The ELRA Newsletter

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Dear ELRA Members,

In the last Newsletter, we announced our intention of devoting the next three issues to each of the three Colleges within the Association. We are now pleased to introduce the first in this series - a special number devoted to Terminology. Our intention has been to give an overview of the discipline as it now stands, with particular reference to the European level, as well as address some of the most important issues and problems now facing it. We hope in this way not only to make terminology and its actors more visible to the other Colleges, and provide a type of "ready reference" document, but also to contribute constructively to the ongoing debate on the direction of the profession. To this end, we have solicited articles from senior authors representing a wide range of countries and viewpoints within the field, and have also included updates on recent developments such as the founding of the European Association for Terminology (EAFT), the Interval project, and the refounding of Infoterm.

Terminology work within ELRA itself has recently been strengthened by the arrival of our second assistant at ELDA, José Vega, who will address the collection and validation of terminological resources, the implementation and negotiation of licensing agreements for these resources, and interaction with producers, owners and users of terminological resources. Among other things, the terminology database description form has been reworked to give it a simpler and more effective format.

At the same time, the other Colleges have by no means been neglected: for example, work on the validation of written resources is proceeding well - a number of proposals for this have been received and are now being co-ordinated within the relevant sub-panel. The identification of resources and negotiations with suppliers in all areas have continued apace, resulting in the considerable expanded Resources Catalogue distributed along with this Newsletter. The ELRA publicity material has been rewritten, and it and other materials distributed to a number of conference organisers and other marketing channels. In addition, several members of the board, the CEO and his assistants took part in a number of events in the language industry themselves, including the ICSLP and COCOSDA meetings in Philadelphia (participation of the vice-president Joseph Mariani), as well as meeting with further key players in the field. Work has also started on producing a revised Web site design, providing updated information and allowing multilingual access.

Last but not least, since September marks the end of the Association's financial year, the ELDA team has been engaged in an internal audit in preparation for the publication of the official profit and loss account for the business year, and in the preparations for the next General Assembly, to be held on 20 December in Paris. We hope that this extremely important event will demonstrate how far we have come in the last year.

With best wishes,

Antonio Zampolli, President

Khalid Choukri, CEO

PS. We would like to remind you that if you have Language Resources that you would like ELRA to distribute, you are, once again, kindly invited to send us a short description of the data you can provide for inclusion in our lists. In addition, we will help those looking for specific resources by posting a "wanted" advertisement for them on our Web site. Finally, we shall also post a list of resources producers on the Web - in a form that only allows access by - and hence added value to - our members.

ELDA employs second assistant: **José Vega to extend terminology work**

ELDA has employed a new assistant to help with terminology. After working for a number of private companies and organisations such as the CMRH (where he was a linguistic consultant on its "Written language learning" project), he joined GSI-Erli. In the course of more than 12 years with the company, he was successively a consultant for language engineering projects and project manager of the translation department. He also took part in several projects for implementing multilingual systems in the area of man-machine interfaces and information retrieval.

ELRA Profiles

Thomas Schneider, Treasurer

Thomas Schneider, MA, PhD, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1949. After studying a number of fields such as Political Science, Economics and Literary Criticism at the University of Munich, he concentrated on Descriptive and Contrastive Linguistics. He then moved to the University of Colorado, where he taught German as a foreign Language and participated in one of the first computer applications in the Humanities: the production of the voluminous Rilke concordances.

In 1976, he became Professor of Humanities in the South Pacific, teaching Educational Psychology, Literary Criticism, Humanities and German, and managing the University's external contacts. He also wrote a Tongan-English dictionary and developed language-training courses for the American Peace Corps.

In 1979, he joined Siemens AG as head of development for the METAL machine translation system, and subsequently also managed the TEAM terminology database. He also co-ordinated large-scale corporate projects in many different countries, plus other natural language processing projects (controlled language definition and verification, authoring tools, software for content-based information retrieval, multilingual communication devices, grammar and style checkers, etc.). He has also been involved in a number of European projects, e.g. PAROLE, and has published over 60 books and articles. Since the beginning of 1996, he has been working as an independent consultant.

Thomas Schneider was elected Treasurer of ELRA in September 1995. He sees his role as ensuring that the Association has a solid financial footing so that it can continue its vital role of promoting multilingual communication throughout Europe.

Robin Bonthrone, Secretary

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1957, Robin Bonthrone spent several years touring the world as a junior officer in the Royal Navy before studying German and French at the University of London. After taking a postgraduate diploma in European Marketing and Languages at Napier College, Edinburgh, he worked as a market research and export project officer for a major UK company. Moving to Germany in 1985, he worked in marketing, sales and business consultancy positions before establishing his own business providing high-end translation and localization services to the banking, finance and IT sectors in 1989. In July 1995, he set up a registered partnership with Deborah Fry; in addition to their specialist translation, localization and terminology services, they offer language consultancy services such as language audits and language process reengineering, quality coaching, and language systems evaluation and integration.

In ELRA, Robin Bonthrone represents Deutsches Institut für Terminologie (DIT) e.V. (the German Terminology Institute), of which he is a founder member and currently Vice-President and General Manager. A member of the ELRA Steering Committee, he was elected to the ELRA Board of Directors at the first General Assembly.

He believes that for the terminology sector, ELRA's primary mission must be to respond swiftly to market requirements by facilitating the provision of "the right terminology at the right time, at the right place and at the right price". ELRA must reflect current and future user needs by encouraging the European terminology sector to become more market-oriented and less bureaucratic.

Bente Maegaard

Born in Copenhagen in February 1945, Bente Maegaard studied Mathematics and French at the University of Copenhagen before becoming a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Applied and Mathematical Linguistics there. A visiting professor at the University of Geneva (ISSCO) in 1981, she became a research professor in Copenhagen in 1984, and in 1989 was appointed head of the Eurotra-DK team. In 1990 she was a research fellow at the University of Salford, UK, and in 1991 she was appointed Director of the newly created Center for Sprogteknologi (Center for Language Technology). This research centre, under the auspices of the Danish ministry of Research and Information Technology, employs around 20 people and is active in the fields of computational and theoretical linguistics, lexicography, Danish and a number of other languages, computer science and artificial intelligence.

Bente Maegaard is a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Corpus Linguistics, and was a member of the Executive Board of the ACL (Association for Computational Linguistics) from 1992-1994. Appointed to the Danish Academy for the Technical Sciences in 1985, she was a Board member from 1991-1995 and chairman of its Fundamental and Ancillary Sciences Group. Since 1993 she has been a member of the board of directors for Munksgaard Publishers A/S, as well as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Centre for Person Communication, Aalborg University. In 1994-1995, she was appointed to the Danish Research Ministry's committee which followed up the OECD report on Danish Science and Technological Innovation, and in 1995 was elected to the Committee (Board) of the EAMT (European Association for Machine Translation).

Bente Maegaard's main areas of expertise include machine translation, evaluation methodologies, dictionaries, corpora and dialogue systems with spoken input. She was awarded the Levison Prisen for services to the printing industry in 1991.

Terminology Standardisation

Elisabeth Blanchon

One should not get worked up unnecessarily if the term standardisation is applied to language. Standardisation is a consensus achieved in the course of a complex, democratic process which is indispensable (even though it is invisible to the general public) to everyday life, to commercial transactions, industrial production, and so on.
Terminology standardisation is part of this process, especially in relation to the creation of technical standards. In this context, it is important above all things to agree on what one is going to talk about (i.e. the concepts) and the way in which one is going to name them.
As a result, the principles and methods of terminology work have themselves been standardised.

