

## The *Dickens Lexicon* Project: A Preliminary Report

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### 0. Introduction

This is an preliminary report on the *Dickens Lexicon* Project,<sup>1</sup> which was organised in 1998 and consists of twenty scholars who graduated from Hiroshima University and Kumamoto University. The ultimate aim of the project is to compile the *Dickens Lexicon* from the cards Dr Tadao Yamamoto (1904-91) elaborately drew up and left to us. The *Lexicon* is expected to be released as “The *Dickens Lexicon* Online” on the internet website with the multifunctional search engine in the near future.

### 1. Dr Tadao Yamamoto and his *Growth and System of the Language of Dickens*

It was not until the beginning of the World War II that Yamamoto first developed a version for the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon*. As the war condition turned progressively worse, the compilation of the *Lexicon* was left for the future. In the early spring of 1944 he decided to write an “Introduction” to the *Lexicon*. In the autumn of 1944 he submitted a doctoral thesis entitled “Growth and System of the Language of Dickens: An Introduction to a *Dickens Lexicon*” to Tokyo Imperial University. On the 6th August 1945 the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, owing to which his house was completely destroyed and all the cards and materials for the *Lexicon* were burnt to ashes. In 1946 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Literature from The University of Tokyo for his “Growth and System.”



Figure 1 T. Yamamoto at work

Table 1 A chronology of Tadao Yamamoto

Year	Academic career
1904	Born in Osaka
1928	Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University
1929	Professor at Hiroshima Higher Normal College
1936	Received the Okakura Prize
1946	Professor at Hiroshima University of Literature and Science
1946	Litt.D. from Tokyo University, “Growth and System of the Language of Dickens”
1950	The 1st edition of <i>Growth and System of the Language of Dickens</i>
1952	Professor at Osaka Women’s University
1952	The 2nd edition of <i>Growth and System of the Language of Dickens</i>
1953	Awarded the Japan Academy Prize
1954	Professor at Kobe University
1968	Professor at Nanzan University
1971	Professor at Otani Women’s University
1978	Retirement
1991	Died
2003	The 3rd revised edition of <i>Growth and System of the Language of Dickens</i>

In 1950 the dissertation was published by Kansai University Press with the generous effort of Professor Jiichi Hattori, Dean of the Faculty of Letters at Kansai University and the financial support from the English Philological Society of the university.

In 1952 the second edition and “An index to Tadao Yamamoto’s *Growth and System of the Language of Dickens: With supplementary notes & corrections,*” which was made up by his pupils, Chiaki Higashida and Michio Masui, were published separately by the same press. In February 1954, the second edition and its *Index* were reviewed by N. E. Osselton, who commented as follows:

“Dr. Yamamoto is able to shed light on the direct influence of environment on style and idiom.” (29)

“The distinction between grammatical and properly stylistic features of language is sometimes a fine one. The Lexicon of Dickens’s idiom which Dr. Yamamoto intends to publish may help us to gain insight into such problems.” (31)

“An excellent and comprehensive index of words is provided for purposes of reference.” (29)

“A sensitive reader can discern the excellences of Dickens’s idiom without having recourse to a card-index.” (31)

“The quotations appear to be on the whole accurately rendered, but there is a regrettably large number of misprints.” (31)

To revise the inferior printing techniques of the day, the numerous typos, the inappropriate layout, and inconsistency of printing-style, the 3rd revised edition was published by Keisuisha, Hiroshima in 2003 in memory of the semicentennial of his winning of the Japan Academy Prize.

