The lexicography of Scots

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Abstract

The chapter begins with a summary account of the Scots language and its vocabulary, before continuing with a history of lexicographical activity in Scots. Lexicons of Scots have been published since the end of the sixteenth century. In the eighteenth century, Scots lexicography developed its essentially descriptive nature, to gloss editions of medieval texts and new works by vernacular poets, as well as to record and preserve a language that was increasingly being eroded. The nineteenth century saw the publication of John Jamieson's *Etymological Dictionary*, now recognized as a key work in the development of lexicography on historical principles. This legacy was continued by the compilation, throughout the twentieth century, of the two major historical dictionaries of Scots, the *Scottish National Dictionary* (SND) and the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (DOST). The present century has seen a number of digital initiatives in Scots lexicography: the digitization of SND and DOST to form the composite Dictionary of the Scots Language/Dictionar o the Scots Leid

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(DSL) and the creation of electronic corpora of both Older and Modern Scots. New projects, such as a proposed Historical Thesaurus of Scots, continue to build on and contribute to the tradition. Smaller dictionaries of Scots, including school dictionaries, are in demand to support new initiatives in teaching Scots in schools, and Scots lexicography is an important part of the debate about any future standardization of the Scots language.

Introduction

Scots is the name given to the language of Lowland Scotland. It is a Germanic language, which developed from a northern variety of Old English that was first introduced into southeast Scotland in the seventh century AD (Aitken 1985). Although over a third of its word stock derives from Old English (Macafee 1997), Scots had additional influences from Old Norse, French, Dutch/Flemish, Latin, and Gaelic, which have all contributed to its distinctive lexis. By the fifteenth century, Scots had superseded Gaelic to become the national language of Scotland, being used in both the Scottish court and parliament, and there was a consequent flowering of literary works written in the language. In the following centuries, political union with England, and the lack of a post-Reformation Scots Bible, led to English becoming the language of both State and Kirk, causing Scots to lose prestige, although literary revivals in the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries ensured its survival in written form. Today, Scots continues to flourish in literature and in a number of regional dialects, and features of Scots vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation underlie the variety of English known as Scottish Standard English (SSE). There is no generally accepted standard for Scots, and spelling tends to vary by region, reflecting local pronunciation. It is sometimes said that Scots is part of a "linguistic continuum," with broad Scots at one end and SSE at the other (Corbett et al. 2003). At the Scots end of this continuum are various dialects and urban varieties, from the Norse-influenced Shetlandic to urban Glaswegian, as well as the composite literary form known as Lallans or Synthetic Scots (where synthetic means "synthesized" rather than "artificial"), developed by writers in the early part of the twentieth century. Chronologically, Scots is divided into two major periods of development: Older Scots, which denotes the language from the earliest records to around 1700, and Modern Scots, which is the language used from 1700 to the present day. Many of the major dictionaries and corpora of Scots focus on one or the other of these periods.

Discussion

History of Lexicography in Scots

The lexicography of Scots began by following the same path as English lexicography, but thereafter the paths diverged, for reasons that had more to do with the relationship between Scots and English than with methodology. Because of the decline in the status

of Scots from the seventeenth century onward, there would never be calls for a standardizing or normative dictionary of Scots as had led to the publication of Johnson's dictionary of English. Rather, Scots lexicography stayed rooted in the tradition of glossaries – whether to editions of Older Scots texts or to editions of new vernacular poetry – and Scots lexicography therefore remained essentially descriptive and empiricist, with definitions tied to specific examples of written or spoken usage.

Early Lexicons of Scots

The first stirrings of Scots lexicography can be seen in manuscript glosses, where an Older Scots word is used to gloss a Latin text (Williamson 2012); but the first published lexicon of which evidence survives is a pedagogical glossary (from Latin into Older Scots) compiled by Andrew Duncan, Rector of the Dundee Grammar School, as an appendix to his Latin grammar of 1595. At around the same time, Sir John Skene, Clerk Register for Scotland, compiled the first technical glossary of Scots legal terms, *De Verborum Significatione*. Published in 1597, Skene's work provided textual references and rudimentary etymologies and remained in print until the early nineteenth century. However, the work which is generally acknowledged as the foundation of lexicography in Scots was compiled over a century later by Thomas Ruddiman, classical scholar and Underkeeper of the Advocates Library in Edinburgh. In 1710, Ruddiman published an edition of Gavin Douglas's *Eneados* – a sixteenth-century Scots translation of the *Aeneid* – which included "A large Glossary, Explaining the Difficult Words: Which may serve for a Dictionary to the Old Scottish Language." Ruddiman glossed around 3,000 of Douglas's Older Scots words; but he also added information on contemporary, eighteenth-century usage, often drawn from his own dialect of northeast Scots, making his glossary particularly valuable for historical linguists (Aitken 1989; McClure 2012).

