommodations, cookie

Diff. (B-A) = difference of number(s) of stars in *MED-B* and *MED-A* (star(s) in the former minus star(s) in the latter)

Here positive difference figures (2 and 1) denote that the British version of the dictionary regards the given word more frequently used or more important, and negative difference figures (-1 and -2) imply the other way round. Some of the differences are self-explanatory and may be called cultural or institutional: *cricket*, *crown*, *castle*, *cowboy*, *dime* and *dollar*. Some others stem from the linguistic differences between the two varieties, in terms of spelling or expression itself: *disc* (as in *computer discs* and as opposed to *disk*), *downwards* vs. *downward*, *accommodations* (vs. *accommo-*

*dation*), *CV* (vs. *résumé*) and *cookie* (vs. *biscuit*). Still others are quite interesting: we are reminded of the slight dissimilarities of British and American lifestyles (or what each nation may be more interested in, discuss more or attach greater importance to): *cottage* (+2), *countryside* (+1), *courtroom* (-1), *death penalty* (-1) and *dessert* (-1). (We know that Americans cannot live without the last item!) This cultural-linguistic difference probably brought to light by fairly proportionate sets of corpora count intrigues us when we find another convincing instance: the entry *tea* has two stars in *MED-A* but three in *MED-B*.

We must note that these facts can at present only be noticed in the dictionary by comparing the number of British and American frequency stars in the two volumes. Producing twin dictionaries featuring the two major varieties of English has a good didactic rationale. Thus a student can focus on either of them and eventually acquire a fairly coherent language. However, it may be a good idea to present American and British ratings (in different order, perhaps, in the two dictionaries) at once when the judgment on both sides of the Atlantic differs, as *LDOCE3* does about spoken and written language frequency markings. If it is achieved, the users, students and teachers alike, will get very inspiring information as to linguistic and cultural inclination of American and British varieties and undoubtedly get a better understanding of the language.

#### 4. International regionalisms

*MED*, as other EFL dictionaries do, includes a number of lexical items whose use is somewhat limited to a specific English-speaking country or region, which are marked with regionality labels. Thanks to the electronic (CD-ROM) versions of the dictionary, using so-called 'SmartSearch,' it was quite easy to know which and how many items are identified by *MED* as expressions related to a certain geographical area. The following is all the regionality labels and their (representative or complete) instances.