Table 2 The contents of *Growth and System of the Language of Dickens*

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PART I Growth and Structure of Dickens’s Language	
1. Historical Background	10. The Counting-House
2. Early Childhood	11. The First Published Work
3. Late Childhood	12. Journeys
4. Lessons at Home and at School	13. Literature
5. School-Days	14. The Bible
6. A Start in Life: The Attorney’s Office and the Gallery in the House of Commons	15. Rhetorical Expressions
7. The Stage	16. Word-Making
8. Sports and Games	17. Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases
9. Ships and Voyages	18. Utterances
	19. Sentences
	20. Conclusion
PART II Idiom and Idioms	
1. Historical Background	5. Noun-Idioms
2. Idioms in the Form of the Sentence	6. Adjective-Idioms
3. Verb-Idioms	7. Conclusion
4. Adverb-Idioms	

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## 2. The Joint Research for the Compilation of the *Lexicon*

In 1948 Dr Yamamoto organised the first joint research for the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon*, which was granted a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japanese Ministry of Education,

Science and Culture for 1948. The members of the joint research group mainly consisted of his pupils at Hiroshima University of Literature and Science. The members each chose one of Dickens's works and collected the materials for the *Lexicon*. The participants and their selected works are as follows:

Tadao Yamamoto	<i>Oliver Twist</i>
Michio Masui	<i>Bleak House</i>
Chiaki Higashida	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>
Tamotsu Kurose	<i>Christmas Books</i>
Hiroshige Yoshida	<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>
Masami Tanabe	<i>Old Curiosity Shop</i>

After he moved to Osaka Women's University in 1952, Yamamoto organised the second joint research for the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon*, the members of which included Michio Masui, Chiaki Higashida, Tamotsu Kurose, Haruo Kouzu, Yasuo Yoshida, Tadahisa Goto, Jun Matsumoto, Tamotsu Matsunami, Hideo Hirooka, Michio Kawai, etc. The joint research was granted a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for 1952. The process and result of it were reported in *Anglica* (1954: 438-9):

As a preliminary work for the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon* we aimed at establishing the working principles of selecting materials for our research. For this purpose each of the members chose one of Dickens's writings from which necessary materials should be extracted. It was desired that each participant should at the outset prepare explanatory notes to the work chosen and as the next step offer slips of quotations under separate items with comments if necessary.

The works chosen for this time are as follows:

<i>Sketches by Boz</i> (B)	Matsunami
<i>Pickwick Papers</i> (P)	Matsumoto
<i>Christmas Carol</i> (Carol)	Kurose
<i>Martin Chuzzlewit</i> (MC)	Masui
<i>Cricket on the Hearth</i> (Cricket)	Goto
<i>Dombey and Son</i> (DS)	Higashida
<i>David Copperfield</i> (DC)	Yoshida
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> (TC)	Imagawa
<i>Great Expectations</i> (GE)	Ishino

Separately the present writer has prepared a collection of detailed notes to *Oliver Twist* (OT), with which materials chosen out of the above works are to be collated.

Slips collected amount to 6504, from which 2915 have been sifted and adopted for the present research. They may be roughly classified as follows:

1. Names and subjects	472
2. Word-forms	152
3. Slang and dialects	388
4. Quotations and allusions	256
5. Expressions coming from some definite situations or surroundings	337
6. Phrasal expressions	200
7. Exclamations, asseverations, swearing, &c.	174
8. Intensive expressions	88
9. Precise and energetic expressions	73

Those with bodily names	31
10. Miscellaneous	519
11. Words and phrases particularly collated with the notes to <i>Oliver Twist</i>	225
Sum Total	2915

In conclusion, Yamamoto commented on the limitation and difficulties of this joint research as follows:

... as a joint work ours for this time has remained at the very tentative stage. It has taught us that the desideratum is a perfect team-work with sufficient preparation and training that cost us an enormous amount of time and labour. With all our efforts, however, we must admit that we continually suffer from the considerable limitation of our knowledge, and under the present conditions there are insurmountable difficulties in having access to each and every requisite source of information. It would indeed be a consummation devoutly to be wished if we could come directly in touch, not exclusively through the narrow channel of written sources now at our disposal, with all things that have conspired to create Dickens and his language. (451)

The research team was, however, broken up, and a new smaller one was organised. Its members were Chiaki Higashida, Yasuo Yoshida, Jun Matsumoto, and Shigekiyo Kawahara. The result was published in *Dickens no Buntai* from Nan'un-do in 1960, but this joint research did not bear fruit, either. From that time Yamamoto began to collect the materials for the *Dickens Lexicon* once again from *Pickwick Papers* all by himself, but unfortunately on the 28th of July in 1991, he died without seeing it accomplished.