From the mid-eighteenth century, as the prestige of Scots was on the decline, there was a corresponding upsurge of interest in recording and preserving what was seen as a dying language. This led to several plans to compile a dictionary of contemporary Scots, the first of which was begun by James Boswell, shortly after he met Johnson for the first time in 1763. "The Scottish language is being lost every day, and in a short time will become quite unintelligible," Boswell wrote. "It is for that reason that I have undertaken to make a dictionary of our tongue, through which one will always have the means of learning it like any other dead language" (Pottle 1952, p. 161). Although he managed to show a specimen of his work to Johnson, Boswell later abandoned the project and his work was never published. His surviving manuscript, which was rediscovered in 2010 (http://boswellian.com), contains notes on around 800 Scots words and phrases, many of which are still current, such as *bauchil* "a shoe down in the heel," *sneck* "to shut the latch," and *wean* a "child" (Rennie 2011). Some of Boswell's contemporaries, such as James Beattie and Sir John Sinclair, took a contrary view and compiled lists of so-called Scotticisms: part of a proscriptive trend in the latter half of the eighteenth century to publish lists of Scots usages (often idioms) to be avoided in Standard English (Basker 1991). Despite their original aims, these lists were often cited by later lexicographers and are now fruitful sources for historical linguists (Dossena 2003).

A separate strand of Scots lexicography in the eighteenth century comprised glossaries written by poets to accompany their own works. Allan Ramsay appended a glossary of around 900 words to the first edition of his poems in 1721, which famously included the first published definition of a golf tee "a little Earth, on which Gamsters at the *Gowf* set their Balls before they strike them off" (cited in SND s.v. *Gamster*, n. 1). Like Ruddiman, Ramsay did not confine himself to glossing the text and often gave additional senses of words or examples of contemporary usage. Robert Burns also produced his own glossary for the first, Kilmarnock edition of his poems in 1786 and a much expanded version for the Edinburgh edition the following year (Murison 1975). These two strands of lexicographic tradition – the glossaries to literary texts, both in Older and Modern Scots, and the plans for dictionaries of the contemporary language based on fieldwork – came together in the work that marks a watershed in Scots lexicography, John Jamieson's *Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language* of 1808 (Fig. 1).

Jamieson and Historical Lexicography

In 1787, the Rev. Dr John Jamieson, a minister of the Scottish Secession Kirk, began work on a "glossary" of Scots that would grow into the first comprehensive dictionary of the language. Through years of antiquarian research on the history and place names of Angus and study of manuscript sources of Older Scots, Jamieson developed the methods and historical approach which were to underpin his lexicography. Published in two quarto volumes in 1808, with a further two-volume *Supplement* in 1825, the *Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language* was the first lexicographic work in either English or Scots to trace the earliest occurrence of its headwords, and it is for this reason that Jamieson is now recognized as a pioneer of lexicography on historical principles (Aitken 1992; Rennie 2012a). As he stated in the *Dictionary* preface, "On every word, or particular sense of a word, I endeavour to give the oldest printed or MS authorities." Jamieson made several other important innovations. In his search for evidence, he gathered and cited material from nonliterary sources, including local newspapers, and he sought the advice of specialist consultants to ensure the accuracy of his definitions. He also consulted living authors, including his lifelong friend and supporter, Sir Walter Scott, whose works (and in some cases definitions) he quoted extensively in the 1825 *Supplement* (Rennie 2012a). In 1818, while working on the *Supplement*, Jamieson published an abridged edition, which sold at a fraction of the price of the full *Dictionary* and brought his work to a wider readership.

