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***FIREFIGHT IT WITH US. A LEXICAL-CONVERSATIONAL
PRIMER BY ADAM WIŚNIEWSKI. RZESZÓW:
EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ SPOŁECZNY, 2011. 46PP.***

In today's world, an incredible upsurge in the popularity of international communication has been observed, which inevitably has led to a rapid growth in demand for various kinds of lexicographic works and glossaries. The main aim of lexicographic works of various scope and depth of presentation is to provide speakers of natural languages with what is needed, sought and useful to maintain and support worldwide communication. It goes without saying that among the diverse array of general dictionaries, one comes across the group of so-called special-purpose dictionaries aimed at specific groups of language users. One may say that such dictionaries are designed to facilitate the learning process during the process of acquisition, assimilation and maintenance of knowledge of vocabulary resources. While the lexicographic market is saturated with a panorama of reference books manifested chiefly in the form of encyclopedias and dictionaries, there still remains an all-pervading necessity to design new volumes of reference books which cover increasingly more specialized fields of life in its theoretical and practical aspect.

The reviewed publication is, by and large, a continuation of the lexicographic booklet titled *Słownictwo i procedury dotyczące przyjmowania zgłoszeń alarmowych: pożarnictwo (angielsko-polsko-ukraińskie)* 2007, edited by G. A. Kleparski, A. Szewel and A. Wiśniewski, which compiles basic fire-fighting terminology and expressions in illustrative contexts. The trilingual dictionary published some years ago appears to meet the requirements of the European Union, in particular for the new members of the union, as the lexicographic content of the booklet is simultaneously presented in both, English, Polish and Ukrainian.

The publication *Firefight it with us* under review here deserves the name of a comprehensive primer, in fact it is announced as a guide in the editor's note, compiled – as the author states himself *for those who on day-to day basis deal with fire-fighting reality and everything it involves, that is emergency calls, intervention procedures and the like*. It seems that the booklet may prove

especially useful for those who wish to improve the level of proficiency of their students, and – in particular – those who are involved in some way in the work of professional or voluntary rescue services such as fire-fighting services, ambulance services and road accident services. As pointed out by Pikor-Niedzialek, the editor of the primer, the booklet is intended to be supportive for the wide variety of users, who may find it difficult to communicate in emergencies without any help, especially when they are either foreigners or in a foreign country.

The bilingual primer reviewed here consists of the following parts: *Introductory Word* authored by A. Wiśniewski and G. A. Kleparski, who briefly acquaint the reader with the contents of the proposed booklet. *Part One* discusses the use and importance of the international number 112. The author explains both when the number should and, of equal if not greater importance, must not be used. Additionally, one can find tips for the operator and a dedicated Word Bank filled with useful vocabulary simultaneously translated from English into Polish. *Part Two* consists of eleven concise dialogues written in an informal style, in which the author outlines firefighting terminology, this time in two language variants, namely English and Polish. Examples are both reliable and well-selected, not to mention that they highlight the practical usage of the words relating to fire-fighting. Polish equivalents allow the learner to follow the English structure and gain a better understanding of the vocabulary in question. *Part Three* is provided with illustrations and thus gives an insight into typical real-life situations, such as a fatal motorway pile-up, a partially extinguished cigarette (which is one of the most likely causes of a fire), an injured cyclist in a road traffic accident, a gas explosion killing one person or – especially necessary in Poland – flash floods killing dozens. For those who are deeply interested in this field, the author provides the basic terminology concerning fire-fighting equipment. Below the sample situations that are given one finds Word banks which contain useful and typical vocabulary. To a great extent *Part Four* mirrors the contents of the 2007 publication with certain minor modifications. One finds there an alphabetical English-Polish dictionary of emergency procedures and some key lexical items are illustrated in context.

Quite astonishingly, a large number of people were involved in the preparation of this primer, which only adds to its merit and high quality. Apart from A. Wiśniewski, who is apparently a specialist in a field of fire-fighting techniques, the edition of this didactic handbook was aided by several people associated with the *Department of English* at the University of Rzeszów. To be more specific, G. A. Kleparski and I. Upchurch acted as language consultants and Dr Pikor-Niedzialek provided the review, fragments of which are printed on the back cover. In particular, Dr Pikor-Niedzialek points out that this booklet may serve as a helpful aid not only for the emergency services, but also for translators, students and foreigners who are in emergency situations.

The language of the publication may, on occasion, prove difficult to novices in this sector of life. Furthermore, as the author fails to provide any pronunciation patterns for the English entries, the usage of the given word may cause difficulties. Yet, some of the terms are rare or at least uncommon (see *air sprinkler system* page 27, line 27), and they will not be found in any standard dictionary. Another drawback of this booklet is the lack of alphabetical order in the Word Banks, which may be slightly confusing. Another issue which raises some doubts at this point is the fact that the publication seems to rely on a limited number of reliable sources on the subject of fire-fighting. With a few exceptions the references are restricted to several Internet publications. Moreover, there are some editorial blunders (page 8, line 21). One could also expect a greater number of fire-fighting dialogues, which would show how to use the terminology given in *Part Four*.

All in all, however, the guide titled *Firefight it with us* is a comprehensive collection of real-life examples of words used in specific situations. The booklet is well-printed and it evokes an impression of reliability and elegance. Given the short number of chapters the book includes, one can rest assured that the content of the primer is not so overwhelming as to frighten off a potential user who will not feel intimidated by the vocabulary it features. Moreover, the vivid dialogues clearly reflect the problems which are common while trying to convey the given information. The author concentrates only on the most significant aspects of fire-fighting and the text reads clearly and engagingly. The author does not focus on the avoidance of the accidents, but rather lending a hand when a problem appears. By and large, although not entirely void of some obvious drawbacks, this specialized publication is a professional and informative guide not only for the learners of English, but also translators or emergency services interested in the issues of fire-fighting.

References

- Wiśniewski, A.** 2011. *Firefight it with us. A Lexico-Conversational Primer*. Rzeszów: Europejski Fundusz Społeczny.
- Kleparski, G. A., Szewel, A., Wiśniewski, A.** 2007. *Słownictwo i procedury dotyczące przyjmowania zgłoszeń alarmowych: pożarnictwo (angielsko-polsko-ukraińskie)*. Rzeszów