Table 3 A chronology of the joint research for the compilation of the *Lexicon*

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1945	All the materials for the <i>Lexicon</i> were burnt to ashes due to the A-bomb.
1948	The 1st Joint Research (A Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for 1948) Members: Tadao Yamamoto, Michio Masui, Chiaki Higashida, Tamotsu Kurose, Hiroshige Yoshida, Masami Tanabe
1952	The 2nd Joint Research (A Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for 1952) Members: Tadao Yamamoto, Michio Masui, Chiaki Higashida, Tamotsu Kurose, Haruo Kouzu, Yasuo Yoshida, Tadahisa Goto, Jun Matsumoto, Tamotsu Matsunami, Hideo Hirooka, Michio Kawai Report: Yamamoto, T. (1954) "A Memoir of the Join Research for the Compilation of the Dickens Lexicon." <i>Anglica</i> , Vol. 1, No. 5, 438-51.
1954	The 3rd Joint Research Members: Tadao Yamamoto, Chiaki Higashida, Yasuo Yoshida, Jun Matsumoto, Shigekiyo Kawahara Report: Yamamoto, T., ed. (1960) <i>The Style of Dickens</i> (in Japanese). Nan'un-do: Tokyo.
1960-	Yamamoto began to collect the materials for the <i>Lexicon</i> once again from <i>Pickwick Papers</i> all by himself. Report: Yamamoto T. (1962) "On the Compilation of the <i>Dickens Lexicon</i> " (in Japanese). <i>Anglica</i> , Vol. 4, No. 5, 223-30.
1991	Unfortunately on the 28th of July in 1991, he died without seeing the <i>Lexicon</i> accomplished.

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### 3. The *Dickens Lexicon* Project

In 1997 Yamamoto's surviving family offered the donation of his library.<sup>2</sup> Some of his pupils in Hiroshima happened to find a large number of cards in a large wooden box in one corner of his library when they arranged and classified the books he owned. The total number of cards was up to 58,273.<sup>3</sup> In April 1998 a compiling team, consisting of several graduates from Hiroshima University and Kumamoto University, was organised, which we call the *Dickens Lexicon* Project.

Table 4 The members of the *Dickens Lexicon* Project as of March 2008

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<b>Chairperson</b>
Tamotsu Kurose, Professor Emeritus at Seinan Gakuin University
<b>Advisory Committee</b>
Hiroyuki Ito, Professor Emeritus at Kumamoto University
Toshiro Tanaka, Professor Emeritus at Hiroshima University
<b>Executive Committee</b>
Masahiro Hori, Professor at Kumamoto Gakuen University (Chief)
Osamu Imahayashi, Associate Professor at Hiroshima University (Definition)
Tomoji Tabata, Associate Professor at Osaka University (Computer technology)
Akiyuki Jimura, Professor at Hiroshima University (Observer)
<b>Committee Members</b>
Ken Nakagawa, Professor at Yasuda Women's University
Kyoko Wakimoto, Associate Professor at Okayama University
Kazuho Mizuno, Professor at Hiroshima Shudo University
Hiroji Fukumoto, Associate Professor at Tottori University
Hideshi Ohno, Associate Professor at Kurashiki University of Science and the Arts
Mayumi Sawada, Lecturer at Iwakuni Junior College
Miyuki Nishio, Lecturer at Shimane University
Saoko Tomita, Lecturer at Fukuoka University
Sadahiro Kumamoto, Professor at Kumamoto University
Keisuke Koguchi, Associate Professor at Yasuda Women's University
Hirotooshi Takeshita, Associate Professor at Shokei University
Junichi Kamo, Associate Professor at Kyushu Lutheran College
Kazuho Murata, Associate Professor at Ariake National College of Technology
Noriko Murata, a part-time lecturer at Kumamoto Gakuen University