Jamieson insisted on including Scots words "on the authority of the nation at large" rather than relying solely on written evidence, and by preserving spoken Scots at a time of increasing vocabulary loss, his work became a valuable source for later lexicographers. The *Dictionary* and *Supplement* are cited in over 9,000 entries in the SND and provide the first evidence of many core Scots words, including *jab*, *pernicketie*, *plowter*, and *wheech*. Jamieson also prefaced the *Dictionary* with a lengthy essay elaborating his theory of the Norse origins of the Scots language, which informed many of his etymologies. His assertion that Norse had a strong and
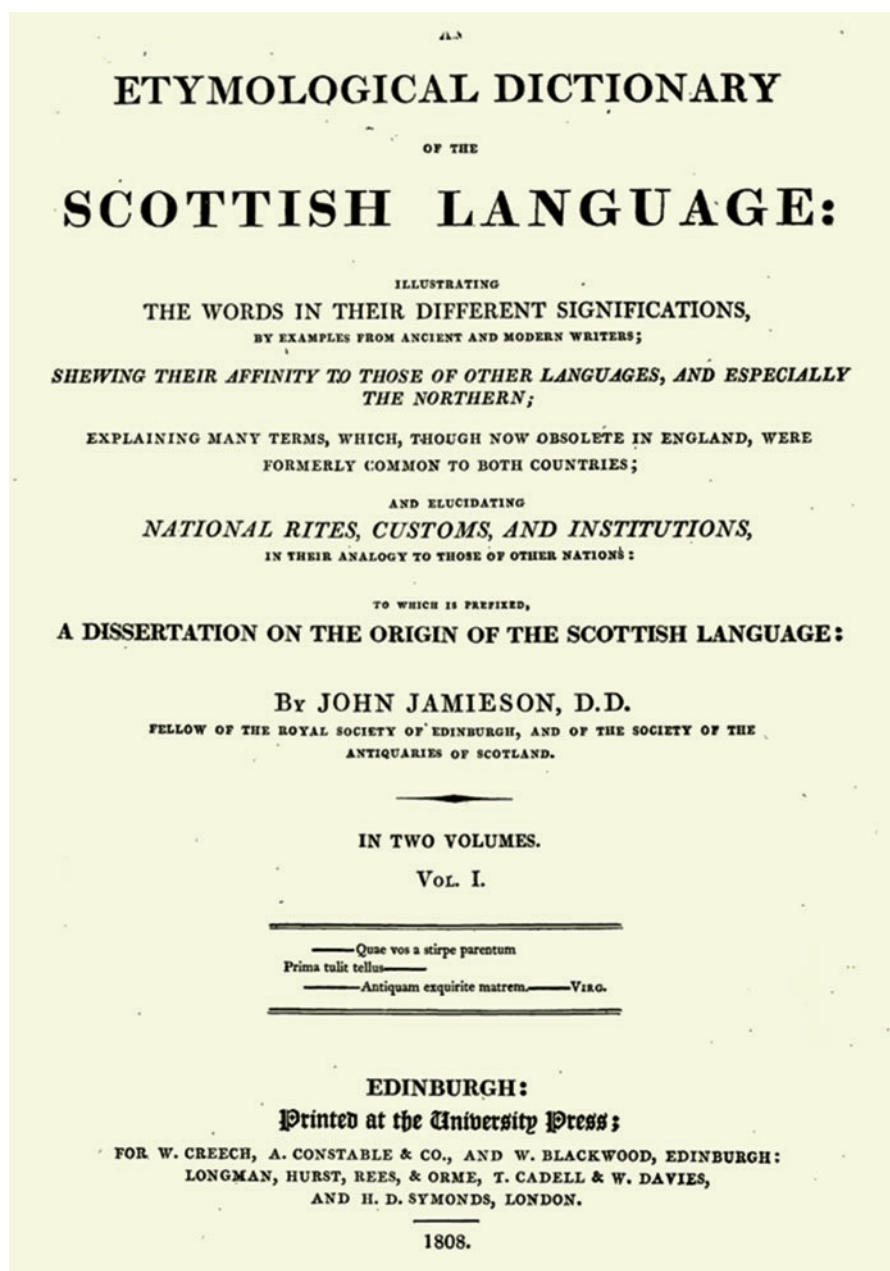
AN

ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY

OF THE

SCOTTISH LANGUAGE:

ILLUSTRATING

THE WORDS IN THEIR DIFFERENT SIGNIFICATIONS,

BY EXAMPLES FROM ANCIENT AND MODERN WRITERS;

SHEWING THEIR AFFINITY TO THOSE OF OTHER LANGUAGES, AND ESPECIALLY THE NORTHERN;

EXPLAINING MANY TERMS, WHICH, THOUGH NOW OBSOLETE IN ENGLAND, WERE FORMERLY COMMON TO BOTH COUNTRIES;

AND ELUCIDATING

NATIONAL RITES, CUSTOMS, AND INSTITUTIONS,

IN THEIR ANALOGY TO THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS :

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

A DISSERTATION ON THE ORIGIN OF THE SCOTTISH LANGUAGE:

By JOHN JAMIESON, D.D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, AND OF THE SOCIETY OF THE ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Vol. I.

———Quae vos a stirpe parentum
Prima tulit tellus———
———Antiquam exquirite matrem.———Virg.