Terminology standardisation can thus be divided into two parts: standardisation of the theory of terminology and standardisation of terminology in the sense of term lists.
The standardisation of the theoretical aspects of terminology, of working methods, basic principles, etc. is the province of ISO Technical Committee 37.
The standardisation of terms is the job of the technical committees themselves, which publish both separate vocabulary standards and terminological sections within technical standards.
In the IT area, Subcommittee 1 of JTC 1 (Joint Technical Committee 1), a joint ISO/IEC committee, is performing systematic terminological work.

It is also important to emphasise that the application of standards is a voluntary matter. Only those who want to use them do so, with the exception of a few European standards which have a binding, regulatory character (notably those covering calls for tenders).

Organisations and procedures

At the international level, ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation) covers all domains, while the IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) is concerned with the area of electricity/electronics and the ITU (the International Telecommunications Union) with telecommunications.
These organisations are made up of the national standardisation bodies (one per country). Close links are maintained with other important organisations, manufacturers' and users' groups and learned societies, with the liaison work taking the form of the exchange of documents and the ability to participate in meetings.
Work is performed by sector-specific technical committees which themselves are divided into subcommittees and expert working groups.

At the European level, the equivalent organisations are CEN (Comité européen de normalisation), CENELEC (Comité européen de normalisation électrotechnique) and ETSI (European Telecommunications Standard Institute). In turn, these consist of the national organisations of the countries in Europe.

Finally, at the national level, the French equivalent of ISO is AFNOR (Association française de normalisation) , the British one is BSI (British Standards Institute), the German one DIN (Deutsches Institut für Normung), the Austrian one ÖN, the Greek one ELOT, and so on. The organisation corresponding to the IEC in France is the CEF (Commission électrotechnique française - an offshoot of UTE, the Union technique de l'électricité), while in Great Britain it is the BEC (British Electrotechnical Committee, an offshoot of the BSI).

Each country has one vote and may also submit item-by-item or shorter comments, depending on the level of the document, via its national commission at each stage in the creation of the documents. These comments are dealt with, incorporated or rejected in a well-founded and well-argued manner, by international working groups composed of experts from each country.

Each international standard published is thus the result of a long process of preparation, harmonisation, exchange of information between experts and countries, national votes, etc.
This means in practice that a whole series of intermediate documents is produced, with each standard passing through the following stages:
- new work item (generally abbreviated to NWI),
- working draft (WD),
- committee draft (CD),
- draft international standard (DIS),
- international standard(IS).

In turn, each of these documents may pass through several successive versions before a basic consensus is reached. Once passed, standards are subjected to an international vote every five years, in order to ascertain if they need to be renewed, or if they need revision.

Theoretical Standardisation: TC 37 (Technical Committee 37)

TC 37, "Terminology (Principles and Coordination)", the secretariat of which is held by INFOTERM in Vienna, is divided into three subcommittees (SCs), which themselves are split into working groups responsible for one or more standards.
TC 37 has created a number of standards which serve as the theoretical foundation for the domain and which are intended to help terminologists in their work; these include Principles and methods of terminology (ISO 704), now undergoing revision, International harmonization of concepts and terms (ISO 860), Vocabulary of terminology (ISO 1087-1) also undergoing revision, Bibliographic references for terminology work (ISO 12615), and Translation-oriented terminography (ISO 12616-2).
It has also edited more practical documents describing the conventions used in terminography to describe terms: Code for the representation of names of languages (ISO 639), Lexicographical symbols particularly for use in classified defining vocabularies (ISO 1951), Alphabetic ordering of multilingual terminological and lexicographical data (ISO 12199) and the draft guidelines for terminology standardization project management.
In addition, it has prepared a basic document on the Preparation and layout of international terminology standards, giving all the instructions necessary for preparing reliable terminology and presenting it in a homogeneous manner.
Another major area of work concerns the utilisation of IT in terminology. Results here include Computational aids in terminology - Data element categories (ISO 12620), the Vocabulary - Part 2:

Computational aids in terminology (ISO 1087-2), and Computer aids in terminology - Establishment and use of terminological databases and text corpora (ISO 12618).
Special mention should also be made of the document entitled Computational aids in terminology - Terminology interchange format - SGML applications (MARTIF) (ISO 12200), more commonly known as MARTIF. This will provide significant support for negotiated terminology interchange (i.e. between an identified sender and receiver), and is currently being tested in practice.

Standardisation of the vocabulary of information technology: JTC 1 SC 1

JTC1 (Joint Technical Committee 1) is a joint ISO/IEC committee set up in 1986 to standardise everything connected with the IT area. It is divided into nineteen sector-specific technical subcommittees plus the horizontal SC 1, whose task is to standardise the terminology of the entire IT domain. Some indication of the degree of specialisation and the extent to which the whole range of IT is covered can be gathered from the following incomplete list: SC 7, "Software Engineering", SC 22, "Languages" (this standardises programming languages), SC 27, "Security", and SC 29, "Multimedia".
SC 1 has been working on terminology since 1968, i.e. well before the creation of JTC 1; it was originally part of ISO TC 97 before being incorporated by JTC 1. Part 1 of the ISO/IEC 2382 standard was first published in 1970. Its secretariat is hosted by AFNOR in France (Mme Amélie Peyret-Lacombe), and this country has also provided the presidency since the plenary meeting in 1994 (Mme Élisabeth Blanchon - CTN).
SC 1 is working on a unique terminology standard, ISO/IEC 2382, which is bilingual (English-French) and which is currently divided into over 35 parts, corresponding to the subdomains and spread over four working groups. Topics covered range from "Basic terms" (Part 1) to the terminology of "Hypermedia and multimedia" (Part 33), via "Artificial vision" (Part 30), "Electronic mail" (Part 32), and "IT security" (Part 8).
It should be noted that this bilingual standard has served as the basis for other, national standards in that it has been translated into the language of the country concerned (including, among other places, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Poland and Bulgaria).

Standardisation of vocabularies in other domains

Electricity and electronics

The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) was the first standards organisation to deal with terminology. Work on its International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) basically started in 1906 and has been constantly revised and extended since then. It takes the form of thick volumes and, in future, will also be available as a terminological data bank with online access. The multilingual entries contain equivalent terms in English, French, Russian, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Polish and Swedish.

Telecommunications

In the field of telecommunications, the ITU has also created extremely important standardised reference terminology, which is available both online and in the form of the Termite data bank. The latter contains some 59,000 entries essentially on telecommunications, but also including other technical, administrative and financial domains relevant to the structure and functioning of the ITU itself. The entries are mainly in English, French and Spanish, plus some Russian (transliterated), although a certain number also contain equivalent terms in Italian, German and Portuguese. The integration of Arabic, Russian and Chinese is also planned.

Miscellaneous

Environment : TC 207 has produced a terminology standard.
Quality : TC 176 has produced a quality glossary.
In addition, there is a motley list comprising cranes, industrial robots, coffins, milking machines, geodetic instruments, aerosols and dust, hydraulic and pneumatic transmission, coal dressing, lifting equipment, highways and coatings, cattle and eggs, feathers and duvets, insulating materials, types of seams and stitches, and who knows what else...