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#### 3.1. The 1st Stage

For the first stage of the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon* the members soon started to put all the cards in alphabetical order by headword and put them into computer readable format using the software, FileMaker.<sup>4</sup>

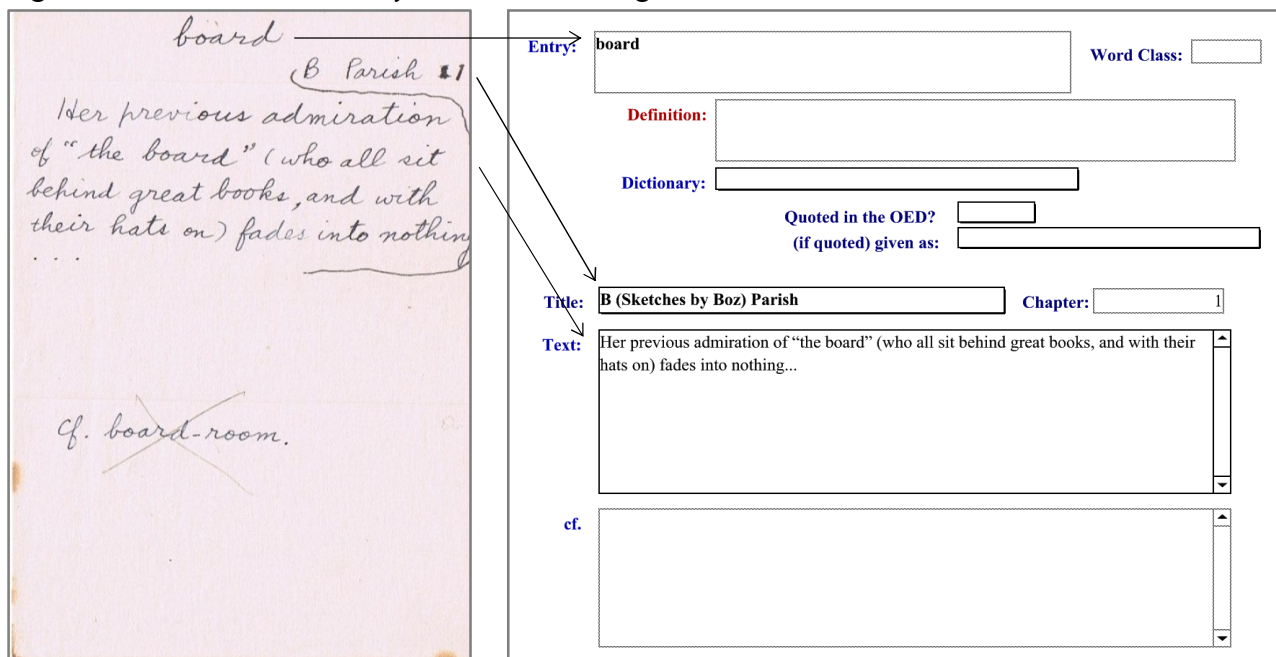
Table 5 The assigned cards for the 1st stage