EDINBURGH:

Printed at the University Press;

FOR W. CREECH, A. CONSTABLE & CO., AND W. BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH:
LONGMAN, HURST, REES, & ORME, T. CADELL & W. DAVIES,
AND H. D. SYMONDS, LONDON.

1808.

Fig. 1 Title page of Jamieson's *Dictionary* of 1808

Fig. 2 The Online Jamieson at http://scotsdictionary.com
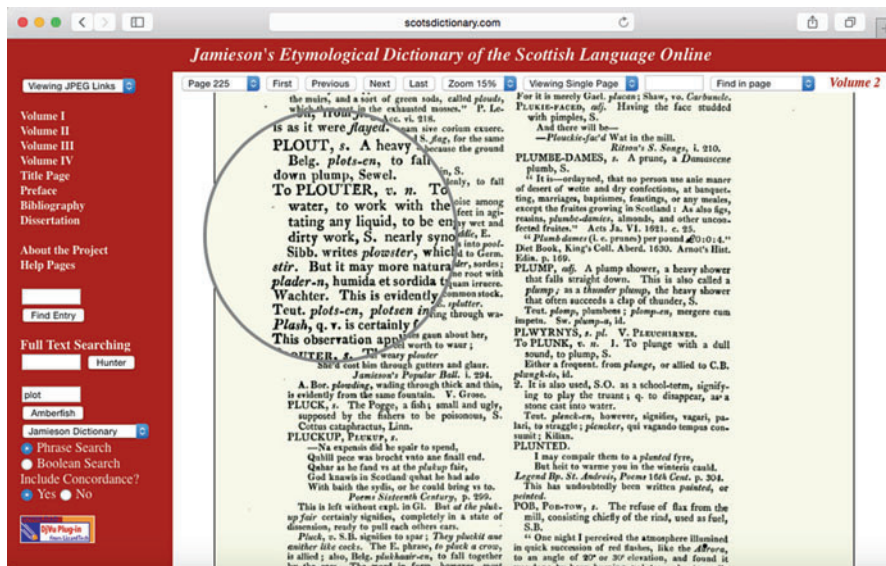
lasting influence on Scots was essentially correct, although his particular theory that Scots descended directly from Norse-speaking Picts was discounted by later philologists.

Jamieson's *Dictionary* and *Supplement* were extensively revised after his death, and two new editions were produced during the nineteenth century. These in turn fed into new abridged editions, which proved to be rich sources for creative writers in the early twentieth century. In 2008, to mark the bicentenary of its publication, a digital facsimile of the *Dictionary* was published online (http://scotsdictionary. com; Fig. 2), later enhanced by the text of the 1825 *Supplement* (Rennie 2008). Much research remains to be done on Jamieson's work, but his significance to the history of European lexicography in general is becoming more widely appreciated (Considine 2014).

The Scottish National Dictionary and DOST

At the start of the twentieth century, work began on two major historical dictionaries which would put Scots lexicography on a par with the latest developments in the discipline. While working as coeditor on the *New English Dictionary*, William A. Craigie proposed the idea of a dictionary of "older Scottish" (part of a wider plan to produce a series of "period dictionaries"), which would treat medieval Scots vocabulary in greater depth than had been possible in NED. Craigie began work on *The Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (DOST) in 1921, using the Older Scots citation slips excerpted for NED as the basis for a comprehensive collection of

evidence from Older Scots sources (Dareau 2005). The first part of DOST was published in 1931, with Craigie as sole editor. By 1948, he had been joined by A. J. Aitken (1921–1998), who later succeeded him as editor and who would revolutionize the methodology of DOST, extending the range of books and manuscripts read as sources and later introducing computational methods to capture and search the source texts. Under the guidance of Aitken and his successors, DOST grow in scope and extent (often to the alarm of its funders and publishers), until the final twelfth volume was published in 2002.

Craigie was also instrumental in the genesis of the *Scottish National Dictionary*: the other major dictionary of Scots, which covers the language from 1700 to the present. In response to a lecture given by him in 1907, the Scottish Dialects Committee (SDC) was established to research "the present condition of the Scottish dialects," with the phonetician, William Grant (1863–1946), as its convenor. The SDC published its new data, gathered from a network of local correspondents, in a series of *Transactions* between 1913 and 1921; but as their collections grew, so did the ambition of the project, and in 1929, the Scottish National Dictionary Association (SNDA) was formed, to continue the program of data collection and to oversee publication of the material in the form of a new dictionary of Modern Scots that would supersede Jamieson and complement the work being done by Craigie on the earlier language. "It would be excellent," Graigie wrote to Grant, "if the two Dictionaries could be produced concurrently, so that the one could link up with the other and the continuity (or otherwise) of the words be clearly shown" (cited in Dareau 2005). Grant referred to the SND as "Oor Ain Dictionar," emphasizing the collaborative nature of the project and the sense of a shared linguistic heritage which he wanted the dictionary to record and preserve. The first part of the new work, now called the *Scottish National Dictionary*, was published in 1931, and the dictionary eventually ran to ten volumes. After Grant's death in 1946, the remaining volumes (roughly the letter D onward) were edited under the direction of David Murison (1913–1997). Murison changed the structure of SND entries, replacing the previous system of ordering quotations by region with a chronological order more akin to the style of the OED. He also substantially increased the reading program and with it the number and range of sources that were cited. A Supplement containing unpublished additions and revisions to earlier letters was added to the final, tenth volume, published in 1976.

