

Infoterm News

(compiled from Infoterm Newsletters 24 and 25)

Terminological activities in developing countries

Terminological activities in the world are proliferating at all levels at a constantly accelerating pace. This has become particularly evident in developing countries faced with the problem of having to plan and develop national languages. Indeed, it is in the realm of terminology that a number of language planning organizations in developing countries have become most active in recent years. So far, an efficient exchange of ideas and knowledge has been hampered by the lack of adequate communication tools. Organizations advanced in terminology work might consider the possibility of how to help those countries in need of advice and assistance.

An account is given below of the present situation in Tanzania, India, and Venezuela based on or excerpted from papers presented by Mr. H. Akida (Institute of Kiswahili Research, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania), Dr. R.K. Singh (Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, India), and Prof. Dolores R. de Castro and Prof. Alicia F. de Diego (University of Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela).

Terminological activities in Tanzania

The development of terminologies requires knowledge of the theory of terminology and the application of terminological principles and of methods of terminography. The work of terminology in Tanzania is forging ahead. The Institute of Kiswahili Research as a main responsible organ for terminology work in conjunction with the Institute of Education and the Department of Kiswahili train linguistic experts, while Baraza la Kiswahili la Taifa (BAKITA), the National Swahili Council, as the only official language authority in the country which has been empowered to promote the development and usage of standard Kiswahili, have joined efforts to develop the national language Kiswahili. Among the most important tasks in developing Kiswahili is the preparation of classified vocabularies. The Institute is slowly progressing in terminology; the deans of all faculties and other departments within the University of Dar es Salaam and other institutes of learning as well as professional organizations are co-operating in establishing Kiswahili terminologies. The problem of finding experts in various subject fields is no longer serious.

However, the lack of terminologists trained in modern terminological methods is an impediment to further advances. Adequate training of terminologists would raise the efficiency of terminology work in Tanzania and should be considered vital to the development of Kiswahili. Nevertheless, apart from the Institute of Kiswahili Research which has one or two terminologists, none of the remaining major bodies above has a single terminologist on its staff. For reasons outlined above there is a great need for basic terminology courses to be held at universities and the like. Inclusion of terminology within the framework of a linguistic syllabus, for example, would

usefully widen the scope of future linguists. A terminology course would provide subject specialists with appropriate knowledge and prepare them more adequately for a large number of terminology projects still to be tackled.

From the above it can be gathered that Tanzania has the intention to establish terminologies in Kiswahili for technical communication and needs assistance for this task from outside. This assistance could consist in expert advice, pertinent documents, equipment, teaching material or funds for training courses, scholarships, etc. To a large extent the future progress will depend on this assistance from outside. Since Tanzania is more advanced in this field than other African countries it could serve as a model for other African countries in the future.

Some reflections on terminology in India*

The fact that India could not change the medium of instruction at university level even 36 years after independence (nor is there any sign that the national language or regional languages will replace English in higher education), has been mainly due to terminological problems, i.e. differences in various languages related to concept, meaning and linguistic symbols. Subject books could not be produced or translated into Indian languages for want of understanding terminological concepts and their interrelationships. And with the advancement of computer languages possibly India is now far behind others in studies and application tools, particularly in terminology.

A systematic study of scientific technical terminology, and its standardisation in Indian languages is vital to bridge the communication gap created by the problem of ambiguity, information, etc. Therefore there is no reason why in India special courses in terminology geared to the needs of subject specialists should not be offered. In countries where native language is not used for scientific and technical communication (as in India), for various socio-political reasons, such countries have the desire to develop terminologies in their native language. Terminological standardisation for such countries is particularly important.

Needless to emphasize, members of a linguistic group can catch up with the development in technical fields if they have adequate terminologies at their disposal. It is therefore all the more necessary to record terminological data of specialised vocabularies, preferably according to internationally unified guidelines. This calls for thorough training in the use of terminological principles and methods for subject specialists who are to engage in terminological systems research. Collaboration between scientists, technologists and linguists is indeed vital to the growth of research in terminology.

* Excerpt from The Journal of English Language Teaching (India), 17 (1982) No. 1

Terminology work in Venezuela

For a number of years the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas has undertaken efforts with respect to the preparation of feasible teaching material in Spanish (and other languages) geared to students at a technical university. From a terminological point of view there were some factors which made it necessary to embark upon terminology work: more than 50% of the teaching body is foreign-born, many of the native faculty members

have been educated abroad, etc. with the result that the transference of the technical terminology is not quite as uniform as would be desirable for an adequate communication. The ultimate objective of these activities was the creation of a Terminology Bank related to all fields (approximately 20 technical fields) dealt with at the University. It is hoped that Banco de Terminología de la Universidad Simón Bolívar (BTUSB) eventually will constitute a politechnical data base with the possibility of monotechnical retrieval and publication of glossaries which should serve as complements for language programmes.