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Members	Assigned cards (subtotal)	Total
Toshiro Tanaka	A2/2 (1,503), B1/4 <sup>3</sup> (869), B2/4(1,284)	3,656
Akiyuki Jimura	B3/4 (746), B4/4 (1,011), C1/4 (1,064)	2,821
Ken Nakagawa	C2/4 (1,090), C3/4 (1,312), C4/4(1,399)	3,801
Hiroji Fukumoto	D1/3 (1,065), D2/3 (752), D3/3 (840), E1/1 (1,003)	3,660
Hideshi Ohno	F1/2 (1,236), F2/2 (1,221), G1/3 (767), G2/3 (890)	4,114
Mayumi Sawada	G3/3 (1,195), H1/3 (795), H3/3(918), I1/1(820)	3,728
Kazuho Mizuno	J1/1 (445), K1/1 (782), L1/4(725), L2/4(803)	2,755
Kyoko Wakimoto	L3/4 (850), L4/4 (594), M1/2 (1,379), M2/2 (1,377)	4,200
Hiroyuki Ito	# <sup>6</sup> 1/9 (629), #2/9 (441), #3/9 (801), #4/9 (815), #5/9 (671), #6/9 (772), #7/9 (341), #8/9 (978), #9/9 (514), W1/4 (707), W3/4 (583)	7,252
Sadahiro Kumamoto	A1/2(1,159), R3/3 (729), N1/2 (6,519), S2/5 (1,423), Y-Z1/1 (136)	4,098
Junichi Kamo	S1/5 (1,318), S3/5 (1,099), S4/5 (1,027), S5/5 (1,078)	4,522
Kazuho Murata	P1/3 (1,186), P3/3 (1,089), P2/3 (1,157), O1/2 (631), N2/2 (620)	4,683
Hirotooshi Takeshita	R1/3 (700), T4/6 (767), T3/6 (925), T6/6 (922), T5/6 (848), H2/3 (706)	4,868
Noriko Murata	T1/6 (670), O2/2 (453), R2/3 (519), Q1/1 (181), T2/6 (838), W2/4 (620), W4/4 (834)	4,115

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Figure 2 *Board in Sketches by Boz* at the 1st stage



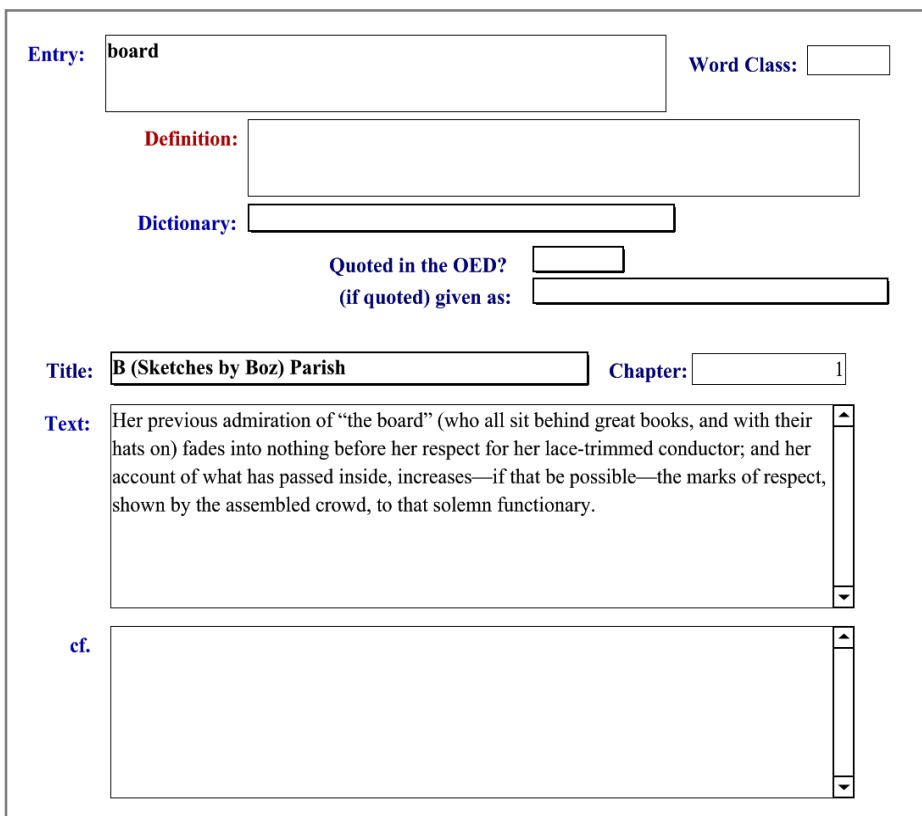
Yamamoto's hand writing card

FileMaker card

### 3.2. The 2nd Stage

At the end of the 1st stage, we found several difficulties in inconsistency of card writings, illegible handwriting, misquotations, inappropriate length of the quotations, and identification of the dictionaries used by Yamamoto. At the second stage, however, we brought some of them, especially the quotations, under control, and finished putting all cards into computer readable format by the end of May 2007.