Together, these two historical dictionaries trace the development of the Scots language from the earliest records in the twelfth century to the late twentieth century. They contain more than 80,000 entries, each of which details the chronological and semantic development of a Scots word, illustrated by quotations drawn from over 6,000 sources, covering a wide range of subject areas within Scottish culture and history. Although they complement each other chronologically, there are important differences in methodology between the two dictionaries. Whereas DOST covers all words and senses evidenced in older Scots, including those shared with English during the same period, the SND only covers words and senses which are distinct from Standard English. Also, a substantial amount of evidence in SND is drawn from local contributors and questionnaires, rather than from written

sources which are easier to date. These differences make it impractical to merge the two works editorially, although they can now be searched simultaneously through the *Dictionary of the Scots Language* website.

Concise and School Dictionaries of Scots

Alongside the two major dictionary projects, smaller works were produced to cater to those who wanted a simpler and more affordable Scots dictionary. The most enduring has been *The Scots Dialect Dictionary*, compiled by Alexander Warrack and first published by Chambers in 1911. Warrack had been a major contributor to the *English Dialect Dictionary*, and his dictionary draws extensively on his research for the latter. It was prefaced by a description of the history and dialects of Scots by William Grant and also had the backing of William Craigie, with whom Warrack had corresponded. Intended as a guide to the Scots words used by authors such as Burns and Scott, Warrack's dictionary only covered Modern Scots and included around 60,000 headwords and variant spellings (Macleod 2012). It proved enormously popular and was reissued many times, under various titles, and is still in print (Rennie 2012b).

After completing SND in 1976, the SNDA also turned its attention to producing a cheaper and more accessible dictionary. Published in 1983 with Mairi Robinson as Chief Editor, the *Concise Scots Dictionary* (CSD) distilled the data from SND and DOST into a single volume. It was the first dictionary to cover the full historical range of Scots since the later editions of Jamieson and was an immediate bestseller. CSD entries gave both Older and Modern Scots senses in chronological order, dated to within a century, but did not include illustrative quotations or predictable spelling variants. Although SND was complete when work began on CSD, DOST had only reached the letter P, so that the Older Scots information in later sections is based on the OED and other sources (Robinson 1985). Work is now underway on a second edition of CSD (CSD2), due to be published in 2015, which will incorporate information from the later volumes of DOST and provide further updates including revised etymologies (Robinson 2013). The headword list and definitions of CSD were also the basis for the first *Scots Thesaurus* (ST), published in 1990 and edited by Iseabail Macleod, then Editorial Director of SNDA. Although selective rather than comprehensive in its coverage (Kay 1994), the ST nevertheless provides helpful classification of Scots lexis in areas where the language is traditionally rich, such as terms for food and drink, plants, and weather, and it has proved popular with writers and translators.

The 1990s saw a series of educational initiatives in Scotland that created a new demand for Scots resources in primary schools. The SNDA responded by publishing the *Scots School Dictionary* in 1996: the first work of pedagogic lexicography in Scots since Andrew Duncan's lexicon with which the tradition began. Pedagogic lexicography has been pushing the development of Scots lexicography ever since. The SNDA's first foray into digital lexicography was the *Electronic Scots School Dictionary* (ESSD), published on CD-ROM in 1999. Based on the content of the print *Scots School Dictionary*, this was the first SNDA dictionary to include audio files to indicate pronunciation and included additional resources, such as a grammar

Fig. 3 *Scots Dictionary for Schools* app

guide and word games. The underlying data for the ESSD has recently been repurposed for a new *Scots Dictionary for Schools* app (Fig. 3), developed with funding from the Scottish Government, and launched as a free resource in 2014. The ESSD grammar guide was also republished in print form in 1999, as *Grammar Broonie: A Guide Tae Scots Grammar*.