More information may be obtained from

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The Business of Terminology – a European Perspective

Robin Bonthrone

It seems to be generally accepted that there is a vast potential market for terminology. At the same time, however, buyers complain that there is a lack of resources where they are needed, and it is difficult to identify any coherent, viable strategies being employed today to sell terminology to them. The prime reason for this appears to be a lack of understanding of what this market actually is and what its immediate needs are, coupled with a failure to establish the link between supply and demand. The situation is only compounded by the unwillingness of many individuals and institutions involved in the terminology sector to treat their activities as any sort of commercially oriented operation.. There is thus a pressing need to reinforce the business case for terminology as a valuable asset, a message which has all too often been ignored by both resource holders and non-commercial institutions. This article, which is intended to stimulate debate, addresses such issues as: Is there a market for terminology? If so, what – and where – is it? What sort of terminology does this market want? And finally, what are the implications for ELRA?

Terminology is a commodity

One of the aspects which many terminologists seem to find difficult both to accept and to understand is the commoditization of terminology. In many ways, terminology – both in the raw and in processed form – has always been a commodity, in the form of input data for processes and finished products. In the past, however, the availability of terminology tended to be restricted, due in part to what are by

now wholly obsolete notions of what constitutes "proprietary" information. Now, developments in the external environment mean that it is impossible to maintain this policy of restricting supply.

Another factor contributing to the lack of resources was the structure of the terminology sector itself: largely isolated individuals jealously guarded their terminological assets, intra-sectoral communication was haphazard, non-existent, or counterproductive and many terminology institutions were engaged in what tended to become a self-perpetuating multilateral bureaucracy, interspersed with outbreaks of internecine warfare. The attempts at different times by various institutions in Europe to dominate terminology policy and public funding for the sector (often by squandering scarce human and financial resources in a vicious struggle to obtain "most favoured status" from national and European authorities) not only caused divisions within the sector itself, they also contributed massively to the appalling external status of the terminology community in the world at large. It is very difficult to find people and companies outside the sector today who are willing to take the terminology "community" seriously.

However, current developments in the fields of information management and IT, in concert with the rise of a global economy, are now blowing apart the existing relationships in the terminology sector. Users are making their demands known with much greater clarity, and are taking matters into their own hands when the response is inadequate or non-existent. Terminological resources are being created, and increasingly also marketed and applied outside the traditional channels, with scant regard to the sacred cows of the traditional terminology superstructure: cumbersome, impractical and all too often dogmatic procedures and "rules" for terminology work.

Business concepts such as cost-effectiveness and time-to-market are forcing terminology suppliers to face up to the fact that they must either wholeheartedly embrace market-orientation or be relegated to a negligible niche status. They are also encountering growing competition from the information management and marketing sector, which increasingly views terminology as just another component of information processes and resources.

The upshot of all these developments is that terminology is a mainstream issue; it is becoming a mere tool in the apparatus of information management and communication, and a simple commodity to be bought and sold on an open market at terms and prices dictated by buyers and users. The nature of this market, however, is still unclear to many in the business of resource creation and supply.

The market paradigm

Today's terminology market is radically different to what it was twenty, or even a mere ten years ago. Firstly, it is larger. Demand for monolingual and multilingual terminology has grown in line with the rapid explosion of information culminating in today's information-driven business and cultural environment. However, this development has been largely hidden to many in the terminology sector, and apart from a relatively small number of market-aware companies and individuals in the emerging terminology services sector, often supported by the few forward-looking R&D institutions, the response has been to ignore - or indeed fight - much of what is happening in the external environment.

Regrettably, we are still faced with a situation today where there are a large number of individuals and institutions in Europe who wish solely to talk about terminology – to discuss ad infinitum the theoretical mechanics of terminology work, to spend vast amounts of time planning elaborate, grandiose infrastructures with no real substance and no viable concept for implementation, to devise complex, opaque "standards" for all aspects of terminology and terminology work, and above all to form a seemingly endless chain of committees – and so few who have actually adopted the mindset necessary to confront the challenges of the modern world (this is not to deny the value of information exchange and coordination, but this too must serve to improve communication with the market).

Secondly, the market has become a global one. Even markets which have been traditionally seen as geographically restricted because they are tied, for example, to a regional language, are shifting onto the global stage, as products and services for these markets are increasingly being produced throughout the world economy. Even the concept of a "European" market is in fact limited only to the currency areas of the various national monetary systems. Terminology for Europe is produced and applied on every continent, and – despite the hesitant and painful steps of many traditionally sheltered European economies towards globalization – Europe is also creating and using terminology for the whole world.

One consequence of this development is that organizations and companies in the terminology sector which are focused too narrowly must redefine their objectives and activities. Institutions positioned at a national level must work together with partners in other countries to form strong alliances geared towards open communication and cross-fertilization. Their primary role must be that of facilitation rather than any notion of control. At a sub-national level, there is scope for highly specialized institutions to form cross-border networks concentrating on particular issues.

Finally, the types and number of users demanding terminology have also experienced significant growth. The more traditional terminology users – translators and interpreters, technical authors, journalists and the research community – have seen a substantial rise in recent years, but they have now been joined (and certainly outnumbered) by the individuals and organizations involved in all fields of information management and technology worldwide. The explosion in demand for information in such areas as finance, environment and telematics (all of which depend heavily on information management) has opened up the field, both in terms of the actual terminology required and the number of users, and thus of potential customers.

No hard data is yet available for the size of this market, as the terminology sector, despite its vast economic potential, apparently does not merit the modest funding necessary for detailed market studies. Taking the categories described above as a basis, however, it would surely not be excessive to estimate the size of the terminology market in Europe as a whole (i.e. Western, Central and Eastern Europe) at well over one million individuals, organizations and enterprises.

On the face of it, this means that terminology should be a growth market able to

exploit the constant advances in information technology and telecommunications. In particular, the gradual trend in the software industry towards content-driven multimedia should be a golden opportunity for the terminology sector to advance its claim to be a key stakeholder in this field. In reality, however, the bulk of the sector has barely risen above the level of an amateur-driven cottage industry, a finding driven home by the few individuals and organizations which have actually risen to the challenge, and are learning how to use the new information architecture to service the market.

However, it is not only the structure of the market which has changed: the nature of the "terminology" now demanded by users has also been transformed.

The new terminology

The notion of what constitutes terminology is now regularly being extended beyond the traditional single term/composite concept to encompass all forms of text, from quite lengthy standard boilerplate text to software UI elements, commands, user messages, etc. Images, icons, and alphanumeric data such as parts lists and bills of materials are other examples of this expansion. In keeping with its status as a commodity, terminology is increasingly defined as a low-cost, reusable text component. Where multimedia is concerned, of course, the "text" may not necessarily be in written form.

The emphasis on reusability and cost-effectiveness is echoed strongly in feedback from the market. Another aspect which frequently sees sharp divisions between user requirements and the highly theoretical standards is that of the quality of terminology. On the one hand, there are those who insist that the only "real" terminology is that which has been through a laborious process of review and approval by a committee of "authoritative experts", who then give it some sort of official seal of approval.

On the other hand, what the market actually wants is "the right terminology at the right place, at the right time, and at the right price". Although officially standardized terminology is important in a few areas (particularly where health and safety are involved), in most cases the "right" terminology does not have to be perfect, standardized or approved. It simply has to be there, and to be "good enough". The speed at which information is communicated today simply does not leave us with any feasible alternatives.

Where machine-processable terminology is required, past efforts at achieving a common standard have not been particularly successful. The MARTIF standard (ISO DIS 12200) goes some way towards to achieving this goal, but it appears to have become somewhat bogged-down in increasingly intricate detail. There seems little point in spending years developing an ISO standard (a process which in itself is hardly market-oriented) unless it gains widespread acceptance in an industry, and MARTIF will certainly require re-engineering before it reaches this stage. What could happen is that one industry leader will adopt a particular set of protocols and the rest will follow suit. Again, time-to-market will be the driver.

