Infoterm News

(Compiled from Infoterm Newsletter 46)

International Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering, Trier, 29 Sept.-1 Oct.1987

The Congress was organized by Infoterm and the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer in co-operation with the University of Trier, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Transport of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, the Commission of the European Communities and the City of Trier. The Congress was honoured by the patronage of Unesco and was supplemented by a number of associated meetings organized by the Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer (SCCCAC), the Gesellschaft Deutscher Terminologietag e.V. and the Panel of TermNet Regional Editors.

The Congress was attended by around 500 participants, representing over 40 countries and a large number of international and multinational organizations. At least 100 experts from among these participants were involved in the preparation of the Congress. These experts came from a wide range of subject domains, since it was the aim of the Congress to choose a multidisciplinary approach to the solution of problems related to subject communication and knowledge. Altogether, it was one of the largest and most successful events ever convened by terminologists.

The outcome was a new and comprehensive insight into the complexity of terminology and knowledge engineering, which overlap at the level of concept logic when terminological data banks are further developed into terminological knowledge banks. It was encouraging to see and hear about the large number of practical applications which try to implement the ideas put forward in the keynote speeches and in a number of other programmatic papers. The Congress thus provided a valuable opportunity to reexamine knowledge engineering from a broader perspective, thereby laying the grounds for a redefinition of this new field of endeavour, "knowledge engineering", in which computer-aided terminology work and computerized terminography will play an indispensable role.

The structure of the Congress was fairly complex, since it had to facilitate a large number of contributions. There were nine main sessions and one report session which partly had to be scheduled in parallel. Each of the sessions grouped papers that were thematically related, although most of the papers referred to more than one subject field. Areas dealt with included philosophy, terminology science, information science, computational linguistics, machine translation, human factors, artificial intelligence, systems interconnection, information transfer and presentation of knowledge. It became obvious that the specialists working in the domains covered by the Congress had many common or similar problems. A large portion of these problems could be solved by terminological methods and applications. Efficient and unambiguous man-man, man-machine, and machine-machine communication is to a large extent contingent on a solution of these problems. User acceptance is most closely related to user-friendly surface structures of systems, ostensibly only of natural language, but in reality containing essential knowledge components. The need for standardization in this field has already become apparent, and this should be taken up as soon as possible to avoid additional incompatibilities arising.

The Congress opened with a number of enthusiastic welcome addresses. As the first speaker, the President of the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer, Prof.Dr.Hans Czap, greeted the participants on behalf of the organizers and reiterated the aims and objectives of the Congress. The next address was delivered by the President of the University of Trier, Prof.Dr. Jörg Hasler, who spoke of a "pioneering congress" which would be a stimulus to the academic life at the University of Trier. The amenities and the charm of Trier certainly contributed to the success of the Congress; and credit is due here to the Mayor Felix Zimmermann. Finally, Mr. Ralph Adams, representing Unesco, evaluated the programme of the meeting in the light of the Unesco General Information Programme and the future development of the information and language industries.

Because of the multifaceted nature of the theme of the Congress, three keynote speakers were invited to introduce the main issues of terminology, knowledge engineering and all the related fields.

The first keynote speaker was Prof.Robert de Beaugrande (USA), who presented a contrastive study of systematic versus contextual aspects of terminology, including in his speech perspectives from cognitive psychology, text linguistics, and philosophy. The next speaker was Prof. Helmut Felber, who emphasized the fact that concepts are the basic elements of any intellectual activity and thus of any machine simulation thereof, such as knowledge engineering. The third keynote speaker, Prof.Burghard Rieger, introduced the point of view of computational linguistics.

Almost all the papers delivered at the main sessions were available to the participants in the form of a pre-conference publication, whose timely appearance was the merit of the INDEKS-Verlag, Frankfurt. The participants thus had the opportunity to select the sections of greatest interest to them.

The results from the parallel sessions were surveyed and summarized in the closing session, which was marked by some excellent wrap-up presentations. Mr.Guelekva of Unesco presented his personal impressions of the diversity and richness of the programme and emphasized its relevance to the future development of science and technology, as well as its impact on society in general. Prof. Czap reported that this event had helped clarify his idea of "concept" and create the necessary awareness for all the implications of the conceptual approach for the future development of computer applications.