The Dictionary of the Scots Language

Building on the success of the ESSD, the SNDA obtained funding to digitize a sample of the *Scottish National Dictionary* to create a prototype eSND. It was decided at the outset to use XML markup for the eSND, and the project team devised a customized version of the TEI dictionary tag set to fit the idiosyncrasies of the source text (Rennie 2001). The sample SND pages were scanned and converted to machine-readable text through OCR followed by proofreading to catch any remaining errors, and the resulting text was passed through a series of short programs to apply successive layers of XML markup. The SNDA subsequently obtained a major grant from the AHRB to digitize not only the complete SND but

Fig. 4 The interface of DSL1

also DOST (then nearing completion in print form) and to publish both dictionaries online under the composite title of *The Dictionary of the Scots Language* or (in Scots) *The Dictionar of the Scots Leid* (DSL). The project to create the DSL was a joint venture between the University of Dundee and SNDA and was directed by the late Dr Victor Skretkowicz with myself as editor. From 2001 to 2004, the DSL project team converted 22 volumes of SND and DOST into TEI-compliant XML, using the methods piloted for the eSND (Rennie 2004). The DSL website (http://www.dsl.ac.uk/) was launched in 2004 with a web interface designed by Jeffery Triggs, which made use of the Amberfish open-source search engine (Fig. 4). A new SND Supplement, based on data which the SNDA had been gathering since publication of the print SND, was published as an adjunct to the DSL in 2005.

A second phase of the DSL was originally planned to enhance the markup and search facilities and also to integrate the Supplements to the two component dictionaries, but the project did not secure sufficient funding and the original team was dispersed in 2004. Funding constraints also forced SNDA (later renamed Scottish Language Dictionaries) to concentrate its efforts on a major revision to the CSD. These factors inevitably meant that work to maintain the DSL fell behind, and it was not until late 2014 that a second version was made available. The relaunched DSL2 (still at http://www.dsl.ac.uk/ but now hosted by the University of Glasgow) was designed to cope with the demands of mobile browsing, reflecting the changing demands of users (Fig. 5). In June 2015, further updates were included to improve the search facilities of DSL2, in particular to reintroduce Boolean searches and wildcard searches for full text, which had not been available in the new version.

Fig. 5 The interface of DSL2: http://dsl.ac.uk

Work has also been undertaken to make cross-references more accurate and to link citations to the relevant listing in the source bibliographies.

Although Scots lexicography is traditionally bilingual, the majority of works look only one way, from Scots to English. The first dictionary in the contrary direction, with English headwords translated into Scots, was *Lallans: A Selection of Scots Words*, published by James Nicol Jarvie in 1947. William Graham's *Scots Word Book,* first published in 1977 and later expanded, was a fully bilingual dictionary with separate Scots–English and English–Scots sections, the latter of which would later form the basis for the SNDA's *Concise English–Scots Dictionary*, published in 1993. To date, there has never been a complete dictionary of the Scots language, because no Scots dictionary has included the substantial portion of vocabulary which Scots shares with English. Unless there is an identifiable difference – in orthography (and the underlying phonology) or semantics – a shared word will not feature in the headword list of any Modern Scots dictionary. There have been plans to compile a monolingual dictionary of Scots – one that defines its Scots headwords in Scots rather than English – but none of these has yet come to fruition.

It would be misleading to conclude a discussion of the lexicography of Scots without reference to some of the major English dictionaries which include Scots lexis. Johnson included occasional Scots usages (perhaps contributed by his Scots amanuenses) such as "Sponk, a word in Edinburgh which denotes a match, or any thing dipt in sulphur that takes fire: as, Any sponks will ye buy?" (cited in SND s.v. *Spunk*, n. 2). The OED includes a substantial proportion of Scots headwords and senses, and recent updates to OED3 are incorporating antedatings from Jamieson,

as well as from SND and DOST. The HTE also includes data on Scots that featured in the OED and its Supplements; currently over 11,000 words are labeled as Scots in the HTE database. English dictionaries published by Scottish publishers, such as *Chambers Dictionary*, have always included a proportion of Scots lexis and in this respect may be considered as dictionaries of Scottish Standard English.

