

VALTS ERNŠTREITS

University of Tartu
Latvian Language Agency
valts@niceplace.lv

Experiences in compiling Estonian-Latvian dictionary

In 2015 new Estonian-Latvian dictionary containing over 40000 headwords was published. Being a result of only two and half years of tense compiling work it required a number of solutions – both technical and methodological. Some of these solutions were derived from grammatical differences between both languages – e.g. so called joint verbs in Estonian, that are correlating with Latvian verbs with prefixes; broader usage of verb forms as independent lexical units in Estonian; usage of adjectives and substantive cases in adverbial functions and adverbs in adjective functions etc. At the same time a number of similarities in semantics and functional usage was found between Estonian and Latvian that partially have derived from joint cultural, legislation and administrative space and partially caused by prolonged contacts between Latvian and Livonian which is one of the closest related languages for Estonian.