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Some comments on *Leachman's Norsk-Engelsk Lomme-Ordbog. Norwegian-English Pocket Dictionary and Manual of Useful Information*. Milwaukee, Wis. USA 1897

This dictionary was probably the first aid for Norwegian immigrants in America to learn their new language 100-200 years ago. The dictionary contains 25000 lemmas. In my paper I want to present the lemma list and discuss the selection of the lemmas. I presume that just these few words were seen as useful and necessary for the settlers. I will also compare this lemma selection with contemporary monolingual dictionaries and also with modern dictionaries. The preface of the dictionary states that "The main purpose of the dictionary is to make the reader able to tackle the English words he do not understand in short time (my translation) I will investigate some random parts of the lemma list in Leachman's dictionary and compare them with the contemporary *Norsk Ordlista* (Lars Eskeland 1897) and the modern *Lingua Bokmålsordliste med skriveregler* (Ruth Vatvedt Fjeld 2008).

An example from the letter *v* can illustrate the lemma selection:

Leachman's: *vaaben* (weapon, arms) - *vaabendyst* (fight) - *vaabenus* (armory) - *vaabenløs* (unarmed).

Eskeland: *vaapen* (weapon) - no compounds.

Fjeld: *våpen* (weapon) - *våpenstillstand* (cessation of hostilities)

Through a few onomasiological studies I also want to show some of the Scandinavian immigrants life, their fears and expectations as they arrived to their Promised Land. semantic fields like diseases, agricultural land, tools.

It is said that a dictionary is a window to the language's culture. Through an analysis of this dictionary I want to find out whether this is true for a pocket dictionary for immigrants. In spite of its small size, the dictionary in addition to the 25000 lemmas and their equivalents also contains some linguistic information:

*Rules for spelling, Rules for pronunciation, Rules for the use of Capitals, Rules for Punctuation*. In addition a good amount of general and encyclopedic information was included: *Rules for computing Interest, Weights and Measures, Rates of Postage, Rates of money Orders, Legal Holidays in all the States, The Eleven Great Wonders in America, The Greatest Battles in the World, How to secure a U.S. Patent, Salaries paid to heads of governments, The Seven Wonders of the World, Wedding Anniversaries, First Things, Notable Bridges of the World, Some good Maxims, Legal Brevities* and finally the amount of four pages referring *Parliamentary Rules and Usages*. *Following are the complete Rules, in plain and compact form for conducting a public meeting*.

It seems that this tiny book was a real surviving kit for emigrants to their New World. The history of Norwegian lexicography is poorly documented, not to mention this special type of immigrant dictionaries, which was of such great importance to the many emigrants from Norway.