Electronic Corpora of Scots

Older Scots Corpora

DOST Editor, A. J. Aitken, was an early enthusiast for the use of computers in lexicography and, in the late 1960s, instigated the creation of the Older Scottish Textual Archive (OSTA): a computerized version (originally punched onto paper tape) of the Older Scots sources used in the compilation of DOST (Aitken and Bratley 1967). This early instance of a Scots corpus is still available to researchers through the Oxford Text Archive (http://ota.ox.ac.uk/desc/0701). With the advent of corpus linguistics in the following decades, publishers of English dictionaries in Scotland embraced the use of linguistically tagged corpora (Chambers was one of the original partners in the British National Corpus project), but the first comparable resource for Scots was created by a team of researchers at the University of Helsinki, led by Anneli Meurman-Solin (http://www.helsinki.fi/varieng/CoRD/corpora/HCOS/). The Helsinki Corpus of Older Scots (HCOS) comprises around 850,000 words of running text, drawn from sources such as borough records, trial proceedings, sermons, diaries, travelogues, and official and private letters, composed between 1450 and 1700 (Meurman-Solin 1995). A complementary corpus was later created at the University of Edinburgh – the Edinburgh Corpus of Older Scots (ECOS) – to cover the earlier period from around 1380 to 1500. Together, these corpora have stimulated research into variation and change in Older Scots.

Modern Scots Corpora

Until recently, the creation of corpora for Modern Scots has lagged behind those for earlier forms of the language. In the late 1990s, a collaboration between researchers at the University of Glasgow and the SNDA led to the creation of the Scottish Corpus of Texts and Speech (SCOTS), a large-scale corpus of both written and spoken texts in Scots and Scottish Standard English (Anderson et al. 2007). Since its publication in 2004, a series of updates have taken the SCOTS corpus to nearly 4.6 million words of text, with accompanying audio files for some sources (http://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk). The lack of standardization in Scots means that it is not yet feasible to provide the kind of language-processing support that underpins corpus linguistics in English. In order to search for all forms of the verb *scunner*, for example, users of SCOTS have to perform a wildcard search or search on individual forms such as *scunnered* and *scunnert*. In 2010, the historical range of Modern Scots corpora was extended by the creation of the Corpus of Modern Scottish Writing (http://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/cmsw). Designed to fill the chronological gap between the Helsinki Corpus and SCOTS, the CMSW comprises

around 5.4 million words drawn from over 350 texts composed between 1700 and 1945, ranging from novels to personal correspondence. As well as providing data for lexicographers (Robinson 2013), the two Glasgow corpora have spawned a number of linguistic studies into historical and contemporary Scots usage (Anderson 2013).

New Corpora

Two new projects to create corpora with Scots-language content are currently underway. The Corpus of Scottish Correspondence (CSC) at the University of Helsinki aims to collect around 500,000 words of running text in Older Scots, based on manuscripts of official and family letters dating from 1500 to 1730 (http://www.helsinki.fi/varieng/CoRD/corpora/CSC/index.html). A second project, based at the University of Bergamo, is creating a corpus of nineteenth-century Scottish correspondence (19CSC), based on collections of personal and business letters which are being diplomatically transcribed from manuscripts (Dossena 2004). Although not exclusively a corpus of Scots, the 19CSC is likely to include Scots forms and usages and so provide evidence for researchers studying the relationship between Scots and English in the nineteenth century.

Future Challenges and Prospects

The existence of XML-coded versions of both SND and DOST offers considerable potential beyond simple updates of the dictionaries themselves. A number of projects are underway to build on this resource, the most ambitious of which is to create a digital Historical Thesaurus of Scots (HTS), by mining the DSL for data. Taking for its model the Historical Thesaurus of English, begun by Michael Samuels at the University of Glasgow in the 1960s (http://www.historicalthesaurus.arts.gla.ac.uk), the HTS will be the first thesaurus of Scots to encompass the full history of the language, and the first comprehensive resource for Scots to be arranged according to synonymy and semantic category (Rennie forthcoming). The project is currently in a pilot phase, funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and a website that will allow users to search within the key subject domains identified by the pilot, and to link to related entries in the DSL, is planned for publication in 2015 (http://scotsthesaurus.org).

Another focus for the future must be the upkeep of the DSL, to ensure that the underlying data does not fall out of date. Insecurity of funding for SNDA, and later SLD, has meant that there are gaps in the lexicographic record of Scots since the publication of the last volume of SND in 1976. One glaring example is the fact that William Lorimer's Scots translation of the New Testament – widely acknowledged as the finest example of Modern Scots prose – is not cited anywhere in the SND, as it was published posthumously in 1983. The coverage of post-war Scots writing in the DSL is also patchy, possibly due to interruptions to the dictionary reading program, but for Scots lexicography to be truly world class, these gaps need to be addressed. Recent developments, such as the joint collaboration on the HTS, are a sign that

alternative funding streams may be found to assist the ongoing revision program. A digitized CSD is another desideratum, and it is odd that this has not been created as a side product of the forthcoming CSD2 – perhaps with the printed version as an optional extra, rather than the primary focus. An online CSD could act as a useful portal to the DSL, providing the links between Older Scots and Modern Scots forms that are not always explicit in the separate dictionary entries or not always obvious from search matches.