Prof. de Grolier offered an excellent "tour d'horizon" of all the ideas voiced during the three days of the Congress and expressed the hope that the social sciences would stay abreast of the accomplishments of the natural sciences, in particular as regards the creation of unambiguous communication tools. Mr.Galinski thanked

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all participants, as well as all those who helped organize the Congress. The success of the Congress will ultimately be measured by the number of projects that will evolve from it and by the extent to which terminological activities gain the support of the scientific world.

Computer-Aided Terminology and Machine-Aided Translation - a User-Group Meeting, Bad Homburg, 1987

On 14-15 Oct.1987 a large meeting of users and potential users of a machine-aided translation (MAT) system took place in Bad Homburg, FRG. The presentation by users, representatives from academies, as well as from the respective computer company, revealed the potential of an advanced terminological data bank (TDB) in combination with such a MAT system. The greatest benefits can be drawn from such a terminological data bank if it is well embedded in the office automation environment as well as, for instance, in the framework of the internal information systems of a medium or large size company heavily engaged in research and development projects and strongly export-oriented.

The same TDB can be applied, with different system surfaces (man-machine interface), not only as a tool to support translation, but also for all written communication and documentation, the administration of spare parts, access to intra-company technical information systems, etc. Although the application of such a multifunctional TDB effects a considerable number of changes in the structure and organizational philosophy of a company, the synergetic effects - besides considerable cost savings in all its applications - are astonishing:

- up-grading of qualification of company personnel;
- reduced sick-list owing to a higher motivation of the staff members;
- improved access to information;
- better possibility of distribution of the work-load, etc.

Not only in a translation environment, where every day a great variety of text types from different subject fields have to be translated, but also for other intra-company applications such as a MAT system, such a multifunctional TDB, in combination with an advanced TDB, at the present stage of development would seem to have many advantages over machine-translation systems, which are only geared towards translation and which at present are not adequate for handling a broad spectrum of text types from different subject fields.

The rationalization effect of the above-mentioned multifunctional TDB is not based on a reduction of personnel, but rather on making communication smoother, reducing administrative costs in spare-part handling and documentation, as well as in reducing the quantity of commission translation work. Industry has finally recognized the benefits of setting up and applying a multifunctional TDB, not only for translation purposes, but also as a tool for information and knowledge management.

Lecture visit to Ireland, Dublin, 2-4 Nov. 1987

On the occasion of Mr.Galinski's visit to Ireland, a number of representatives of institutions, as well as experts active in terminology, convened in order to discuss the complex terminological situation in Ireland and the possibilities of intensifying co-operation with Infoterm. A large part of the terminological activities are geared either directly or indirectly towards knowledge and technology transfer, an issue so important for a country like Ireland, at the edge of Europe.

The experts contacted and those present at the discussions were very interested in recent developments in the field of terminology and computerized terminography, particularly in:

- terminology planning policy to enhance knowledge transfer;
- the expansion of a terminological data bank into an information and knowledge transfer centre in small, and in developing countries;
- the utilization of a term bank for new methods of teaching specific LSP to students of subject fields (i.e. as computer-aided instruction tools), etc.

In the light of the magnitude and diversity of terminological problems, the importance of co-operation was recognized within a country such as Ireland, as well as with institutions or countries facing similar problems in other parts of the world.

International Congress "Communication and Cognition - Applied Epistemology", Gent, Belgium, 6-10 December 1987

This Congress, which was supported by the Rijksuniversiteit Gent, was to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the "Communication & Cognition" Society. It was to demonstrate that interdisciplinary studies in communication and cognition have lead to important breakthroughs and successes in artificial intelligence, information technology and in the cognitive sciences. Both aspects of the topic are also of great relevance to the field of terminology.

The General Theory of Terminology applies a number of epistemological findings in order to solve problems of specialized communication between experts in this domain. Therefore, Infoterm presented a report on the research activities in this area, both of the Vienna Circle and the Vienna School of Terminology. It was pointed out that different epistemological methods have to be applied when investigating the meaning of a word, or the concept to which a term has been assigned.

The Congress itself was structured in 33 sections called symposia. The most significant ones for the terminologist were No.2 on artificial intelligence, No.4 on cognitive semantics, No.14 on cognition and the methodology of science, No.16 on science and its languages, No.23 on applied epistemology, No.25 on the structure of science and No.31 on knowledge acquisition and knowledge extraction.

Since the response to the call of papers was extremely large, most of these sessions had to be held in parallel. A number of social events, however, offered the possibility of "interdisciplinary" contacts and discussions. Although the majority of the participants came from the Benelux countries, there were a number of participants from other European countries and from North America.

