

**Simona Șimon, Claudia E. Stoian, Anca Dejica-Carțiș,  
Andrea Kriston. 2018. *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education:  
English-German-French-Romanian*. Szeged: JATE Press,  
ISBN 978 963 315 375 8, pp. 214**

**Book review**

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According to Encyclopedia Britannica (2019), education is the transmission of the values and knowledge of a society through methods of teaching and learning in schools or environments similar to schools. In Nelson Mandela's words, education is "the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" (1990). That is why, education has always been regarded as paramount in a society, as an investment in the future, being the backbone of a country's prosperity, progress, and even happiness.

The field of education seems to be a never-ending 'merry-go-round' of terms that appear due to the field's continuous development. It is, as Ahmad has put it, "like an ocean", and every dictionary trying to sail it is "just a humble effort encompassing a mere single drop coming out of it" (2008: vii). Besides that, it is also an interdisciplinary field linking people (educators) with knowledge of different subjects (such as anthropology, linguistics, psychology, sociology, etc.), who must share a basic lexicon in order to solve mutual educational problems (Collins & O'Brien, 2003: vii).

Being such an important part of human life, education has evolved and grown considerably at the same time and pace with the society's endeavours and challenges. The coronavirus lockdown is the best example in this respect; online education, considered up to now as a merely complementary type of education and criticised as opposed to traditional face-to-face education (*see* Xu & Smith Jagers, 2011; Heppen

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*et al.*, 2017; Muilenburg & Berge, etc.) has taken centre stage during this pandemic and has never proven to be more useful in educating children and students.

Therefore, the field of education needs to be aligned to the society's developments and periods of transition and, consequently, new terms will appear in order to express new concepts and to put new learning and teaching tools into practice. This is where dictionaries come into play, providing critical understanding of different terms in education in various educational systems of the world.

Throughout the time, many English dictionaries on education covering the different facets of the educational sectors, such as early childhood and higher education, special needs education, continuing education, etc., as well as legislation and newer concepts, have been compiled (e.g. *The Dictionary of British Education*, 2003; *The Comprehensive Dictionary of Education*, 2008; *The Greenwood Dictionary of Education*, 2011; *The Oxford Dictionary of Education*, 2014; *A Brief Critical Dictionary of Education*, 2020).

For French, *le Dictionnaire de l'éducation*, published by PUF, in 2017, presents a multidisciplinary approach to the educational sciences with a focus on sociology and psychology, while *le Dictionnaire de l'éducation: pour mieux connaître le système éducatif* (2009) discusses the terms used in teaching administration and schools. *Le Dictionnaire encyclopédique de l'éducation et de la formation* (2005), mainly created for the teaching staff, provides information related to historical events, social and psychological phenomena and personalities that marked education in the 20th century. There is also an English-French dictionary, *Dictionnaire actuel de l'éducation*, 2005.

As far as the German language is concerned, there are bilingual dictionaries in this field such as *Wörterbuch der Pädagogik - Dictionary of Education (Englisch Deutsch/Deutsch Englisch)* (2017) and *Deutsch-Englisches Glossar "Begriffe aus Wissenschaft und Hochschule"*, published by DAAD in 2011, as well as a multilingual one, *Wörterbuch Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch, Spanisch "Begriffe aus Wissenschaft und Hochschule"* (DAAD, 1999).

For the Romanian language, there are mainly dictionaries on pedagogy, such as, a rather old one, *Dicționar de pedagogie contemporană*, 1969, and newer ones, i.e. *Dicționar de termeni pedagogici*, 1998 and *Lexicon pedagogic*, 2006. Therefore, since pedagogy deals mainly with the teaching methods, a Romanian dictionary on education was clearly needed in order to shed light on the broader field of education.

The novelty brought by *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English – German – French – Romanian* is that it delves even deeper into this field presenting the terms in three main languages alongside Romanian. Even though it is not an explanatory dictionary, it might also be of great use to both the practitioners and the academics working in the context of the broad field of education trying to find the Romanian terms' equivalents in English, French, and German. At the same time, the dictionary will also be useful for the translators and interpreters who need these terms

in their work. A list of the selected terms has been compiled first in Romanian and then translated into English, French, and German by the authors.

Being “a necessary evil” (Chan, 2017: 87) for translators or interpreters, a multilingual dictionary of this kind is a great way of enlarging their vocabulary and of finding the right equivalent in the needed language(s). With over 2,000 terms pertaining to educational subfields such as critical pedagogy, curriculum and instruction, educational leadership, educational psychology, educational technology, and distance education, *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English – German – French – Romanian* is divided into two parts. The first part consists of the English-German-French-Romanian sequence of terms, while the second one of the alphabetical index of terms in all the languages presented, which allows the reader to easily locate the term in the dictionary. Therefore, the book comprises 2,000 entries in English alongside their equivalents in French, German, and Romanian.

As far as the bibliographic references are concerned, the authors have used printed books and articles as a primary source of information, but have also consulted many online dictionaries and glossaries in all the targeted languages.

In conclusion, in an ever-changing world with an uncertain future and a constantly growing requirement in terms of education, *A Multilingual Dictionary of Education: English – German – French – Romanian* serves as a valuable tool in broadening the knowledge concerning the education terminology and in helping translators to find the right terms, to connect the same terms in different languages and, thus, to facilitate the understanding of this field.

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