It is above all the processes which must be adapted. There is a need to develop what amounts to a "terminology machine". This does not mean a particular software/hardware combination, but rather a set of defined processes for developing, processing and publishing terminology. The aim of this concept would be to enhance cost-efficiency and effectiveness, coupled with an increase in the speed with which terminology meeting specified quality standards can be brought to market.

The role of ELRA

ELRA has defined itself as the natural focal point for organizations and companies across Europe involved in the creation, validation and distribution/marketing of terminology. At the macro-level, ELRA's short-term aim must be to encourage its members – and the terminology sector in general – to adapt quickly to the new operating environment and thus help ensure the long-term survival of the European terminology sector. ELRA must push for the abandonment of the unrepresentative, top-heavy terminology superstructure which is stifling growth and innovation in the sector. This should receive no support – financial or otherwise – from ELRA, which should ensure that funds are channelled towards market-oriented operations.

Again at the pan-European level, ELRA must strengthen its ties to the two other bodies which have emerged recently, the European Association For Terminology (EAFT) and the European Terminology Information Server (ETIS) Working Group. Both of these initiatives embody the principles of openness, transparency and unqualified user-orientation without which the European terminology sector will be unable to compete at a global level. Above all, this tripartite member-driven network - recommended in the POINTER report - has the potential to eliminate the traditional closed-shop mentality of the terminology sector and the wasteful power-struggles within it.

At a market level, ELRA can achieve immediate short-term gains by ensuring that prototype terminology validation metrics are published very quickly. These metrics must cover both process and output (content) quality assurance to enable industry-wide quality procedures to be adopted within the shortest possible timeframe. To meet market requirements for "just-in-time" terminology, the aim must be to allow self-certification based on reproducible, repeatable and auditable methodologies rather than any institutionalized, bureaucratic external certification.

ELRA should also make every effort to ensure the availability of concrete market data, in order to allow the terminology services and research sectors to tailor their activities to actual and forecast market demand. Above all, ELRA must make rapid advances in fulfilling its primary mission to identify and make available the largest possible number of hitherto unpublished terminology collections from European sources.

Taken overall, this basket of measures will not only secure ELRA's future, but also help the association to win new members and earn the respect and cooperation across the European terminology sector.

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The User Perspective - Terminology and Naval Export Contracts

Dominique Clarenc

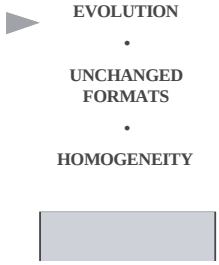
Presentation of the Company

NAVFCO (Société Française Navale de Formation et de Conseil) is a private company reporting to the French Ministry of Defence. Its role is to ensure the transfer of French Navy know-how to foreign navies, within the scope of naval equipment export contracts.
This transfer of know-how, which involves the theoretical and practical training of foreign navy personnel, is performed by French Navy personnel seconded to NAVFCO by the French Ministry of Defence and by civilian ex-Navy personnel. The number of staff employed by the company varies according to the size of these contracts.
NAVFCO is certified in accordance with ISO 9001.

Types of documents produced

Training documentation (theoretical courses) and functional documentation (practical courses) are written in French and then translated into English for use in courses by French instructors. The final objective of the documentation process, and hence of NAVFCOs Translation Department, is thus to enable French instructors from the French Navy to give foreign mariners instruction and training courses in English, although this language is not the mother tongue of either party.

Organisation and requirements of the Translation Department



The contracts dealt with by NAVFCOs Translation Department in the 1980s had highlighted certain weaknesses in the translation of large quantities of documentation: difficulty in ensuring homogeneity with regard to the terminology used, a target text style which was extremely dependent on that of the source texts, and workload constraints related to productivity requirements. At the beginning of the 1990s, contracts entailing several thousands of pages were assigned to the Translation Department.
The use of paper or computerised glossaries was no longer enough to meet productivity goals and pre-defined results. While the team (10 translators) exhibited overall competence and complemented each other in terms of the training and professional experience of each translator, the challenge was to enable them to share common, permanently accessible terminology databases in order to attain the required documentation objectives: rigour and homogeneity. It was also important for the more experienced translators in the NAVFCO team to be able to share their know-how with translators specifically recruited for these contracts.

Necessity for an advanced translation platform

Convinced of the necessity for an advanced translation platform, NAVFCO tested a computer-aided translation system which was compatible with the existing internal IT environment and the documentation production chain for potential benefits.

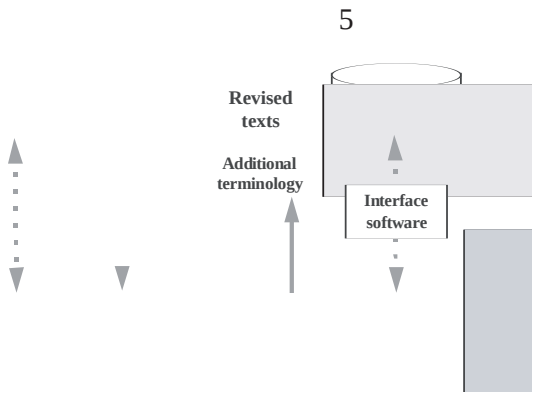
In addition to the last two advantages, the CAT platform implemented multi-level pre-translation functions and offered customizable functions. The aim of the system was to allow the translators to use a standardised terminology database without increasing IT handling requirements at their workstations.
Platform administration was entrusted to an experienced translator familiar with conventional hardware and software, and with a good grasp of linguistics.

This platform administrator is responsible for managing all operations necessary for generating the bilingual texts to be revised by the translators; he is responsible for further development of the system and, principally, for updating the terminology databases by integrating the additional words or phrases proposed by the translators and validated by a revisor. The translators are responsible for terminological research, as is still the case today in most private companies.

Translation tools and resources

Technical organisation

NAVFCO's technical system architecture is as follows: the CAT platform runs under Unix on a Sun workstation, while the translators are equipped with networked PowerMac computers. The Exodus interface software gives translators read-only access to both the terminology databases and the translation memories, and allows them to consult information files for specific words or phrases. The information provided includes definitions and contexts where necessary. These files are also updated by the translators and, after validation by a revisor, are integrated in the system. Only the Platform Administrator has read/write access the different system resources.



Organisation of resources

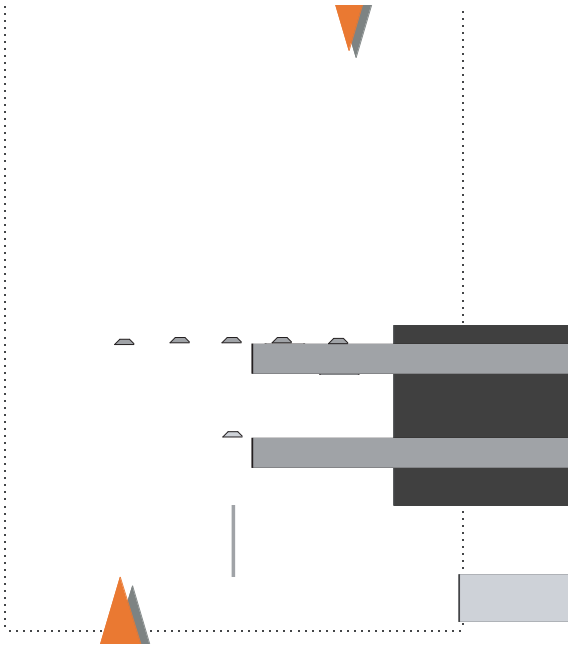
The terminology used is divided into 3 categories:
- contract-specific terminology (dictated by the client, equipment front panels, messages particular to a specific software package, etc.),
- technical terminology from the domains covered, be they general (mechanics, electricity, electronics, etc.) or navy-oriented (compartmentation, damage control, organisation/registers, detection, electronic warfare, weapons, etc.),
- general terminology (introductory and linking phrases, conventional English).

