Infoterm News

(Compiled from Infoterm Newsletter 26)

Report on the 4th International Study Conference on Classification Research and 6th Annual Conference of the German Society for Classification

From the June 28 to July 2, 1982, Infoterm participated in the joint conference of FID/CR and Gesellschaft für Klassifikation which was dedicated to the topic "Universal Classification — Subject Analysis and Ordering Systems". 22 nations were represented at this conference in Augsburg, FRG, which marked the 25th anniversary of the First Classification Research Conference at Dorking, England. It gave an idea of the remarkable progress that has been made towards the establishment of classification as an autonomous field of science during the last 25 years. The whole event was excellently organized and managed by the Chairman of FID/CR and of the German Classification Society, Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg.

The outcome was summarized in recommendations, one of which emphasized the necessity "to use definition theory and improved definition techniques for the recognition of concepts together with the promoters of terminological studies".

Infoterm presented a paper with the title "The basis of Wüster's classification research" which gave an outline of the methods applied in concept classification. The essence of the paper can be summarized as follows:

The main purpose of Wüster's work in this field was to create a classification for ordering of concepts in dictionaries. Each field of human activities uses a special language to express its concepts, which can be of a material or immaterial nature. They stand mostly for individual objects or activities which pertain to a specific discipline and are indispensible for communicating knowledge and information in this matter. Subject vocabularies or terminologies are therefore a very important tool for

— ordering scientific concepts
— transferring knowledge from one language into another
— formulating information
— indexing and retrieving information

One of the principles that Wüster adhered to, was based on the fact that order is to be the base of every well-managed life and occupation. He went so far as to apply this principle also to language, in particular to subject vocabularies which are used by specialists for unambiguous communication. For him classification was the ordered way of associating or dissociating as well as mentally arranging ideas which are expressed by our minds in form of concepts. Thus a classification of concepts becomes the most powerful key to knowledge because if we arrange objects or more likely their concepts in a definite order and fix this order in form of a schedule, we can have a very good map or overview of a certain field of knowledge.

The relationships in a system of concepts can be depicted by a number of lexicographical symbols. The main relationships are superordination, subordination, coordination, and diagonal relations.

In a concept classification the relations within the system exist either directly between intensions or between individuals which are represented by concepts. In a subject classification the relations between members are determined by the presence of concepts and by the information system as such. In these cases the classificationist must decide which relationships are major and are to be outlined in the scheme and which are minor relationships for the user and can therefore be neglected. This is not possible in concept classification.

The full text of this paper as well as of most of the other papers has already been published in a pre-conference volume which carries the FID publication no. 615:

Dahlberg, I. [Ed.]. **Universal Classification. Subject Analysis and Ordering Systems.** Proceedings 4th Int. Study Conf. on Classification Research of FID/CR, 6th Ann. Conf. of Ges. f. Klassifikation eV, Augsburg, 28 June–2 July 1982. Vol. 1. Frankfurt: INDEKS Verlag, 1982, 360 p., DM 60.–, (Studien zur Klassifikation, Bd. 11) ISBN 3-88672-010-1.

On the occasion of this conference, a round table meeting of international experts was held, discussing the possibility of founding an "International Federation of Classification Societies"; the publication of a common journal was also investigated.

Terminology training for language mediators (linguists, translators, interpreters)

Language mediators represent one of the largest user groups of terminology. For this reason they should be instructed in the system of concepts and terms of individual subject fields as well as in the theory of terminology and terminology work geared especially to the demands of this group of professionals. For several years a number of universities have already been offering courses on the subject of the systems of concepts and terms. Instructions in the theory of terminology and in terminology work, however, will enable the translator to engage in preparatory work on multilingual terminologies elaborated by subject specialists or to undertake the preparation of such terminologies jointly with these specialists. This necessitates a specific type of training which can be integrated easily into the syllabus for language mediators. Theses written by students at the end of their study period could provide the basis for the work carried out by terminology commissions and standards bodies. At present, some 12 000 terminology standards exist in 37 languages (as contained in the "International Bibliography of Standardized Vocabularies (BT 2)"); they could partly be used for theses on comparative terminology.