There is also work to be done to uncover the full history of lexicography in Scots. In particular, Jamieson's *Dictionary* and *Supplement* of 1808/1825 are surprisingly under-researched, though the existence of the *Online Jamieson* may help to redress this. A further new initiative is the proposed creation of a Scottish Lexicographic Network (ScotLex) as a forum for dictionary projects and individual lexicographers working within any of the past or current languages of Scotland, including (but not limited to) Scots, English, and Gaelic. It is hoped that Scotlex will establish stronger links and collaborations between major lexicographic projects, such as the DSL, the Historical Thesauruses of both Scots and English, and the new historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, *Faclair na Gàidhlig* (http://www.faclair.ac.uk). One future project for the new network is a proposed digital collection of Early Scots Lexicons Online (ESLO), on the model of LEME, which would allow the full range of Scots glossaries and dictionaries before Jamieson to be searched and analyzed together.

Language Planning

Regulatory Bodies

Two official bodies charged with supporting the Scots language currently receive funding from the Scottish Government. Scottish Language Dictionaries (SLD) is, in effect, the official home of Scots-language lexicography in Scotland (http://www.scotsdictionaries.org.uk). Formed in 2002 from an amalgamation of the Scottish National Dictionary Association and the former staff of DOST, it is charged with maintaining and updating the DSL as well as publishing smaller derivative works, such as the forthcoming revision to CSD. The Scots Language Centre, based in Perth, also receives government funding for its role in providing information and support for Scots through its website (http://www.scotslanguage.com) and related activities.

There is currently little competition to publish Scots dictionaries, and the majority of works – both academic and trade dictionaries – are produced by the government-funded SLD. The closest to a commercial rival for SLD's smaller dictionaries is the Collins *Gem Dictionary of Scots*, first published in 1995 and still a popular guide to core Scots vocabulary. Alexander Warrack *Scots Dialect Dictionary* of 1911, now out of copyright, is regularly republished under various titles: an indication that there is still a demand for a work that covers the Scots lexis of major authors such as Burns and Scott, yet (unlike CSD) is entirely modern in coverage. Independent publishers do, however, tend to support smaller lexicons of particular dialects, such as the *Shetland Dictionary* published by the *Shetland Times* in 2010. A *Scots-Polish Lexicon/Leksykon szkocko-polski* was published in 2014

Fig. 6 *CannieSpell program disk*

and may indicate a new impulse to widen bilingual lexicography in Scots beyond the usual English–Scots axis.

Dictionaries and Standardization

The reestablishment of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh has created new opportunities for the use of formal Scots. Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) are allowed to deliver speeches in Scots or Gaelic as well as English; and to facilitate this, the SNDA produced an initial set of guidelines on transcribing Scots for the use of the parliamentary reporters. As the contexts for written Scots grow, lexicographers find themselves increasingly at the center of the debate over whether there ought to be a standard form of Scots and if so, what form that should take: a composite based on several dialects or a single dialect chosen because of maximum difference from English or because of the number of its current speakers. The policy of SLD has always been to track and describe the language, rather than to prescribe; but space constraints in smaller dictionaries mean that the range of headword variants is inevitably squeezed, and this can lead to the selected forms being seen as preferred. Decisions which a Scots lexicographer makes can therefore have consequences for the uptake of a particular spelling form, and this is especially true for dictionaries aimed at school users.

In 1998, the SNDA launched the first spellchecker for Scots – punningly called *CannieSpell* (as Scots *cannie*, meaning "wise or shrewd," is a homophone of *cannae*, meaning "cannot") – produced on floppy disks and designed to integrate with common word-processing programs (Fig. 6). Based on the headword list of the *Scots School Dictionary*, *CannieSpell* incorporated the first lemmatized list of Scots, offering a full range of inflected forms as well as major regional variants;

however, it was still intended as a guide based on current usage, rather than a set of rigid rules for the spelling of Modern Scots.

There is a new willingness to embrace the teaching (not just the acceptance) of Scots in education in Scotland. The introduction in 2014 of a new Scots Language Award, ratified by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70056.html), may prove to be a milestone in the history of the language, giving Scots an official stamp that it has lacked in modern times. A long-awaited Scots Language Policy by the Scottish Government, due for publication in 2015, also suggests that Scots is entering an era when the need for high-quality lexicographic resources has never been greater, to support the efforts of researchers, teachers, writers, and translators.

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