Recently, the "Grupo de Investigación terminológica" was founded at Simón Bolívar University to create a theoretical basis for terminology work intended to be undertaken in Venezuela. Members of the faculty (Departamento de Idiomas) who have been initiated into terminology theory and work during short training periods at Infoterm strive to disseminate as much information as possible to colleagues, subject specialists, translators, etc. A number of lectures have already been held at universities and related institutions on the basis of relevant material provided by Infoterm, GIRSTERM, etc.

In Venezuela, too, training of terminology experts is considered to be of paramount importance. Efforts are now being undertaken to elaborate curricula for use in such seminars and to find the necessary financial means for such courses to be held in Venezuela.

Definition and Synonymy in Terminology

Colloque international de terminologie/International Symposium on Terminology. Quebec City, Canada, May 1982.

The symposium, convened jointly by the Groupe Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Scientifique et Appliquée en Terminologie (GIRSTERM), the Office de la Langue Française (OLF) and the Direction Générale de la Terminologie et de la Documentation (DGTD) with the collaboration of Infoterm took place at the Université Laval, Canada, May 23–27, 1982. It was organized to bring together linguists, lexicographers and terminologists to discuss problems and methods of definition and synonymy in the field of terminological lexicography.

The interest in international symposia dealing with theoretical and methodological problems of terminology has grown steadily in recent years as witnessed by the large number of participants present at the symposia held in Canada during the past decade as well as at the symposium in Moscow in November 1979 (see also Infoterm Newsletter 16).

This symposium, initiated by Prof. G. Rondeau, Director of GIRSTERM, was excellently organized and given special importance by the presence of representatives of the Canadian Government, of the Government of Québec, of the University, etc. at the opening session which was concluded with a musical recital.

Some 90 participants had gathered to deal with the following topics:

- Definitions in terminology: their specificity and requirements
- The relations between terminological definition and notional delimitation

- How is it that a single term (name + notion) can have several different definitions?
- Must every term have a definition?
- Synonymy as it relates to terminological work
- The relations between terminological synonymy and notional delimitation
- The relations between terminological synonymy, neonymy and terminological standardization

The papers presented were discussed by commentators and by the audience at large. Students of the University of Laval (particularly those writing a thesis) were given the opportunity to comment on a number of topics.

This conference which was also held as part of the celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the Department of Linguistics and the 10th anniversary of the Department of Languages of the University of Laval is to be the first of a series of symposia to be organized by TERMIA (see below). These symposia will contribute greatly to the awareness of those involved in the decision making process that terminology will play an increasingly important role in international communication.

TERMIA (International Association of Terminology/ Association Internationale de Terminologie)

On the occasion of the international symposium on terminology, held at the Université Laval (May 23–27, 1982, see above) a large number of specialists in terminology from various countries decided to establish the International Association of Terminology (TERMIA).

The following members were elected to constitute the Executive Council: Chairman: L. Drozd (Charles University, Prague); General Secretary: G. Rondeau (Université Laval, Québec); Vice Chairman: H. Felber (Infoterm, Vienna); Vice-Chairman and Treasurer: A. Landry (Terminology Bureau, Ottawa); Vice-Chairman: J.C. Sager (University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology).

The following additional members were elected to constitute the International Council of the new Association (in alphabetical order): P. Auger (Office de la langue française, Québec), F. Cestac (ONU, New York), J.-C. Corbeil (CIRELFA*, Montréal), I. Dahlberg (International Classification, Frankfurt), B. de Bessé (C.N.R.S., Paris), D. Raventos de Castro (University Simon Bolívar, Caracas), M. Dovbenko (Gosstandart, Moscow) (to be confirmed), R. Dubuc (Radio-Canada, Montréal), A. Rey (Dictionnaire Le Robert, Paris), F. Riggs (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu).

Situated at the crossroads of various subject fields, terminology is increasingly being regarded as a discipline in its own right. It is therefore necessary to encourage fundamental theoretical research in terminology; the new Association proposes to work towards this goal.

Some countries have acquired considerable practical experience in methods of processing terminological data. TERMIA proposes to assist in rendering this experience accessible to all countries.