Figure 3 *Board in Sketches by Boz* at the 2nd stage



### 3.3. The 3rd Stage

We are now at the third stage and define the meanings of the words and phrases on the card, about two-thirds of which Yamamoto left undefined. His definitions on the cards largely depended upon *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*<sup>7</sup> or *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary of Current English*,<sup>8</sup> both of which were edited by H. W. Fowler and F. G. Fowler, based on *The Oxford English Dictionary*, and he sometimes consulted *The New English Dictionary* if he had not previously found any suitable meanings.<sup>9</sup> We decided to follow his method and limit the editions of the *COD* and the *POD* to the first, second, or third editions because their fourth editions were fully revised and updated by E. McIntosh and were not suitable for reading Dickens's works.

Figure 4 *Board* in *Sketches by Boz* at the 3rd stage

<b>Entry:</b>	<input type="text" value="board"/>	<b>Word Class:</b>	<input type="text" value="n."/>
<b>Definition:</b>	<input type="text" value="The company of persons who meet at a council-table."/>		
<b>Dictionary:</b>	<input type="text" value="OED (NED)"/>		
	<b>Quoted in the OED?</b>	<input type="text" value="No"/>	
	<b>(if quoted) given as:</b>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Title:</b>	<input type="text" value="B (Sketches by Boz)"/>	<b>Chapter:</b>	<input type="text" value="Our Parish, 01"/>
<b>Text:</b>	<input (who="" account="" all="" and="" assembled="" be="" before="" behind="" board"="" books,="" by="" conductor;="" crowd,="" fades="" for="" functionary."="" great="" has="" hats="" her="" increases—if="" inside,="" into="" lace-trimmed="" marks="" nothing="" of="" on)="" passed="" possible—the="" respect="" respect,="" shown="" sit="" solemn="" that="" the="" their="" to="" type="text" value="Her previous admiration of " what="" with=""/>		
<b>cf.</b>	<input type="text" value="'Bow to the board,' said Bumble. Oliver ... seeing no board but the table, fortunately bowed to that. (Oliver Twist, II)"/>		

The difficult task of definition is now being carried out by the Dickens scholars shown in the following table.

**Table 6** The second and third stage of the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon*

Assigned works	The second stage	The third stage	Cards
<i>Sketches by Boz</i>	Osamu Imahayashi	Osamu Imahayashi	3,799
<i>Pickwick Papers</i>	Mayumi Sawada	Masahiro Hori	2,690
<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Ken Nakagawa	Osamu Imahayashi	1,807
<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>	Hideshi Ohno	Osamu Imahayashi	2,582
<i>Old Curiosity Shop</i>	Kyoko Wakimoto	Saoko Tomita	1,867
<i>Barnaby Rudge</i>	Miyuki Nishio	Miyuki Nishio	1,550
<i>Martin Chuzzlewit</i>	Hirotoishi Takeshita	Miyuki Nishio	3,604
<i>Dombey and Son</i>	Sadahiro Kumamoto	Keisuke Koguchi	3,130
<i>David Copperfield</i>	Tomoji Tabata	Tomoji Tabata	5,108
<i>Bleak House</i>	Kazuho Murata	Hiroyuki Ito	3,683

<i>Hard Times</i>	Keisuke Koguchi	Keisuke Koguchi	1,027
<i>Little Dorrit</i>	Hiroji Fukumoto	Miyuki Nishio	2,879
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Keisuke Koguchi	Keisuke Koguchi	984
<i>Great Expectations</i>	Kazuho Mizuno	Saoko Tomita	2,054
<i>Our Mutual Friend</i>	Junichi Kamo	Hiroyuki Ito	3,483
<i>Edwin Drood</i>	Saoko Tomita	Saoko Tomita	1,317
Letters	Hiroyuki Ito	H. Ito & M. Hori	689
Speeches	Hiroyuki Ito	H. Ito & M. Hori	526
Miscellanies	Masahiro Hori	Masahiro Hori	11,028
Total			53,807