Table 3 Items with regionalism labels in *MED*

Labels	Count in <i>MED-A</i>	Count in <i>MED-B</i>	Instances (C: items common in <i>MED-A</i> and <i>MED-B</i> , A: items only found in <i>MED-A</i> , B: items only found in <i>MED-B</i> ) Four dots after the last instance denote the category being still open. Figures in brackets are the numbers of instances.
AmE (American English)	1491	814	C: accommodations, advisory 2 (n.), airplane, alternate 3 (n.), anchorman, anchorwoman, anesthesiologist, antitrust, anyplace, anyways, APB, artsy, arugula, asshole, auto 2 (n.), automaker, aw, . . . . A: absent 3 (prep.), acclimate, ace 2 (v.), adjunct 2 (adj.), alkaloid 2 (adj.), alum, antsy, Arabian horse, ashcan, aught 1 (n.), . . . . B: afterward, alimony, . . . .
mainly AmE	—	376	B: advisor, alumna, alumnus, amigo, Anglo 2 (adj.), apeshit, archeological, archeologist, archeology, attorney, auto1 (adj.), automobile 1 (adj.), . . . .
BrE (British English)	977	2148	C: A&E, abattoir, abseil, advert, aerial 2 (n.), aerodrome, aeroplane, AGM, anorak, antenatal, AOB, arse, arshole, articulated, articulated, assistant 1 (n.), aubergine, Autocue, aye 2 (int.), . . . . A: Alsatian, arty, . . . . B: abseiling, accumulator, afters, agro, agriculturalist, airer, Akela, alcopop, almoner, Anglepoise, answerphone, anti 2 (n.), anticlockwise, antirrhinum, Apex, ArmaLite, aspirational, atishoo, audiotypist, . . . .
Mainly BrE	242	—	admin 1 (n.), afterwards, autumn, backcomb, backstreet 2 (adj.), batten 2 (n.), bicarb, bitter 2 (n.), blarney, boarding, bookshop, bother 2 (n.), branded, . . . .
Australian	74	85	C (72): Abo, bunyip, bushwalker, g'day, . . . . A (2): walkabout, wowsler B (13): broadacre, Bullamakanka, cobber, doona, ocker, pommy, the Alice, Buckley's chance, the First Fleet, Hills Hoist, penalty rates, Rafferty's rules, Woop Woop.
Canadian	7	4	C (3): chequing account, joe job, treaty Indian, water-bomber A (4): cabbagetown, First Nation, Hudson's Bay blanket, joe job
Indian English	43	70	C (43): achacha, crore, Dalit, devi, dhobi, dupatta, ghat, goonda, gur, Harijan, howdah, jungli, kameez, khichri, lassi, lathi, lungi, maidan, mali, landir, memsahib, namaste, nawab, nullah, paan, pandit, roti, sahib, salwar, Sardar, shalwar, shikar, shikara, shikari, Shri, Sri, tiffin, Ustad, wah, wallah, cycle rickshaw, scheduled castes, tiffin carrier. B (27): baba, Baba, babu, badmash, bania, begum, Bhagwan, bhai, brinjal, burra, chota, chowkidar, chummi, chup, dewan, dhobi, feringhee, godown, izzat, jangli, Jawan, punkah, seth, shabash.
Irish	1	4	C (1): colleen; B (3): craic, lough, shebeen
New Zealand	3	3	C (3): pakeha, scroggin, wahine
Scottish	17	23	C (17): bairn, bannock, bonny, brae, dram, ken 2 (v.), kirk, laddie, laird, lass, lassie, loch, och, skirl, wean 2 (n.), wee 1 (a.), first footing B (6): ben, bothy, braw, burgh, pawky, Sassenach
South African	31	39	C (29): dorp, eina, howzit, jol 2 (v.), kaffir, kaross, knobkierie, kop, kraal, lekker, ouma, oupa, platteland, sangoma, spaza, stoep, stompie, stopstreet, tackie, technikon, tsamma, tsotsi, ubuntu, veldt, verkrampste, verligte, vlei, volk, voorkamer

			A (2): Coloured 1 (adj.), Coloured 2 (n.) B (10): Baas, bakkie, biltong, bioscope, dagga, fundi, gogga, lobola, mealie, bitter-ender.
West African	5	6	C (5): griot, mallam, pickin, old talk, storey house B (1): been-to

*MED-A* contains about 25% (1.25 times) more items labeled 'American' than *MED-B* ('*AmE*' and '*mainly AmE*' combined), while Britishisms in *MED-B* are approximately 76% (1.76 times) more copious than those in its American counterpart ('*BrE*' and '*mainly BrE*' combined). Many Americanisms treated in *MED-A* are not listed in the British version of the dictionary in the first place, while most of the 'mainly American' items in *MED-A* are also found in *MED-B*. The same is true about Britishisms in *MED-A*. This means that, although there may be the fact that expressions originated in the United States are now more commonly used in Britain than Britishisms are used in America, information given on British expressions in *MED-B* (or in *MED*, for that matter) excels in amount than that on Americanisms in *MED-A* (i.e. in *MED*). Whether the result may partly due to the fact that *MED* (*MED-A* as well as *MED-B*) is basically a British product (the British publisher, British leading editors, etc.) is uncertain. Thus it is arguable (considering other facts claimed below as well) whether *MED-A* and *MED-B* are totally parallel twin dictionaries.

*MED-A* has more Canadian English items than *MED-B*, and an equal number of New Zealand English expressions, but when it comes to items peculiar to other varieties of English, *MED-B* has more to say than *MED-A*, though in a few cases only *MED-A* mentions the region-specific items (*walkabout* and *wowsler* in Australian English and *Coloured* (adjective and noun) in South African English). Among the international varieties of English other than the major two, Australian and Indian entries are notably large in number both in *MED-A* and *MED-B*, followed by the South African ones. The number of Indian variety cited is especially conspicuous. In fact it is questionable if EFL learners around the world immediately need all of this Indian word stock, except people in and from the Indian subcontinent. If such components should be included, expres-

sions from other English-speaking countries such as Singapore and West Indies should also be referred to in the dictionary, as well as more items spoken within the British Isles (Irish, Scottish, Welsh and other varieties of 'British' English). *MED*'s approach is rather unique and appears quite international, but treatment of varieties other than British and American may need a little more balance or may need some discussion on the criteria as to how far and from what varieties they should select items to include, if they are treated in the dictionary at all.