The teaching of terminology has already been discussed in conferences and less formal meetings and there seems to be a general agreement that there is a need for teaching programmes and materials for the training of terminologists. With the help of Unesco TERMIA hopes to further this objective.

The International Association of Terminology will be guided by the following principles:

- the widest possible decentralisation in order to better understand and serve the needs of a wide range of interested parties. The Association is particularly interested in close contacts
- abstention from political involvement and absolute equality in matters of culture, ideology, language, race, religion and sex;
- flexibility in admission to membership so that individual organizations and institutions are encouraged to join;
- close collaboration with institutional organizations in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

For additional information, please contact the General Secretary of TERMIA, c/o GIRSTERM, Département de langues et linguistique, Université Laval, Québec, G1K 7P4. Tel.: (418) 656-5492

* Conseil International pour la Recherche et l'Enseignement en Linguistique fondamentale et Appliquée

Special collaboration within TermNet

Since 1979 close co-operation between Infoterm and the Direction Générale de la Terminologie et de la Documentation (DGTD) has proved to be very rewarding for both partners, as well as for the international community of TermNet. (See Infoterm Newsletters 17, 20, 23)

The implementation of the three TermNet Programmes (see Infoterm Newsletter 23) approved recently by the Infoterm Advisory Board in Vienna poses, however, a number of problems with reference to Infoterm's limited resources. It was therefore agreed that assistance from outside will have to be procured if TermNet is to function effectively to the benefit of the international community.

TermNet News

The DGTD in Canada was one of the first TermNet partners to respond favourably and actively to the appeal for joint efforts and share of tasks. The first result of this co-operation was the publication of TermNet News 1 in 1980. Since then, TermNet News 2/3 has come off the press and No. 4/5 is to appear shortly.

Clearterm

In 1981 the DGTD investigated the possibility of processing all data obtained by Infoterm within TermNet Programme 3 (recording of bibliographic and factographic data in terminology). These data would then be made available to TermNet partners.

In 1982 the DGTD declared its readiness to function as a clearing house for terminological data related to Programme 3, in particular to data pertaining to "International Bibliographies".

The first step towards the implementation of Clearterm will be taken this year by conducting a survey of all terminological holdings.

Forthcoming meetings

2-4 Aug. 1982: Eindhoven, NL. International Symposium on LSP (Language for Special Purposes).

Theme: Reading for professional purposes in native and foreign languages.

Organizer: J.M. Ulijn, F. Heynick, Dept. of Applied Linguistics, Eindhoven University of Technology, HG 8.25, P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven, NL

2-6 Aug. 1982: Ann Arbor, MI. Teaching Scientific and Technical English to Native Speakers.

24-31 Aug. 1982: Tübingen, FRG. Teaching Scientific and Technical English to Non-Native Speakers.

Organizer for both conferences: Ms. Barbara Cox, Conference Coordinator, Dept. of Humanities, College of Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 USA

16-26 Aug. 1982: Vasa, Finland. Fackspråk och terminologi [LSP and terminology].

Organizer: Prof. Christer Lauren, Vasa högskola, Rådhusgatan 31, SF-65100 Vasa 10, Finland

25-28 Aug. 1982: Toronto, CA. Ninth International Systemic Workshop

Organizer: W.S. Greaves, Program Committee, Applied Linguistics Research Working Group, Glendon College, York University, Toronto, Ont., Canada M4N 3M6

29 Aug.-4 Sept. 1982: Tokyo, Japan, 13th International Congress of Linguistics.

Organizer: Prof. Shiro Hattori, President, Gakushuin University, Mejiro 1-5-1, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171, Japan

Nov. 1982: London, U.K. Translators' Guild: Conference on Terminology Banks.

Organizer: Translators' Guild Office, Mangold House, 24a Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA, U.K.

9-12 Sept. 1983: Exeter, U.K. International Lexicography Conference at Exeter.

Organizer: Dr. R.R.K. Hartmann, The Language Centre, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QH, Devon, U.K.

23-26 Nov. 1982: Moscow, USSR, 2nd Meeting of ISO/TC 37/SC I "Principles of terminology". The meeting will focus on discussions of draft proposals and/or revisions of ISO/TC 37 documents, namely DP 704 "Principles and Methods of Terminology", ISO/R 860 "International Unification of Concepts and Terms" as well as the "Key to international terminology".