Upon the invitation of two universities in the Federal Republic of Germany the problem of terminology teaching for language mediators was dealt with in lectures by the Director of Infoterm and subsequent discussions with teachers and students. The faculty expressed the desire for adequate guidelines which would facilitate the preparation of theses.

Hochschule für Erziehungs-, Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften Hildesheim

At the Institute for Applied Linguistics of the Hochschule Hildesheim there is a course entitled "Fachübersetzungen" [Specialized translation] during which graduate students are assigned a large number of terminological theses. After presentation of a paper "International terminology work — state-of-the-art and future perspectives" which provided an overview of present activities and a special section on aids for the language mediator the director of Infoterm and members of the faculty discussed the problem of theses at length. This discussion focused on the following items: topics, availability of and access to documents, method of work, supervision of the thesis, etc. With respect to the method of work there are ISO standards as well as national standards in existence; guidelines issued by terminology organizations can also be used for this purpose. Unified symbols for languages and for terminography are also available and should be applied whenever possible.

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

"Basic issues of international terminology" was the title of a paper given by the director of Infoterm at the Institute for Applied Linguistics. In the ensuing discussion members of the faculty raised a number of questions regarding the inclusion of the Theory of terminology into the syllabus and the assignment of terminology theses.

A selection of text books in use

Arntz, R.; Picht, H.: Einführung in die übersetzungsbezogene Terminologiearbeit [Introduction to terminology work of relevance to translations]. Hildesheim/Zürich/New York: Georg Olms Verlag, 1982, 238 p., A5.

Picht, H.: Nordisk Terminologikursus 1, 2 [Nordic terminology course 1, 2]. Copenhagen: Handelshøjskolen, 1978, 527 p., A4 (Manuscript).

Rondeau, G.; Felber, H. (ed.): Textes choisis de terminologie. Vol. 1, Fondements théoriques de la terminologie. Sous la direction de V.I. Siforov. Québec: GIRSTERM/Université Laval, 1981, 334 p., 140 x 190 mm.

Rondeau, G.: Introduction à la terminologie. Montréal: Centre Educatif et Culturel Inc., 1980, 250 p.

Wüster, E.: Einführung in die Allgemeine Terminologielehre und Terminologische Lexikographie, 2 Teile [General Theory of Terminology and Terminological Lexicography — An introduction. 2 parts]. Wien/New York: Springer, 1979 (Teil 1) 145 p., (Teil 2) 70 p., (Schriftenreihe der Technischen Universität Wien 8).

An information pool of terminology theses and dissertations

According to recent experience (see report on terminology training above) there is a great need for terminological studies, topics for theses and dissertations, etc. in the academic field. This need is in contrast with the lack of experience on the part of many institutes which want to establish terminology courses in their curricula. On the other hand, a certain degree of expertise in terminology teaching has been attained already at several universities. The exchange of information in this field, however, is still in its initial stage. Responding to the need for

- advice on appropriate topics for terminology theses and dissertations
- information on ongoing studies and research and
- information on completed terminology theses and dissertations

Infoterm is going to launch a new project to establish an information pool of academic terminological studies. This pool will comprise three different levels.

(1) Proposals for topics of terminology theses and dissertations

Proposals for terminology theses and dissertations, collected and registered in co-operation with the faculty of institutions offering terminology courses, would help to

- recognize certain gaps in terminology studies and to establish joint study focuses in order to concentrate efforts
- coordinate terminology studies which could be complimentary to each other and further co-operation between institutes.

Infoterm has already set up a temporary list (available upon request and invites heads of departments, teachers and students to add new topics to this list.