### 5. Items related to specific countries

English is a very international tool of communication and it incorporates in itself many expressions of foreign origin. Thanks again to the SmartSearch, it was possible to obtain following figures concerning the items related to some extent to a specific country or region. What was done is search for headwords whose definitions contain either the name of the country or its adjectival form (in the case of Japan, *Japan* and *Japanese*) and have the SmartSearch look through the definitions in the whole A-Z (plus numbers at the beginning) text of the dictionary. The result obtained is the items that have in some way to do with the specific nation or culture.

Table 4 Items related to specific countries

Countries concerned	Count in MED-A	Count in MED-B	Instances (C: items common in <i>MED-A</i> and <i>MED-B</i> , A: items only found in <i>MED-A</i> , B: items only found in <i>MED-B</i> ) Four dots after the last instance denote the category being still open. Figures in brackets are the numbers of instances.
Japan/Japanese	52	52	(C only) anime, the Axis, bullet train, capsule hotel, diet 1 (n.), the East, the Far East, the G8, gaijin, geisha, go 2 (n.), green tea, haiku, harakiri, ideogram, Japanese 1 (n.), Japanese 2 (adj.), Japlish, Kanji, karate, katakana, kimono, manga, meishi, the Nikkei index, ninja, the Orient, oriental 1 (adj.), oriental 2 (n.), origami, pachinko, Pearl Harbor, reserve currency, sake 2 (n.), salaryman, samurai, sashimi, sayonara, shiatsu, Shinto, shogun, on British/US/Japanese etc soil, sumo, sushi, tempura, V-J Day, wasabi, yen, Zen
China/Chinese	53	53	C: acupressure, acupuncture, alligator, bamboo shoots, Cantonese, china, Chinatown, Chinese 1 (n.), Chinese 2 (adj.), Chink, chow, chow mein, coolie, the East, be of Chinese/German etc. extraction, the Far East, feng shui, fortune cookie, green tea, gweilo, the I Ching, ideogram, junk 1 (n.), kung fu,

			lychee, mandarin, Mandarin, Maoism, the Orient, oriental 1 (adj.), oriental 2 (n.), panda, red packet, Sino-, spring roll, t'ai chi, taipan, Taoism, tone language, triad, wok, yang, yin, yin and yang, yuan A: bok choy, egg roll, mah-jong (g) B: chop suey, mahjong, pak choi
Korea/Korean	2	2	(C only:) tiger economy, the Unification Church
Thailand/Thai	2	2	(C only:) Thai 1 (n.), Thai 2 (adj.)
India/Indian	69	78	C: Anglo-Indian, Ayurvedic medicine, bhangra, Bollywood, chief minister, coolie, culpable homicide, curry 1 (n.), dhal, dharma, ghat, ghee, gibbon, Hindi, . . . . B: bhaji, biriani, Bombay mix, chapati, dewan, dhurrie, foreign-returned, garam masala, Jawan
France/French	83	83	C: Armagnac, the Axis, baccalaureate, baguette, Beaujolais, Bordeaux, brasserie, brioche, burgundy 1 (n.), Cajun 1 (n.), Camembert, Canuck, cedilla, Chablis, champagne, the Channel, the Channel Tunnel, chateau, the Chunnel, circumflex, claret 1 (n.), cognac, commune 1 (n.), coq au vin, Creole 1 (n.), D-Day, . . . . A: concierge, French fries, the Louisiana Purchase, St. Tropez B: au revoir, chip 1 (n.), French stick, gîte, le Shuttle
Germany/German	38	41	C: allied, ally 1 (n.), the Axis, the Battle of Britain, the Berlin Wall, chancellor, Deutschmark, the Eastern bloc, be of Chinese/German etc. extraction, fascism, fatherland, the G8, German 1 (n.), German 2 (adj.), Germanic, German measles, hock, the Holocaust, Jerry, Kraut, Lutheran, mark 1 (n.), Mata Hari, Nazi 1 (n.), Normandy Landings, sauerkraut, Saxon, schnapps, the SS, Teutonic, Treaty of Versailles, U-Boat, umlaut A: G.D.R., German shepherd B: the Boche, false friend, GDR, Pils, swastika
Italy/Italian	31	32	C: antipasto, Asti, the Axis, bruschetta, Chianti, dago, fascism, the G8, Gorgonzola, Indo-European, Italianate, Latin 1 (n.), lira, Mafia, mnistrone, mozzarella, Parmesan, pasta, pepperoni, piazza, polenta, prosciutto, Romance language, spaghetti western, tarantella, trattoria, troubadour, wop A: lasagna, Stradivarius B: Blackshirt, ciabatta, lasagne
Russia/Russian	23	23	C: balalaika, blini, cosmonaut, Cyrillic, dacha, the Eastern bloc, the G7, the G8, icon, Indo-European, the Kremlin, pogrom, the Sami, samovar, Slavic, the steppes, troika, the USSR, vodka, War and Peace A: czar, czarina, ruble B: rouble, tsar, tsarina
Mexico/Mexican	42	35	C: bullfight, burrito, Chicana, Chicano, chilli, enchilada, fajita, guacamole, the Gulf, the Gulf Stream, jalapeno, Latina, Latin American 1 (adj.), Latin American (n.), Latino, mariachi, Mexican 1 (n.), Mexican 2 (adj.), nachos, peyote, pueblo, refried beans, salsa, sidewinder, sisal, sombrero, taco, tarnale,

