

Foreword

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the verb “Balkanize” as “to divide into small, often hostile units.” This gloss is clearly based on the tragic history of the Balkan states in the early 20th century. Fortunately, the passing of time and the splendid achievement embodied in this volume contribute to the fading of the sad connotations of this verb. The many dedicated individuals who “Balkanized” wordnet have conceived and created a linguistic resource that will bind together not only the nations where BalkaNet’s languages are spoken but also the dozens of other languages for which wordnets exist.

Standing on the shoulders of previous generations, every new wordnet features its own improvements, and BalkaNet offers many. It is the admirable product of intelligent coordination and harmonious collaboration, and both the Balkans and the rest of the world are a little richer for it.

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