(2) Registration of theses and dissertations in progress

In many fields information on ongoing research is usual and regarded as a basic necessity. It is even more necessary in a relatively new field of study like terminology where recent years have shown a rising interest on behalf of academic institutions. Infoterm could start to establish a register for terminology theses and dissertations in progress.

(3) International Bibliography of terminological theses and dissertations (BT 12)

Since 1980 Infoterm has registered terminology theses and dissertations which have been completed under the heading of the BT 12. The bibliographic references are recorded together with information on location and availability of these documents. If copies of these theses and dissertations were sent to the Infoterm reference library it would help to inform students and scholars requesting advice from Infoterm and to assist those staying at Infoterm for in-house training.

The updating of data pertaining to items (1), (2), (3) could be done regularly in forthcoming issues of the INL. The dissemination of data will be carried out jointly with the Terminology and Documentation Branch (DGTD — Directoire Générale de la terminologie et documentation), Translation Bureau of the Secretary of State in Canada, which is going to publish the INL regularly henceforth. A limited number of pertinent journals which have shown readiness to publish the INL in part or whole, are provided with prepublication copies.

In addition to this information Infoterm is prepared to give guidance on questions of methodology and terminological principles, and to offer the material contained in its reference library to those doing studies in this field. All teachers and students interested in this matter are invited to contact Infoterm.

Forthcoming meetings

13–18 Sept. 1982: Rabat, Morocco. 2ème Colloque de terminologie franco-arabe: Aménagement linguistique et development. Contact: Mr. Jean-Claude Corbeil, CIRELFA, 1410, rue Stanley, Montréal H3A 1P8, Canada

15–17 Sept. 1982: Brussels, Begium. Langage, plurilinguisme, société: XVIIe colloque linguistique. Contact: Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis, Boulevard du Jardin botanique 43, B-1000 Bruxelles, Begique

11–13 Nov. 1982: Québec, Canada. Langue et société. Organizer: Centre municipal des congrés 1460, chemin Sainte-Foy, 3e ét. Québec G1S 2N9, Canada.

19–22 Nov. 1982: Reno, Nevada, USA. Court Interpretation Training Program. National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada, USA

30 Jan.–1st Febr. 1983: Hull, Canada. Qualité de la langue et traduction. This meeting will be convened by the Société des traducteurs du Québec and the Conseil de la langue française.

27 April–1st May 1983: Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA. The first TIES (Translators and Interpreters Educational Society) Symposium will be structured arond SIGS (special interest groups) but state-of-the-art presentations in audiovisual and computer aids, etc. will be given emphasis as well. Contact: TIES, P.O. Box 3027, Stanford, California 94305, USA

15–20 May 1983: Philadelphia, Pa., USA. Scholarly Communication Around the World. A joint global conference which constitutes the 27th Annual Conference of the Council of Biology Editors, the 3rd Conference of the International Federation of Scientific Editors' Associations, and the 5th Annual Meeting of the Society for Scholarly Publishing. Contact: 1983 International Conference, attn.: Elizabeth M. Zipf, BioSciences Information Service, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103, USA

JUST PUBLISHED!

Riggs, F.W. (Ed.): THE CONTA CONFERENCE. Proceedings of the Conference on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis in the Social Sciences, Bielefeld, FRG, May 24-27,1981. Frankfurt/Main: INDEKS Verlag 1982. 382 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 as recognized by the Unesco Program INTERCONCEPT and to look for solutions to overcome the present pitfalls and difficulties.

The carefully edited 32 papers and 12 reports 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 a conference resumé, the participants list and the reports on the activities of various international and national organisations in this interdisciplinary endeavour given in a preconference seminar to update especially the representatives of developing countries. The Conference Recommendations (which are included too) have already found the interest of the professional world and also acceptance in the current UNESCO Program. The volume concludes with a name and subject index.

* COCTA = Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis, of IPSA, (Int.Pol.Sci.Assoc.), ISA (Int.Sociol.Assoc.) and the ISSC (Int.Soc.Sci. Council). 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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