#### 4. What is in the *Lexicon*?

What is the difference in the treatment of “the (three) wise men” in the dictionary, grammar, and lexicon? Yamamoto (2003: 398-99) explains it as follows:

To illustrate by a simple model the limit of units according to the dictionary, grammar, and lexicon, ‘the wise men’ (cf. ‘that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode’ *Carol* 1) may be divided or enlarged in the following way:

Dictionary	‘the / (three) / wise / men’
Grammar	‘the’ & ‘(three)’ & ‘wise’ & ‘men’
Lexicon	‘[the (three) wise men]’

The dictionary can separate each word (‘the’ and partly ‘three’ may belong to grammar), in grammar each word is capable of being separated and combined freely (cf. ‘three men,’ ‘the three men,’ ‘wise men,’ ‘the wise men,’ ‘three wise men,’ and ‘the three wise men’), but in the lexicon ‘the (three) wise men (of the East)’ is the final delimitable unit, the parentheses showing that this unit may be enlarged and varied without doing damage to the word-group as a unit. It is evident that this idiom owes its current use to the Bible and denotes ‘the Magi,’ which association and special meaning would be lost if analysed and combined freely as in the dictionary or grammar.

Therefore, “the Wise Men” in *Christmas Carol* is to be treated in the *Lexicon* as in Figure 5.

Figure 5 *The Wise Men in Christmas Carol*

**Entry:**  **Word Class:**

**Definition:**

**Dictionary:**

**Quoted in the OED?**   
(if quoted) given as:

**Title:**  **Chapter:**

**Text:**


**cf.**




### 5. The *Dickens Lexicon Online*

Our ultimate aim is to complete the compilation of the *Dickens Lexicon* from the cards drawn up by Tadao Yamamoto, who believed “even if the work was not issued in his life time, his pupils and successors would be sure to publish it sometime.”<sup>10</sup> Fortunately in April this year our project received A Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for 2008-2010. Our *Lexicon* is expected to be released as The *Dickens Lexicon Online* on the internet website with the multifunctional search engine and with Dickens Textbank and the 18th and 19th Century Textbank by 2012 in honour of the bicentennial of the birth of Charles Dickens if everything is “in a concatenation ackoordingly.”


Figure 6 The *Dickens Lexicon Online*



## Dickens Lexicon Web



WITH ELECTRONIC TEXTS



**Standard Query Options:**

Text search: Word(s)/phrase(s)

Lexicon entry

Definition

Word class

Title search

Date

**Electronic text search:**

Dickens Textbank

18th & 19th Century Textbank

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> The Japanese version of the interim report was published in *The Rising Generation* (Vol. 152, No. 11, 2007: 670-2) by Masahiro Hori, Akiyuki Jimura, Osamu Imahayashi, and Tomoji Tabata.
- <sup>2</sup> His library was donated to the Graduate School of Language and Culture, Osaka University with the generous effort of Tomoji Tabata.
- <sup>3</sup> These cards include some other writers' cards, so the total number of Dickensian cards amounts to 53,807.
- <sup>4</sup> We are now using FileMaker Pro 7 or higher versions.
- <sup>5</sup> B1/4 means the first of four parts of "B" cards.
- <sup>6</sup> # signifies the group of cards without headwords.
- <sup>7</sup> Yamamoto used the second edition, according to "Bibliography" to *Growth and System* (2003: 11).
- <sup>8</sup> "Bibliography" to *Growth and System* (2003: 11) suggests that Yamamoto used the first edition.
- <sup>9</sup> It is the former title of *The Oxford English Dictionary*, abbreviated to *NED*, which "in particular, was his desk-companion and even became one of his favourite words," so the editors of the third revised edition of *Growth and System* did not revise it to the *OED*. ("Postscript" to *Growth and System*, 2003: 587)
- <sup>10</sup> "Postscript" to the third edition of *Growth and System*. (2003: 588).

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