Abridged versions of most of the contributions are already available in book form.

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Meetings 1988

May 16-20: Berlin, GDR - International Conference on Translation Science and Education of Language Mediators convened by the Humboldt-Universität in collaboration with the Vereinigung der Sprachmittler der DDR and the Federation Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT). Contact: Humboldt-Universität. Sektion Slawistik. Postfach 1297, DDR-1086 Berlin.

June 7-10: Buffalo, NY, USA - 26th Annual Meeting of the Amer.Soc.Computational Linguistics. Contact: ACL, attn: W.J.Rapaport, Department of Computer Science, SUNY, Buffalo, NY 14260, USA.

Aug.3-6: Eindhoven, Netherlands - 2nd LSP Conference on "LSP - Technical and Business Communication". Contact: Mr.J.M.Ulijn, HG 8.25, P.O.Box 513, NL-5600 MB Eindhoven.

Sept.4-9: Budapest, Hungary - BUDALEX 88. EURALEX 3rd International Congress. Main fields in the congress programme: General (mono- or bi-lingual), computational, terminological and specialized translation lexicography. Contact: Ms.Judit ZIGANY or Dr.Tamas MAGAY, Akademiai Kiado, P.O.Box 24, H-1363 Budapest.

New Publications

KWIC Index of International Standards. Geneve: ISO 1987. 590p.

This is the 3rd edition which lists titles of all standards published by the International Standardization Organisation (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and of documents resulting from standardizing activities of 27 other international bodies. Contact: ISO Central Secretariat, Case postale 56, CH-1211 Geneve 20.

INFOTERM: International Bibliography of Mono- and Multilingual Vocabularies in the Fields of Psychology and Psychiatry (title also in German and French). Preliminary ed., Wien: Infoterm 1987. 9 p. = Infoterm 13-87

INFOTERM: International Bibliography of Mono- and Multilingual Vocabularies in the Field of Linguistics (title also in German and French). Preliminary ed. Wien: Infoterm 1987. 18 p. = Infoterm 14-87

TermNet News (TNN)

Three new issues of TNN, i.e. TNN 17 (Special issue on Benelux countries), TNN 18 (Special issue on USA) and TNN 19 have been issued in Jan.1988.

BiblioTerm (BIT)

Three new issues of BIT, i.e. BIT 22, BIT 23, and BIT 24 have been prepared and published. Sample copies are available on request.

StandardTerm (STT)

Two new issues of STT, i.e. STT 3 and STT 4, presenting bibliographic data on vocabulary standards published recently are available on request.

SESAME Bulletin. Language Automation Worldwide

This new journal is meant for people interested in linguistic uses of computers, particularly for languages and applications requiring special characters or scripts. Because the microcomputer has become such a widely used tool, it is increasingly computer users rather than manufacturers who are at the forefront of advances in this area, particularly where non-roman scripts are involved. The Bulletin aims to break down barriers built up by work in isolation and to provide relevant information to everyone with special language needs and an interest in computers. Contact: SESAME Bulletin, 8 Avenue Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 7PG, England.

Hidden Glossaries

BANJAC, D., DOGO, J.: Valjaonicka terminologija (Rolling mill terminology). Prevodilac 4(1986)p.52-92. ISSN 0351-8892

BAUTHIER, D., LURQUIN, G.: La terminologie de la tectonique des plaques (The terminology of plate tectonics). Actualite Terminologique/Terminology Update 20(1987)No.3, p.1-5

BODIAN, N.G.: Copywriter's Handbook. Philadelphia, PA: ISI Press 1986. p.229-245 (Appendix A: Copywriter's Glossary: A vocabulary of advertising and promotions)

CLAUDE, L.: "Course", "track", et "drift". Actualite Terminologique/ Terminology Update 20(1987)No.3, p.7-8

COMITE D'ETUDE DES TERMES MEDICAUX FRANCAIS: Vocabulaire relatif aux personnes agees (Vocabulary related to elderly persons). Actualite Terminologique/Terminology Update 20(1987)No.3, p.12-13

GOSUDARSTVENNYJ KOMITET SSSR PO STANDARTAM: Banki terminologicheskikh dannykh (Terminological data banks). Standartizacija. Obzornaja informacija (1987)No.2, 59 p. (Glossary p.52-55)

LORTIE, S.: Street prostitution. Actualite Terminologique/Terminology Update 20(1987)No.3, p.15-16

For further information contact: Infoterm, Heinestr.38, A-1020 Wien, Austria.

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