Terminological sources therefore consist of contract-specific documentation, dictionaries, books and glossaries; they may be technical, general, monolingual, or bilingual. It was deliberately decided to adopt the following database structure:
- a general base for navy terminology,
- specific bases for very special subjects which are only used occasionally.

Gathering terminology sources

Before acquiring the CAT platform, the Translation Department used a large number of glossaries, the majority of which were computerised, although there were also a number of "sheets" and paper glossaries. We were able to reuse the computerised glossaries in a semi-automatic manner with the help of a categorisation programme; in practice, the CAT system requires each term to be specifically coded (e.g.: /NO (/NO TAPE /PP DE /NO PONT).

The remainder of the terminology gathered over the years and recorded on paper had to be captured and coded. This work was necessary to populate the system databases and had to be carried out on in parallel with ongoing contracts. Today the Department continues to enhance its terminology databases regularly. This task, which was essential when the system was first acquired in order to ensure the availability of consistent terminology, is less burdensome now but still remains necessary. It implies that translators watch for and research terminology as part of their daily work within the company. We also take advantage of our direct contacts with company engineers and technicians who have extensive knowledge of the terms and technical jargon specific to their area of specialisation.



Conclusion

Over the weeks, we have compiled terminology databases and aligned texts and phrases applicable to ongoing company contracts with satisfactory results. In the medium term, the Translation Department wishes to build term bases on subjects which do not occur routinely but which crop up occasionally in documents which it may have to translate: constantly evolving high-tech equipment, medicine, artificial intelligence, etc.

This approach requires a continuous technology watch as part of our workload. However, one must admit that this terminology research cannot a priori cover all the fields that the Department might need to deal with in the future. As an example, we were recently given a document on polymers which had to be translated rapidly, and had no specific terminology database available "off the shelf". This proves the benefit to us of terminology resource observatories capable of providing a rapid response to this type of need.

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Progress in Terminological Databases

Teresa Cabré Castellví

The proliferation of terminological databases for translation and standardisation has been a great step forward when it comes to the harmonisation of terminology in the public sector and in some international companies, allowing us to unify terminological usage in internal and external documentation. In addition, the automation of terminology has accelerated dictionary and glossary production and has allowed the continuous updating of specialised terms. The provision of terminological databases either online or (mainly) in CD-ROM form has benefited the spread of standardised terminology and has also led to a more widespread use of databanks.

There are a number of reasons why this evolution in terminology automation will not come to a standstill. Firstly, socio-professional and socio-economic needs are constantly advancing and changing (every age has its own requirements). Secondly, the emergence of new information (and communication) technologies implies a change in the structure and organisation of data, and of access to it. Thirdly, terminology as both a theoretical science and an application is also continuously advancing, and new research on applied linguistics for natural language management is pointing to new areas of interest and methods of working with respect to automation.

It is not really difficult to justify the claim that every age has its own way of understanding different subjects and of allocating priorities to different aspects of work. Socio-professional and socio-economic needs in technologically developed societies change in accordance with the permanent evolution of the international community. One of the most obvious changes in modern societies is the rapid growth in specialised knowledge and the increase in specialisation. For this reason, the classical notion of building huge, centralised, general databanks has been progressively abandoned in favour of totally precise subject specialisation. This approach allows immediate updating of knowledge and decentralised terminological work and storage, which in turn implies the direct use of terminology in the terminology production centres. In other words, we have abandoned the idea of building massive databanks containing heterogeneous and unrestricted subjects in favour of creating small, totally specialised databanks which can be permanently updated to take advances in knowledge into account.

There is no doubt that this progress is due to the emergence of new, more dynamic and flexible information and communication technologies. These new technologies imply the risk-free decentralisation of information using high-level interfaces which do not need to access either the diverse formats involved or the different platforms. This step forward implies a switch to the idea of autonomous resource creation while maintaining the possibility of access to all information.

Lastly, we can not deny that terminology, as a theoretical and applied subject, has advanced extremely rapidly during the past few years. This has not only highlighted the weakness of most classical propositions, it has also proved that it is necessary to conceive of terminology as a discipline to understand its basis. Within this framework of a uniform discipline, it is essential for terminology to accept that there are different options which render the considerations above more flexible. There are a number of important reasons for this trend towards flexibility: on the one hand, there is the practical experience of those organisations from countries with socio-terminological interests, and on the other the spread of terminology caused by the dissemination and generalisation of specialised knowledge. The third important cause is the proliferation of international (multilingual) forums in the business, social and cultural fields. Finally, we have to bear language policies in mind, which are often based on the principle of protecting natural resources (the language of a community is one of its assets which need to be maintained) and linguistic ecology (the plan of the languages implies a balance which is broken down with the death of a language or with a reduction in its possible uses). In this context, it is important to remember the policy of multilingualism adopted by the European Union for all languages in Europe.

Terminological innovations are not only related to the conceptual flexibilisation of the basis and functions of terminology, but also with term management, with methodologies, with the organisation of terminographical work and with the way in which terminology specialists' workstations are equipped. Thus the ability to have access text bases electronically and the availability of language management tools for all languages used imply a new and different conception of terminological work and, in this sense, influence the creation of term banks.

These factors affect terminology work because they automate all the possible stages in the terminographic process: documentation, term searches, segmentation of units, extraction, illustration of units, data analysis and information complementation, structured storage of information in physical or virtual databanks and, finally, the (electronic) editing of terminology. Thus - specialised - text databases are the most important stage in automated terminology creation, since they offer multiple choices for the recognition, selection and analysis of different units within specialised documents (terms, phrases, collocations, contexts). These are not subject to the limitations on terminological data which exist in the first stage of automation.

Automatic tools for language analysis and management for different languages are becoming increasingly precise, allowing the automation of most of the stages implied in the terminographic process. They are also more exhaustive when it comes to searching for information, as well as being faster at mechanical jobs. In addition, they optimise process efficiency.

We have to accept that every period has its own way of living, thinking, feeling and believing which combine to constitute a single and concrete civilisation. As a consequence, each civilisation shows specific changes in the way in which it conceives of the real world and jobs. Terminology, which is part of this world, is not an exception; it is also affected by those changes. Thus terminology in general, and terminological databases in particular, are also adapting to the needs of our present society.

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Tools for Managing Terminology

Klaus-Dirk Schmitz

A high percentage of specialised knowledge is documented and published using language, and correct terminology is a prerequisite for efficient knowledge transfer. Technical writers and professional translators are faced with the problem of collecting, storing and retrieving terminology when producing or translating a specialised document. Traditional devices like term lists and file cards are no longer reliable for handling terms; they have been replaced by computerised tools such as terminology management programs.

