Syntactic government patterns in the Sketch Engine and in syntagmatic dictionaries for Estonian

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The poster provides an overview of implementation and representation of syntactic government patterns of substantives, adjectives, adverbs, verbs and adpositions in the Sketch Engine (Kilgarriff et al. 2004) and in syntagmatic dictionaries of the Estonian language for example in the Estonian Basic Dictionary (Kallas 2010). Substantives and adjectives have case, adposition and infinitive government. Verbs have object, case, adposition, and infinitive government. Adverbs have case government in Estonian (Langemets et al. 2005: 91–93).

Estonian Word Sketches take as input ca 250mln tagged Estonian Reference Corpus (http://www.cl.ut.ee/korpused/segakorpus/) and provide automatic, corpus-based summaries of a word's grammatical and collocational behaviour. While writing Sketch Grammar basic theoretical concepts of Estonian Formal Grammar (Roosmaa et al. 2001) were used. As a result, all possible syntactic government patterns were brought forth in Estonian Sketch Grammar: the system shows explicitly all possible case, adposition and infinitive government patterns for substantives and adjectives; object, case, adposition, and infinitive government for verbs; case government for particle verbs; adposition government for prepositional verbs and case government for adverbs.

The information provided by Word Sketches (government patterns, their collocational range and frequency) is used in practical work by lexicographers of the Institute of the Estonian Language. The poster illustrates how the information about syntactic government is presented in the Estonian Basic Dictionary. The dictionary (ca 4000 entries) is being compiled for Estonian language learners at the beginner (A1, A2) and lower-intermediate (B1) levels and one of the aims of the dictionary is to give a comprehensive description of syntactic government patterns of Estonian substantives, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and adposition. Patterns included in the dictionary are chosen on the basis of the criteria of frequency and complexity of their structure. Each pattern is illustrated by example sentences. Government issue is a very important factor in teaching or learning a second or foreign language; and the Basic Estonian Dictionary set out to give learners all necessary information for writing grammatically correct sentences.

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