			tequila, Tex-Mex, tortilla, wetback A: cilantro, colonia, hacienda, maquiladora, NM, N.Mex., Tejano
Brazil/Brazilian	4	4	(C only:) bossa nova, lambada, Portuguese 1 (n.), samba
Cuba/Cuban	3	3	(C only:) Havana, mambo, rumba

Regrettably, items that are supposedly related to Britain, the United States, Australia and other English-speaking countries could not be extracted, because the SmartSearch cannot distinguish words used in labels and those used in definitions. 52 Japan-related items were found, which are about the same number as those related to China. It happens that in the case of Japanese items, there is no difference between those cited in *MED-A* and *MED-B*. They refer to world-famous or curious aspects of Japanese culture, customs and technology (*anime, bullet train, capsule hotel, go<sup>2</sup>, haiku, karate, kimono, manga, meishi, origami, pachinko, shiatsu, Shinto, sumo* and *Zen*), history and tradition (*geisha, harakiri, kimono, ninja, samurai* and *shogun*), food and drink (*green tea, sake<sup>2</sup>, sashimi, sushi, tempura* and *wasabi*), geography and history (*the Axis, the East, the Far East, the Orient, oriental, Pearl Harbor, V-J Day*), economy (*the G8, the Nikkei Index, reserve currency, yen*) and language (*ideogram, Japlish, Kanji, katakana*). An instance of 'Japlish' is also cited: *salaryman*, but now that it is included in an EFL dictionary, it may not be 'Japlish' any more. A term denoting a foreigner in Japan, 'gaijin,' is also cited, but its definition does not refer to the derogatory or alienating connotation that is attached to the use of the word in Japan.

In the case of China-related words, somehow *chop suey* is found only in *MED-B* and *egg roll* exclusively in *MED-A* (difference of food preference on both sides of the Atlantic?), and expression or spelling variety between British and American English (*pak choi* and *mahjong* in *MED-B* as opposed to *bok choy* and *mah-jong(g)* in *MED-A*) are noticed. Among Asian countries, India seems to have the most influence upon the English language, and understandably the British version has more Indian items than its American counterpart. Lexical items related to other Asian nations in the dictionary appear rather fairly small in number.

Among European countries, France seems to have exported the largest number of terms that made their way into the English language.<sup>1)</sup> SmartSearch for items related to several other European countries produced the following result (numbers are items in *MED-A* and *MED-B* respectively): Britain<sup>2)</sup> (29/33), England (73/121), Scotland (33/50), Wales/Welsh (20/40), Ireland (31/47), Spain/Spanish (48/49), Portugal/Portuguese (13/13), Netherlands/Holland/Dutch (17/17), Switzerland/Swiss (9/8), Poland/Polish (10/9). The entry counts of Ireland, Britain and its component 'countries' are definitely larger in *MED-B* than in *MED-A*, but for other European countries, the numbers are often nearly the same in *MED-A* and *MED-B*. However, in each case a number of items are only found in either version, presumably reflecting the difference of interest or language use on both sides of the Atlantic.