Early days

The first attempts at using computer technology in managing terminological data were made in the early 1960s. There was an urgent need for solutions on the part of national and international institutions and multinational companies with large translation and interpreting services, since very often a great number of translators had to co-operate in large translation projects to meet very short deadlines. Due to the restrictions posed by the hardware and software components available at the time and the organisational infrastructure needed to operate mainframe computers, only relatively rich organisations and institutions could afford to implement and run their own terminological data bank. It is therefore not surprising that the first such data banks were set up in the large language services units of governmental organisations and major enterprises, in standards organisations and in language planning organisations. Examples of such data banks are LEXIS (Bundessprachenamt, Germany), TERMIUM (Language Service of the Canadian Government), EURODICAUTOM (CEC), TEAM (Siemens AG, Germany), AFNOR (French Association for Standardisation) and BTQ (Office de la langue française, Canada).

Although the individual terminological data banks mentioned differ as regards their contents (languages, subject fields), size, structure and function, they usually have the following data fields in common: main term/main phrase, subject field/ classification, definition, context/example, synonyms, source, comment/note, and administrative information (date, author, quality, etc.)

Most of these large terminological data banks have been maintained and used right down to the present, and thus contain hundreds of thousands of entries. Some data has also been made available to external users on microfiche (LEXIS), CD-ROM (TERMIUM, AFNOR, TERMDOK2 with parts of EURODICAUTOM and TERMIUM) and via networks (EURODICAUTOM on ECHO-HOST and WWW).

The first generation of term banks with their pragmatic and often institution-specific design was succeeded by research-oriented development. These both helped reveal the conceptual weakness of the individual data banks and created new concepts, which again led to the development of corresponding software. Examples are the DANTERM database, developed at the University of Copenhagen, and the Ericsson CAT system, used in the language departments of some German companies and governmental organisations. Both systems are based on concept-oriented terminology management and run on midrange computers. However, the rise of microelectronics and the popularity of (networked) personal computers in language departments and at the translator's workplace led to the Ericsson CAT system no longer being supported, and to its disappearance from the market.

The second generation

At the same time, the development of PC-based terminology management systems began. These ran under a standard hardware and software environment (MS-DOS) and could be used together with other programs such as word processing systems. The first of these systems were launched in the middle of the 1980s and were designed for standalone translator workstations. Most of them only allowed simple management of bilingual terminology, and strictly limited the number of data fields and maximal length of storable data. Today's modern terminology management systems follow the concept-oriented terminology management approach, and have very elaborate data structures and sophisticated look-up features.

Although specialised software tools for handling terminology are available on the market, technical writers and translators very often start out by replacing a card index system with an existing software tool with which they are familiar. Usually the terms are recorded in a word processing file as a simple word list or a table, with the source language term on the one side and the target language term on the other. Although this approach allows users to look up a term, find a translation, paste the term into a target language text and print out a term list in alphabetical order, word processing systems are inadequate tools for managing terminology efficiently, even with an entry structure containing the minimum number of data categories necessary. Also, word processor search facilities are very slow when several thousand terminological entries have to be managed.

A more systematic approach involves the use of database systems like MS-Access or spreadsheet programs like MS-Excel. These programs allow users to define the terminological data categories, build up a structure for terminological entries and search for terms in a very efficient way. Unfortunately, most of these systems have problems managing linguistic data of variable length, e.g. a definition may range from only a few words to more than one page. In addition, some programming effort is necessary to give a general-purpose software tool a customised, efficient user interface for a translator or terminologist.

The approach of choice

The best computerised replacement for the old file-card approach is a terminology management system (TMS). These can be defined as software tools specifically designed to manage terminological data for use by translators and terminologists. They are not unlike database management systems, although they lack the full functionality of such systems, and have been customised to handle linguistic and terminological data efficiently.

Surveys of computerised tools for translators list some fifty different terminology management systems. Most of these systems were developed in Central European

countries, and some are very experimental and not (yet) or no longer available. About twenty systems based on different approaches are available on the market and are useful tools for technical writers, translators and terminologists; the choice of system depends very much on technical, organisational and commercial aspects, and of course on how closely the design of the TMS meets user requirements concerning data categories and structuring of the terminological entry.

Three classes of TMS

Bilingual or language-pair-based terminology management systems are more likely to meet the requirements of term-oriented or lexicographic terminology work, but these programs usually offer only a limited number of terminological data categories and a very simple entry structure. Problems arise if, e.g. a German-English terminological database has to be used for an English-German translation. It is sometimes possible to cope with more than two languages by using tricks, but these tools are clearly not handy for managing multilingual terminology.

Multilingual terminology management systems come closer to a concept-oriented approach, and so fit much better into multi-user environments. Some systems on the market are confined to a fixed number of languages, and some allow bilingual access to an entry, depending on the languages needed for a specific translation. The entry structure ranges from very poor (i.e. only the terms themselves in several languages along with two or three additional data categories) to highly sophisticated. Some of these more complex systems support synonym autonomy, allowing synonymous terms to be fully documented using data categories such as grammatical information, context example, or project code.

The third class of terminology management systems includes all systems with a free entry structure. These TMSs allow users to define their own data categories and entry structure, so that the software can be adapted to suit users' specific terminological needs and can grow as future requirements change. If the program supports additional features such as definable access rights and user specific data models, these systems can be used by freelance translators as well as language departments with a PC-based local area network.

Sophisticated terminology management systems with either an elaborate fixed terminological entry structure or a free, user-definable entry structure should include the following features: integration of graphics and figures for concept documentation;, support for different character sets and sort sequences (for languages with non-Latin character sets); definition of filter attributes for selecting (logical) subsets of the terminological collection, e.g. for subject fields or customer-specific terminology; sophisticated import and export routines (according to ISO 12200 - MARTIF); quality assurance support routines (data input control, checking double entries/homonyms); and the ability to integrate the TMS into a translators' workbench and/or interact with term extraction tools, translation memories and machine translation software.

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Europe and the Fragmented Terminology Arena

Annelise Grinsted

Annelise Grinsted is President of the newly formed European association for Terminology (EAFT). In this article, written before the Constituent General Assembly of the Association, but just as relevant today, she describes her perceptions of the terminology sector, and the need for the new Association.

In the spring of 1996 I was presented with the Final Report of the POINTER Project (Proposals for an Operational Infrastructure for Terminology in Europe) and requested to join the Working Group to establish the European Association for Terminology.

It is with some hesitation that I have taken on this work, because I see a fragmented terminology arena with very individualistic key players. In particular, the field has had difficulty in producing European projects which go beyond special interests. When, for example, the EU Language Engineering - Language Resources Programme calls for proposals in the areas of written language, spoken language and terminology, the first two areas submit projects with a serious impact and a European scope. Terminology projects, on the other hand, are still characterised by sectional interests, and it is difficult to catch sight of the will to co-operate seriously across interest barriers, languages, regions and nationalities.

Furthermore, it is characteristic that in the meetings on establishing a European Association for Terminology (recommended in the conclusions of the POINTER report), the debate has centred on who should become a member (in order not "to step on anybody's toes") rather than what this organisation could and should work towards, and how it could contribute constructively to the professionalisation of the field. If the various actors in the field had been cooperating, it would have been obvious to discuss the essence of the Association rather than the formalities. Alternatively, the conclusion could - and might - have been "There is no need for another association. We already have our act together"!

Faced with the prospect of more work (which joining a Working Group always is) I had to ask myself some questions, based on my own experience in the field of terminology over the years and the facts outlined in the POINTER report:

–What exactly

- produces this very fragmented terminology arena?
- prevents a united effort to put terminology work in its proper context?
- blurs the broad perspective?

