

twenty 'contemporary interest' words selected by this reviewer: cassette, deep-freeze, détente, eyeshadow, fan (= supporter), fibre-glass, hang-glider, hydrofoil, pop (as adjective), recycle, skin diver, social worker, software, space craft, surfboard, track suit, traffic police, video (tape), water cannon, zebra crossing.

The conclusion is clear: Lady Wilson and her team have done superbly what they set out to do; but would-be users are warned not to expect what is primarily a phraseological dictionary to be something else which it does not claim to be -- a comprehensive general English-Russian dictionary.

Prepositions in Modern Russian, by Terence Wade. Durham Modern Languages Series SM 1, University of Durham, 1983. 136 pp., £3.50. ISBN 0 907310 03 6. (Obtainable from the Department of Russian, University of Durham; postage and packing 50p.) Reviewed by Greville Corbett.

Relatively little has been written about prepositions in Russian -- the case system attracts more attention. Dr Wade's second monograph is therefore particularly welcome (the first was The Russian Preposition 'do' and the Concept of Extent, 1980, Birmingham Slavonic Monographs No. 9). Prepositions in Modern Russian has a two-page preface, which describes the layout of the book. Then follow twenty-five short chapters, each devoted to a particular preposition-case combination: v + locative, v + accusative, iz + genitive and so on. The first fifteen are grouped in five sets of spatial opposites (the first set of three has just been given) and the other ten prepositions included are given in alphabetical order. In each chapter the preposition's basic meaning is given in a short phrase, then there are numerous examples with English translations, classified into sections according to meaning. At the end of the book there is an eight-page Index of English Prepositions, from which one can establish the Russian equivalent of an English preposition and locate examples in the text.

The book contains a wealth of data: besides the examples from a wide range of post-1940 sources, illustrating the main uses of each preposition, there are several interesting points of detail. For example (p. 11), mountain ranges with singular names usually combine with na (na Pamire), unless qualified by an adjective (v Vostochnom Pamire); however, Kavkaz always takes na (na Kavkaze, na Vostochnom Kavkaze). According to the publicity sheet, the book is 'designed for teachers, students and pupils of Russian'. However, it is not clear how it should be used. The atomistic presentation is not the most helpful; it means, for example, that the phrases sadit'sya na avtobus, na avtobuse, sadit'sya v avtobus and ekhat' v avtobuse are each found in a different chapter. They should surely be treated together. More

generally, the meaning of, say, na + locative cannot be adequately discussed in isolation as its meaning depends on its place in the prepositional system, on its relationship to the other prepositions. It would be of more value to the learner if the material were arranged according to the English prepositions with chapters on the Russian equivalents for in, for on and so forth (rather than leaving the reader to sort this out from the index). Or, if it is felt that this approach places too much emphasis on English rather than Russian, semantic criteria could be adopted; there would then be a chapter on expressions of location, one on cause, time and so on. In such an approach, v and na would be treated together and correspondences such as v + accusative : v + locative; iz + genitive ; na + accusative ; na + locative; s + genitive ; k + dative ; u + genitive : ot + genitive could be made more explicit. One would also look for some degree of explanation as to why usage is as it is. For example, the forms v aeroportu and na aerodrome are given without comment. In my experience learners prefer to have a reason for such apparent arbitrariness. One suggestion in this instance would be that na aerodrome shows the form expected for a largely open space while the unexpected v aeroportu results from the influence of v portu.

Let us hope that Dr Wade will write a third monograph describing the way in which the prepositions function as a system (interacting with the case system). Meanwhile the monograph under review provides an excellent compilation of the data. It has been painstakingly prepared and meticulously proofread; attractively produced from camera-ready material, it is relatively cheap. It will be of value both to teachers and to theoretical linguists.

An Introduction to Old Church Slavonic. Second edition, revised and expanded, by William R. Schmalstieg. Slavica Publishers, Columbus, Ohio, 1983. xiv + 314 pp., \$14.95. ISBN 0 89357 107 5. Reviewed by J. A. Dunn.

The important role played by Old Church Slavonic in the development of the Russian literary language and its significance for the comparative study of the Slavonic languages means that there will always be a considerable number of students of Russian who will wish to acquire some knowledge of what is often described as 'the oldest Slavonic literary language'. This book, which combines within the one volume an outline of the grammar with selections from the texts and a glossary/index, provides a useful introduction for such a student. In particular, the chapters on morphology and ablaut provide a clear and accurate description of the subject, the tables and paradigms being supplemented by comments and explanations which, even where unlikely to gain universal acceptance, are never less than stimulating and scholarly.