As for countries in the 'New World,' the figures besides the one listed above are as follows: the United States (634/513), Canada (40/34), Australia (75/87) and New Zealand (17/17) (For Mexican, Cuban and Brazilian entries, instances are cited to provide the idea as to what items are actually entered). Naturally in the case of American neighbors, Canada and Mexico, *MED-A* has more items than *MED-B*.

*MED*'s entries thus appear very international, reflecting the increasing globalization of the world community and the increasing number of foreign words and things expressed in the English language accordingly.

## 6. Treatment of other lexical and encyclopedic items

To get an overall vision of *MED*'s entry selection, a selective comparison in the selected common sample parts (see p. 258) is made between the two versions of *MED*, *LDOCE3* and *OALD6*. The following is some of the results obtained:

Table 5 Comparison of 5 editions: items not common in all the five dictionaries (out of 390 headwords in total)

Items found (only) in	Count	Instances found
<i>MED-A</i> (MA)	3	the Boston Pops, conversion kick, go-carting

<i>MED-B</i> (MB)	8	botch-up* <sup>1</sup> , endeavor* <sup>1</sup> , godown, the God slot, gogga, ISA, mobilise, modeled, specialised
MA + MB	20	the Boston Tea Party, bot, botched, botox, endoscopy, God Save the Queen, God's gift, ISO 1, ISO 2, pilau rice, pillow slip, -rich, ridden 1 (v.), ridden 2 (adj.), spec 2 (adj.), the Special Olympics, specialise, species barrier, speciesism, tracker fund
<i>LAAD</i> (LA)	35	borscht, borscht belt, Hieronymus Bosch, Bosnia, Bosphorus, Boston, James Boswell, bothered, Botswana, Sandro Botticelli, end table, endangered, endocrine, endpoint, Jean-Luc Godard, godhood, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, John Irving, Washington Irving, Isaiah, Isis, mock turtle, Pilgrim Fathers, King Richard I, King Richard III, Cardinal Richelieu, Richmond, Baron von Richthofen, Hyman Rickover, rick-rack, ricotta, Special Olympics International, track lighting
<i>LDOCE3</i> (LB)	3	botheration (interjection), mock turtleneck, track layer
LA + LB	2	bosh, endue, special forces
<i>OALD6</i> (Ox)	10	Boston baked beans, bothy, conversion van, irritable bowel syndrome, Is., model home, modeler, trackless trolley, trad, tradable
MA + LA* <sup>2</sup>	0	—
MB + LB + Ox* <sup>3</sup>	12	borstal, bother 3 (interjection), endowment policy, mock 3 (n.), mod cons, the MOD, pillar box, pillock, rick 1 (v.), Special Branch, special constable, special license
LB + Ox	3	-isation, irruption, tracker dog
MB + LB	4	boss-eyed, bossy-boots, the God slot, mockers
MB + Ox	3	convenor, energise, endowment mortgage
All but Ox	17	borrowing power(s), bosomy, bosun, convent school, conversation piece, end game, endocrine grand, endwise/endways, the God squad, goddammit, Godspeed, mock-, riboflavin, rice paper, special interest group, track meet, trackball
All but LA	5	gobsmacked, -ise, mod, modeling, pilchard, specialism, speciality, tracksuit
All but LB	3	the Richter Scale, tracker, tractor-trailer
All but MA	0	—
All but MB	0	—

\*1 Empty headword referring to some other entries.

\*2 Dictionaries featuring American English

\*3 Dictionaries presumed to be based on British English

Table 6 Comparison of two versions of *MED*: Items found only in either *MED-A* or *MED-B*

	Category (or the label(s) attached to the item)	Count	Instances
<i>MED-A</i> only (4)	US Orchestra	1	the Boston Pops
	American football term	1	conversion kick
	AmE (American English)	1	tract house
	other	1	go-carting
<i>MED-B</i> only (28)	BrE (British English)*	2	bother 3 (interjection), rick 1 (v.)
	old British term	1	borstal
	BrE old-fashioned*	1	pillar box
	BrE informal*	6	boss-eyed, bossy-boots, the God slot, the goggle box, mockers
	informal	2	botch-up (hyphenated), mock 3 (n.)
	British spelling	4	convenor, energise, mobilise, specialised
	American spelling	2	endeavor, modeled
	UK system or institution	7	endowment mortgage, endowment policy, ISA, the MOD, Special Branch, special license, special institution
	Indian English	1	godown
	South African English	1	gogga