- What can possibly be done - and is it possible - to change attitudes so that the many existing resources and efforts can be united with the goal of professionalising the field of terminology?

- Will my efforts, and those of the rest of the Working Group, contribute anything to

the field of terminology in Europe?
The actors in the field of terminology are individual researchers/teachers at various institutions, private-sector providers of terminological and translation services, private-sector providers of tools for terminology and systems management, organisations of various types (private-sector, governmental, etc.) with professional goals, and companies and bodies with a need for terminology. Each of these categories has its own special interest, which in essence comes down to manifesting itself and making a living in its own way. However, in order to produce optimum results for the field of terminology - and maybe even to create more work - it is necessary to co-operate rather than merely to protect one's own interests.
Co-operation is necessary

- to make more people (companies, governments, individuals, etc.) aware of the importance of terminology in various types of work;
- to create high quality terminology to facilitate communication in a large number of fields and domains;
- to develop of a common framework for the education and academic and vocational training of future terminologists, in order to arrive at high quality terminology work.

Terminology is never core business, and creating terminology without a specific context makes no sense, even for individual researchers with a special theoretical focus. It is therefore important to see terminology in a broader perspective.
In a plurilingual information society that requires more and more communication across national borders, terminology is an integrated part of many types of work, including the (monolingual) creation of texts, translation (plurilingual), standardisation, the facilitation of new information (e.g. creation of new terms to match new concepts), information retrieval, and information management.
It is thus important to see the relationship to other areas e.g. machine translation, the creation of lexica, technical writing, information and documentation, thesaurus work, information management, etc. By putting terminology in this broader perspective, it becomes possible to draw attention to the importance of terminology work and thus make it more visible and understandable. Co-operation therefore goes beyond co-operation with other terminologists.
It is therefore absolutely natural that terminologists are represented by their own college in ELRA. ELRA not only represents three very important fields (written language, spoken language and terminology), but at the same time represents the importance of co-operation across these fields.
As usual - once all the noble arguments have been brought forward - we can also talk about money. High quality terminology is a costly affair (which poor terminology is not). In order to keep a high standard (a noble argument) in the field, it is necessary to reuse terminology for translation (whether human or automated), dictionaries, databases, Information & Documentation, etc. If this is not done, it will be almost impossible to create sufficient terminology to talk about having an impact.
I wonder whether it is possible to change the attitudes of the individual actors in the field of terminology. It seems, though, that the co-operation in the POINTER project was a first step towards uniting efforts across Europe. More than 40 individuals and bodies of different kinds participated in gathering the information necessary. One of the main conclusions in the Final Report was that it was necessary to establish a European Association for Terminology (EAFT).
If so many key actors in the field of terminology point to the need to establish a new association, there is a certain probability that the need to fill some gaps exists. And, more importantly, that there is a growing awareness of the necessity to co-operate.
In keeping with this, the intention of the new association is not to take over or duplicate the work being done in the various existing organisations, bodies and other initiatives (local, national, regional, European and international), but rather to facilitate future activities and to be a vehicle for promoting the profession and awareness of it. It will be of vital importance to establish co-operation with all actors in the field of terminology and related fields to obtain synergy effects.
The main tasks and functions of this new organisation will be

- to promote plurilingualism;
- to heighten the awareness of the importance of terminology for communication in specific domains and across linguistic barriers among the general public, decision makers, domain experts and language professionals, using press articles and other PR activities;
- to facilitate the exchange of terminological information related to specific sectors, and related issues such as value analysis and quality, and hence to promote the quality and quantity of terminological work performed, user orientation, and the reusability of resources, by means of European-level special interest groups (SIGs) composed of terminologists and domain specialists;
- to use workshops, electronic media, brainstorming sessions and other channels to create a forum for discussion on the direction of terminology work in Europe, and to create an arena in which actors with the same, similar and related interests can meet;
- through further development of a model developed during POINTER to obtain agreement on accreditation, qualifications and recognition of courses for vocational training, including the principles of terminology, tools, domain-specific issues and administration skills;
- through the co-operation of many experts to function as a lobby organisation and to deliver statements, advice and expert opinions on matters concerning terminology policy, innovations and technology assessment;
- to play a major role in the implementation of the planned European Terminology Information Server (ETIS).

Thus the EAFT will be an actor in the field of terminology, but one that seeks to co-operate with all interested individuals and existing bodies and organisations with the same, similar and related interests. This naturally includes ELRA, which has taken an active, if neutral, role in the preparatory work, and with which we have established close contacts.
I hope the European Association for Terminology succeeds in its intentions.

For more information on the Association, please contact:

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The Interval Project: Progress and Initial Results

Alexis Crespel, CL, Project Co-ordinator

After an initial set-up and administrative phase, the Interval project (INterlinguistic TERminology VALidation), launched in February 1996, is progressing well. Several deliverables and initial results have been produced and will soon be made available for distribution and dissemination. The interest that the project has aroused within the linguistic services market demonstrates its usefulness.

Project structure, members and scope

The Interval project, which is 50% financed by the European Commission, unites eight of the most active European terminology companies and organisations: CL Servicios Lingüísticos (Co-ordinator); LCI, La Maison du Dictionnaire, Trados, Western Systems (all Main Partners); and Union Latine, Termcat and the University of Surrey (Associate Partners). In addition, a Users' Club with over 25 members gives the project a high profile in the European terminology market, while scientific and technical committees ensure that the project is carried out effectively.

Interval is a multilingual terminological resource validation project which aims to develop validation methodologies and tools. The project also examines several other aspects of terminological activity, from the creation and diffusion of terminological resources to the consolidation and management of multilingual resources.

Methodology

The first stages of the work provided the initial methodologies and basis for work. In Task T01, surveys and interviews were used to define the needs of users in the terminology validation sphere clearly. The first methodological recommendations, developed in Task T02, cover three important aspects of terminological activity: co-operation between experts and terminologists in terminological validation, resource quality evaluation and the consolidation of terminological data. The goal of Task T03, now completed, was to draw up an inventory of almost 400 existing finance and telecommunications terminology in the official European Union languages. Task T04 studied intellectual property rights in the terminology field, and provided model contracts/agreements for publishing terminological resources. Dissemination, marketing and exploitation plans were defined in Task T05, and the first activities have already been started.

These initial results are now being applied in the remaining project tasks: the application of the quality evaluation matrix to the resources selected, the acquisition of the resources needed for the project, and their consolidation.

The tool

The Interval project also intends to create a platform between the leading terminology management tools supplied by its partners: Multiterm (Trados), System Quirk (University of Surrey), Lexpro (LCI) and DicTip (CL), thus allowing the consolidation of terminological data. This requires the definition of a working format specific to the project so as to ensure the correct functioning of the platform and the successful retrieval of terminological data. Both the platform and the working format are entirely compatible with existing standard formats (e.g. MARTIF).

Dissemination and co-operation with other projects

The project partners have undertaken a large-scale information campaign around the Interval project through active participation in a number of conferences, exhibitions, shows, talks at schools and Universities, and the distribution of an introductory project presentation brochure. They are now concentrating on making the initial results available on the Web, and will then publish a first Newsletter.

Close co-operation is envisaged with ELRA (and particularly the Terminology College) and Interval - essentially, this will take the form of making the various methodologies developed by Interval available to ELRA, while it is hoped that ELRA will assume part of the distribution of the terminological resources produced by the project. Finally, at European level, collaboration has been initiated with a number of linguistic resource projects, notably Eurowordnet, Parole and Speechdat.

