

we are investigating the possibility to use OMBI in establishing an efficient, high-quality, yet economically justified infrastructure for the African languages in South-Africa, where recently instead of two official languages (English and Afrikaans), eleven languages have been given the status of 'official language'. The fact that OMBI links at meaning level and calculates the possibility or impossibility of equivalents, makes it very suitable to function within what we have called elsewhere the 'hub-and-spoke' model, connecting (spoke) languages not directly but via a hub (see Martin, 1995a and Martin & Mashamaite, forthcoming).

### References

- Calzolari, N. 1991. "Representation of semantic information in Acquilex." In: *Feasibility of standards for semantic description of lexical items*. Eurotra-7 Report, 31–42.
- Eijk, P. van der, e.a. 1992. "Towards developing reusable NLP dictionaries." In: *Coling 1992 - Proceedings*, 53–54.
- Defrancq, B. 1995. "The proto-equivalent." In: *Contragram 3*, 1995, 4–7.
- Honselaar, W. and M. Elstrodt 1992. "The electronic conversion of a dictionary: from Dutch-Russian to Russian-Dutch." In: *Euralex-92- Proceedings*, 229–238.
- Martin, W. 1995a. "Government Policy and Bilingual Lexical Databases: The Action Plan for Dutch." In: *Second Language Engineering Convention*, London, 133–144.
- Martin, W. 1995b. "Maschinelle Lexikographie: Ein Blick in die Zukunft." In: Hitzenberger, L. (Hg.), *Sprache und Computer*, 1–21. Olms, Hildesheim.
- Martin, W. e.a. 1992. *Multilex: Standards for the terminological description of lexical items*, Amsterdam.
- Martin, W. and K. Mashamaite forthcoming. The hub-and-spoke model: a recipe for making dictionaries between African languages in South-Africa.
- Wijne, C. and M. van Elswijk 1995. *OMBI: User Manual*, ms., The Hague.