

**Abstract.** Functional labels, analytical definitions and examples in verb entries in *A Dictionary of South African English* are analyzed from the point of view of their capacity for conveying syntactic information. While labels provide explicit information on verb transitivity and examples illustrate the use of verbs, analytical definitions need to be carefully framed in keeping with lexicographic conventions to explain meaning and reflect the syntactic behavior of the words being defined, using not only appropriately chosen genus terms, but also the so-called 'hole'-convention and defining formulas based on semantic primitives. A study of 90 verb entries from the dictionary shows that they are far from complete repositories of congruent syntactic information; some sources of verb syntax are missing from the entries and those present more often than not give contradictory information. Therefore, the dictionary does not seem to offer real assistance in encoding.