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Infoterm refounded

Christian Galinski

After a long period of financial uncertainty, the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm) was reborn on 29 August, 1996 as an international association under Austrian law, and has relocated to new premises in a technology centre in the South of Vienna.

The overall objective of the revamped association is to support specialist communication and knowledge transfer by promoting co-operation in the field of terminology in general, and by providing information on terminological activities and publications, promoting the preparation of reliable terminologies by subject field specialists and institutions, and by initiating, organising and co-ordinating the development and application of harmonised methods and electronic tools in particular.

While it will continue its previous role as the international terminology clearing house and referral centre, and as a consultant to domain-specific organisations, the "new" Infoterm will focus its services mainly on its members and close co-operation partners. In addition, it will increa-

singly make its data, services and publications available in electronic form. It will also continue to host the secretariat of ISO/TC 37 "Terminology (principles and co-ordination)" and perform a number of other standardisation functions in co-operation with the Austrian Standards Institute.

The new association comprises three categories of members: regular members (natural persons admitted by invitation of the Executive board), associate members (national and international terminology organisations and specialist organisations and institutions active in the field of terminology), and affiliate members (mainly the members and member organisations making up the second category).

More information may be obtained from:

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Further Reading

It is impossible within the bounds of ELRA Newsletter to give a full overview of the many different relevant publications and periodicals. However, the following (very) short list gives a few of the major ones.

International Who's Who in Translation and Terminology (ELRA Discount)

Published jointly by Union Latine, Praetorius Limited, International Where + How and Infoterm, the International Who's Who in Translation and Terminology lists the names and addresses of some 2,000 distinguished representatives of the two professions, together with basic biographical data and an indication of their particular fields of interest. Compiled by the experts themselves in the language of their choice, and conforming to a standardised, easy-to-read structure, the entries offer a concise introduction to many major players in the field.
The International Who's Who in Translation and Terminology is available to ELRA members at a 10% discount on the published price of 105 ECU. For more details, please contact the ELRA office.

Ovum reports discount for ELRA members

The Ovum Group is offering ELRA members a 10% discount on a selected range of its reports if ordered via the ELRA office.
The reports in question, many of which are directly relevant to the language industry, are listed below. The regular price and the date of publication are given in brackets after each title.

· Computer Telephony Integration: the Business Opportunity (Jan 1995, £1195)
· Ovum Evaluates: Translation Technology Products (June 1995, £995)
· Globalisation: Creating New Markets with Translation Technology (June 1995, £995)
· Ovum Evaluates: Workflow (Sept 1995, £995)
· Ovum Evaluates: Help Desk Tools (Nov 1995, £995)
· Ovum Evaluates: Corporate Accounting Packages (Nov 1995, £995)
· Voice Processing: Business Opportunities in Computing and Telephony (June 1996, £1195)
· Ovum Evaluates: Document Management (August 1996, £995)
· Ovum Evaluates: Sales Force Automation (Sept 1996, £995)

Terminometro

Terminometro, published by Union Latine, is a regular newsletter on terminology and terminology work in the countries covered by the Union Latine's remit. The Newsletter itself contains brief articles on and reviews of dictionaries and other resources, tools, events, activities, training, etc. Each issue is roughly 40 pages long, with three issues being published a year in three languages (Spanish, French and Portuguese). In addition, a 4-pages monthly letter gives more up-to-date and short-term on events and publications. The subscription fee is 95 ECU for commercial enterprises, 65 ECU for non-profit organisations and 45 ECU for individuals. This also applies to extra issues devoted to a more in-depth analysis of terminology work in particular countries (1995: France, 1996: Spain). An online version of the bulletin containing extracts of both the Newsletter and the monthly letters is also available (in Spanish only) and, as from the end of 1997, the entire version will be available on the Web.

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Terminology

An independent international journal which is cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary in scope, "Terminology" was founded in 1994. Focusing on the discussion not only of translation problems but also of such topics as ambiguity, reference and multidisciplinary communication, it also addresses issues such as knowledge representation and transfer, tools, expert systems and term databases. Each issue contains in-depth articles, research reports, short notes, book and product reviews and reports on activities. All articles are subjected to stringent review before acceptance. Contributions may be sent to the Editors, while subscriptions (Dfl. 240 for institutions and Dfl. 97 for individuals/2 issues per volume) may be ordered from the publishers.

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TermNet News

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The European Language Resources Association

Promoting Language Resources in Europe

What is ELRA?

ELRA (the European Language Resources Association) was founded in Luxembourg in February 1995, with the goal of promoting the creation, verification and distribution of language resources in Europe. A non-profit organisation, ELRA aims to serve as a focal point for the collection, marketing, distribution and licensing of resources, as well as for more general information on the subject. In addition to helping users and developers, government agencies and other interested parties exploit language resources for a wide variety of uses, ELRA serves as the European repository for EU-funded language resources, and interact with similar bodies in other parts of the world. Funded in the medium term by membership fees, grants from the European Commission and national governments, and project income, the Association will be financially self-supporting in the long run. Day-to-day operations are supervised by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who reports to a 12-member Board elected partly by the individual Colleges (representing spoken, written, and terminological resources respectively) and partly at large.

What are Language Resources?

Common examples of language resources are recorded speech databases, lexica, grammars, text corpora and terminological data. These materials are essential for the development of robust speech and text processing systems - technologies that will play a major role in a wide range of information technology applications in the future. However, the cost of developing language resources for such applications is often prohibitive, even for very large companies. The problem is especially acute in those linguistic regions in which market development is at an early stage.

ELRA membership

ELRA membership is open to any organisation, public or private, with full membership (including voting rights) being available to organisations registered in the EU or European Economic Area. Purely for organisational purposes, members will be assigned to one of the Colleges on the basis of their main area of interest. The annual membership fee has been set at a modest ECU 1,000 to encourage broad participation. You may also opt to join more than one College, in which case you will be eligible to vote in all those for which you have applied, but you will also be required to pay multiple membership fees.

Reasons to join ELRA now

Membership of ELRA provides you with regular information about language resources, many of which can be licensed directly from ELRA at very reasonable prices as soon as they become available. In most cases, ELRA members are entitled to discounts (often quite substantial) on resources and other products (such as the new guide to Terminology Agreements and several commercial reports). You will also have the opportunity through their Colleges and the Association as a whole to influence European language policy. Joining at this stage puts you and your organisation in the vanguard of Europe's language engineering industry, and allows you to influence the direction in which this young and dynamic association develops. In this way, you can ensure that ELRA reflects the true needs of European companies and organisations in the years to come.

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Membership Application Form

Organisation .....
Department .....
Name of Designated Representative .....
Address .....
.....
Town ..... Postcode .....
Country .....
Telephone .....
Fax .....
E-Mail .....
College : ( ) Spoken ( ) Written ( ) Terminology

I agree to the information above appearing in the ELRA Directory :

Signature Date

Notes :
1) You may apply for membership of one or more of the Colleges. Membership of a single College entitles you to voting privileges in that College upon payment of the membership fee. If you opt to join two Colleges, you are eligible to vote in both Colleges, but are also required to pay two membership fees. Should you wish to vote in all three Colleges, payment of three membership fees is required.
2) The annual membership fee is ECU 1,000. An invoice for this amount will be sent upon receipt of the completed application form, and should be paid within thirty days.
3) Payment may be made by bank transfer or cheque, in ECU, made out in favour of ELRA. Bank : BNP (Luxembourg) S.A, Bd. Royal, L2953 Luxembourg : Account number 63-114418-57-6102-997.