New Publications

Infoterm: *Terminologies for the Eighties. With a Special Section: Ten Years of Infoterm.* München/New York/London/Paris: K.G. Saur, 1982, 412 p., A5 (Infoterm Series 7), ISBN 3-598-21367-0, DM 86.00/US\$ 48.00

This volume of the Infoterm Series, published on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of Infoterm, is dedicated to the future perspective of terminology science and its practical applications. Many outstanding scholars and scientists were invited to contribute articles to this volume. The following subjects are covered:

- (1) Theoretical foundations of terminology
- (2) Teaching and training in terminology

- (3) Standardization
 - (4) Preparation of terminologies
 - (5) Term formation and LSP
 - (6) Computer-aided terminology
 - (7) Terminological aspects of thesaurus construction and of translation theory
 - (8) Preparation of terminologies in developing countries
- The contributions are written either in English or in French. The special section "Ten years of Infoterm" gives a thorough overview of the past, present and future activities of Infoterm. It is the most comprehensive account of the work of this institution published so far.

Neubert, G. (Ed.): *Rechnerunterstützung bei der Bearbeitung fachlexikalischer Probleme* [Computer-aided treatment of specialized lexical problems]. Leipzig: VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1981, 268 p., (Linguistische Studien).

Beier, R.: *Zum Stand fachbezogener Fremdsprachenkenntnisse in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* [On the state-of-the-art of knowledge of specialized foreign languages in the Federal Republic of Germany]. Universität Augsburg, 1981, 157 p., A5 (Augsburger I- & I-Schriften Bd. 17).

Secretary of State; Office de la langue française; Université Laval. *Actes du Colloque international sur l'enseignement de la terminologie*, 28 au 30 août 1978, Université Laval, Québec [Proceedings of the international symposium on teaching of terminology, 28-30 August

1978, Université Laval, Québec]. Editeur officiel du Québec, 1981, 341 p.

Arntz, R.; Picht, H.: *Einführung in die übersetzungsbezogene Terminologearbeit* [Introduction to terminology work of relevance to translations]. Hildesheim/Zürich/New York: Georg Olms Verlag, 1982, 238p. = Hildesheimer Beiträge zu den Erziehungs- und Sozialwissenschaften. Studien – Texte – Entwürfe, Bd. 17.

The Copenhagen School of Economics: *Abstracts of papers for presentation at the 3rd European Symposium on LSP* (Language for Special Purposes). August 1981. København: Handelshøjskolen i København, 84p.

Diki-Kidiri, M.; Joly, H.; Murcia, C.: *Guide de la néologie*. Paris: Conseil International de la Langue Française, 1981. 65p. ISBN 2-85319-090-0.

Fernando, Ch.; Flavell, R.: *On idiom. Critical views and perspectives*. Exeter: University of Exeter, 1981, 94p. (Exeter Linguistic Studies, vol. 5).

Infoterm: *International Information Centre for Terminology. Ten years of activities 1971-1981*. Vienna: INFOTERM, 1982, 24p., A5.

Wieser, J.: *Wege zum Fachdeutsch. Lehr-, Übungs- und Nachschlagebuch für ausländische Studenten und Fachleute* [The road to specialized German. A textbook, practice manual and reference tool for foreign students and experts]. Wien: Braumüller Verlag, 1982, appr. 280p.

TO APPEAR IN OCTOBER 1982:

Riggs, F.W. (Ed.): THE CONTA CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS on Conceptual and Terminological Problems of the Social Sciences, Bielefeld, FRG, May 24-27, 1981 Frankfurt/Main: INDEKS Verlag 1982. 384 p., DM 64.80, ISBN 3-88672-200-7

The CONTA CONFERENCE brought together social scientists from all over the world as well as information scientists, classificationists and terminologists to discuss the urgent problems of social science conceptology and terminology and to look for solutions to overcome the present pitfalls and difficulties.

The carefully edited papers (some 30) of this COCTA*-sponsored conference are arranged with their introductions and discussions in three parts.

I: Problems - Difficulties and Examples, II: Theories - Modes of Analysis, III: Solutions - Approaches and Proposal. The Appendix contains reports on the activities of various international and national organisations in this interdisciplinary endeavour as given in a preconference seminar for representatives of developing countries. Some of the Recommendations of this Conference have already found acceptance in the UNESCO Program.

* COCTA = Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis, a Committee of IPSA, ISA and the ISSC. The CONTA Conference was supported by UNESCO, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and the Gesellschaft für Dokumentation eV; it was organized by the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation eV.

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