\* Includes items that are marked as BrE not in *MED* but in one or more of *OALD6*, *LDOCE3* or *LAAD*

There are three items in the sample pages that are only found in *MED-A*. One is a name of an American orchestra (*the Boston Pops*), and another is a term used in American football (*conversion kick*). *MED-B* has eight unique terms. Among them were one British spelling (*specialised*), two American spellings (*endeavor and modeled*), an Indian and a South African term (*godown and gogga*), British informal expression (*the God slot*) and the abbreviation of a British tax-free account (*ISA*). Table 6 reveals further characteristics of the two versions of *MED*. *MED-A* lacks certain British lexical items, especially those which are limited in terms of register (old-fashioned, informal, etc.), British terms of social systems and names of institution, and English words used exclusively in former British colonies in the Old World. There are definitely more items unique to *MED-B* as opposed to *MED-A*. It seems that *MED-A* was produced by omitting

items less relevant to a life in the United States from *MED-B* and adding some essentially American terms to it, but the added American elements were not as much and the resultant dictionary apparently does not abound in stylistically limited information such as informalities used especially in the United States. Presupposing that the present author's estimation made in 3.1. is not far off the mark, this may have lead to the difference of headword count in *MED-A* and *MED-B*.

The items exclusively found in *MED* (both in *MED-A* and *MED-B*) and not in other three dictionaries mainly consist of some encyclopedic items (*the Boston Tea Party*, *God Save the Queen*, *ISO<sup>2</sup>*, *the Special Olympics*, etc), and terms used in rather limited subject or specialist field (*botox*, *endoscopy*, *species barrier* and *tracker fund*).

Out of the 35 expressions uniquely entered in *LAAD*, more than half are proper nouns, including 12 personal names (*Isis* and *Pilgrim Fathers* excluded) and 6 placenames. *LAAD* is one of the most helpful dictionaries not only with its American English, but with these outstanding numbers of encyclopedic information including proper nouns. *MED* is another dictionary with encyclopedic nature, both in its American and British editions, but it does not include any proper nouns (personal or geographical names). What it deals with is the names of institutions, the titles of books, songs, etc (e.g. *War and Peace*, *the New Testament*, *Auld Lang Syne* and *God Save the Queen*) and a great number of items of foreign origin including foods, customs, and so on (which we have seen in Section 4), many of which, including the titles, are not found in *LAAD*. Incidentally, we have more 'encyclopedic' dictionary than *LAAD* on the market (such as *Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture*, 2nd edition, *LDEL2*) and if an EFL dictionary should include a 'practical' or 'satisfactory' number of encyclopedic items on top of so-called lexical items, the volume would exceed bounds if it were published in book form, so how far should an EFL dictionary be 'encyclopedic' is a topic that must await further discussion. But it may have to be concluded that neither *LAAD* nor *LDEL2* is as sufficiently or 'comprehensively' encyclopedic as it may appear, enough to meet the ever-changing reference needs of the user. A small additional survey, whose result is shown in Table 7 below may

support the argument.

Items that are unique to *OALD* include a number of American terms (*Boston baked beans*, *conversion ban*, *model home* and *trackless trolley*), which is rather unexpected and welcome, and some other expressions of limited register or field (*bothy*, *irritable bowel syndrome*, *trad* and *tradable*).

### 7. Twin dictionaries and vocabulary in an EFL dictionary

Presumably thanks to the use of large-scale corpora of both British and American English, the lexical items entered in recent EFL dictionaries seem to have become more and more balanced and look quite 'objective'. The more things become objective, however, the more they look like each other. But all the four or five EFL dictionaries surveyed in this section have a very good balance of 'objectiveness' in the majority of the lemmata entered as well as 'uniqueness' of including a smaller numbers of items that their rivals do not have. In the case of *MED*, they are encyclopedic items of popular or well-known book and song titles, and some names of

Table 7 Whether some place names, personal names and titles can be found as headwords

	<i>LDEL2</i>	<i>LAAD</i>	<i>MED-A/B</i>
Tokyo	+	+	-
Osaka	+	-	-
Hiroshima	+	-	-
Nagasaki	+	-	-
Kyushu	+	-	-
Honshu	+	-	-
Shikoku	+	-	-
Okinawa	+	-	-
Hirohito	+	+	-
the Beatles	+	+	-
Elton John	+	-	-
Steven Spielberg	+	+	-

+ = entered, - = not entered; *LDOCE3* and *OALD6*, too, were negative in all these items.



American and British groups, institutions and systems.

However, granted that *MED*'s most outstanding feature is being a twin dictionary, with a majority of 'commonness' and a little bit of 'uniqueness' in its two versions representing the two major varieties of the English language, we now get back to the basic question of whether we really need two separate versions of the dictionary in terms of words to be listed (i.e. headwords) in the dictionary.

Maybe for active or productive use, it would be better to have a definite model conforming to either of the major varieties of the English language. In this sense, existence of two versions of *MED* is quite relevant, as the user will be able to acquire one consistent standard of the English language by owning and using one of them. As for the interpretive use of an EFL dictionary, however, the user cannot tell whether the language they may encounter and need to interpret is American, British, or in fact any other variety of English. Each version of *MED* features either American or British English, and lacks some lexical items as headwords which are present in the other version of the dictionary. For instance, *MED-A* not only lacks some British lexical items, but also many other words used in other English-speaking countries, and *MED-B* misses a great number of American terms that Japanese users may encounter in their day-to-day study of English.

Even for productive use, it might be a good idea (maybe in addition to putting two separate versions on the market) to produce one comprehensive 'international' edition of the dictionary, making the difference of British and American 'Englishes' totally clear in the dictionary. (Also, the frequency comparison as was suggested at the end of Section 3. above, if realized in the integrated 'international' version, will be of great help and interest to the more 'advanced' learners of English as well as teachers of English who professionally should and would like to know the features of the two major varieties of the language. Perhaps it would be easier to produce an international version on CD-ROM than on the book-form paper dictionary, as the space available is not so limited on the former.

It is quite regrettable that in Japan, one of the largest EFL markets in the world, only the American version, which, as was found in this survey,

does not really have the same or comparable amount of information as its British counterpart, is on the Japanese market. (Normally we have to order the British version from an overseas bookstore.) It is true that in Japan, which has by far the closer relationship with the United States than with the United Kingdom, the pedagogical scenes are predominated by American English, but there are a smaller but substantial number of Japanese learners who are eager to acquire the time-'honoured' British English for various reasons. After all, Japanese ardent admirers of David Beckham (who is very popular in the country) will be disappointed if they know they cannot write their fan mail in the language that their superhero speaks only by using the available version of this quite appealing dictionary.

## NOTES

- 1) Incidentally, most of the Italian entries in *MED* can be served onto a dining table.
- 2) English-speaking countries cannot be searched with its adjectival form, as SmartSearch cannot distinguish the linguistic regionality label (e.g. 'Scottish' (English)) and the same word in the definition.

## DICTIONARIES

- LAAD*: *Longman Advanced American Dictionary*. Harlow: Pearson Education, 2000.
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## Phonetic Notation Systems in *Macmillan English Dictionary*

YOKO UCHIDA

### 1. Introduction

One of the major innovations by *Macmillan English Dictionary* is the creation of two editions targeting two separate audiences: learners of British English and those of American English. (The British and American editions are hereafter referred to as *MED-B* and *MED-A* respectively.) Based on the same database, the content in each edition has been tailored in such a way as to best meet the needs of the learners of respective varieties, so that "a user of either edition will know that the dictionary was specially written for her or him" (p. x). Accordingly, each edition follows the convention of the variety, such as in the styles of spelling and punctuation. Also, example sentences for an identical entry word may differ between the two when the editors find it necessary. This attitude is basically no different in the treatment of pronunciation.

A two-page pronunciation guide at the end of the volume has a list of vowel and consonant symbols "based on the International Phonetic Alphabet" (*MED-B*: p. 1692; *MED-A*: p. 1658). This is followed by succinct explanations on stress, alternative pronunciations, weak forms and strong forms, syllabic consonants, the symbol /ə/, and nasalized vowels.

Comparison of the vowel symbols listed in the two editions reveals a regrettable shortcoming, its unique enterprise notwithstanding. Great care is necessary in selecting vowel symbols for an English biletal dictionary, or rather, "twin dictionaries" in this case, since the number of vowels in English is quite large even within one variety and can be difficult for the users to fully comprehend, and moreover, dialectal variations notable in