INFOTERM NEWS

(compiled from Infoterm Newsletters 14 and 15)

Co-operation of the Nordic Countries – NORDTERM

The report, written in German, was kindly supplied by Mr. H. Picht of the Handelshøjskolen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

1. Introduction

By 1975 all Nordic countries had achieved a level in terminology work which seemed to render the creation of a joint agency useful. This co-operation was to facilitate planning and co-ordination of terminology work and to carry it out in higher quality, and more economically.

NORDTERM might be considered the first collection of joint forces which until now only had a very loose and exclusively bilateral relationship.

2. NORDTERM 1976

Upon the instigation of the terminology group in Denmark (consisting of a number of bodies interested in terminology work) a first NORDTERM-meeting was convened from 22 to 23 April 1976, at the Tekniska Nomenklatur Centralen in Stockholm.

Participants were:

- Centralen för Teknisk Terminologi (CTT), Finland
- Radet for Teknisk Terminologi (RTT), Norway
- Tekniska Nomenklaturcentralen (TNC), Sweden
- Terminologigruppen, Denmark

2.1 Agenda of the First Meeting

a) Discussion of the sociological importance of terminology work;
b) Survey of terminology training up to now;
c) Discussion concerning the possibilities of closer co-operation in terminology between Nordic countries;
d) Information about terminology projects either in progress or in planning;
e) Rationalization of terminology work with particular emphasis on terminological data banks.

2.2 Results of meeting

Concrete results of this first meeting were as follows:

a) Setting up of a Working Group (WG 1) charged with the task to plan and carry out a Nordic terminology course which should serve as the basis for future joint projects. This course was held during the summer of 1978 (see Infoterm Newsletter 11)
b) Joint terminological projects should be carried out in the future.

3. NORDTERM 1978

At the second NORDTERM Meeting, held February 2nd, 1978, in Bergen, existing contacts could be reinforced and the circle of participants could be expanded; in this context the Nordic council of languages deserves particular mention.

3.1 Working Group 2 – Terminological data banks

This Working group was set up after extensive preparation and availability of appropriate means.

The specific aim of Working Group 2 was as follows:

Examination of the possibilities concerning data exchange between the Nordic terminological data banks. This co-operation presupposes a certain degree of uniformity with reference to classification systems and the exchange format; there prerequisites should be established by means of closer collaboration.

Results of this project are available today (see documents concerning the Third NORDTERM-Meeting). In addition, details are also available via TermDok Bulletins Nr. 31, 33, – 41 and 45. (For literature, see below.)

3.2 Co-ordination of terminological field work

A certain degree of reciprocity with reference to information on projects either complete, in progress or in planning will result in better co-ordination and planning. (A survey of terminological field work is to be found in the literature listed below.)

4. NORDTERM 1979

The last meeting, held April 4th, 1979, in Copenhagen, established the framework for new activities (with the exception of ongoing or long-term projects). These new activities can be subdivided as follows:

4.1 Theory of terminology and -teaching

Having accomplished the first task of WG 1 (Nordic terminology course) the following activities are to be taken up until 1981:

a) Seminar on terminology teaching (approximate date: May 1980, in Norway)
b) Seminar on basic elements of terminology as a distinct branch of science, i.e. concepts, formation of concepts, relationship between concepts, systems of concepts and their formation (approximate date: November 1980, in Sweden)
c) Seminar on terminology and LSP with particular emphasis on linguistic aspects (approximate date: May 1981, in Finland).

All seminars are primarily designed to serve the needs of participants from Nordic countries.

d) Establishment of an information centre for terminology teaching and -training (in the Nordic countries) at the Handelshøjskolen in Copenhagen. Among other tasks this centre is to collect available teaching material for terminology used in Nordic and other terminology training courses, and to advise on and arrange for guest lectures, etc.

4.2 Terminological data banks

Tasks of WG 2 are:

a) Elaboration of a classification system using as a framework the proposals passed by the European Working

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Group "Classification" (consisting of the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark).

b) Harmonization of exchange formats meeting the demands of Norway and Finland, and acceptable to TERMDOK (Terminology bank, Sweden) and DANTERM (Terminology bank, Denmark).

c) Appropriate measures concerning fruitful co-operation between Nordic terminological data banks.

4.3 Co-ordination of field projects

WG 3 which was set up recently is to undertake the following tasks for the time being:

a) to register terminological field projects and to facilitate access to information which would assure proper co-ordination;

b) to examine proposals concerning Nordic terminological projects, to further their execution, and to arrange, if possible, for co-operation with respective terminology offices of the European Communities;

c) to describe the different kinds of working methods used.

The Working Groups composed of at least one representative for each of the four Nordic countries are to act autonomously, as far as possible. The division of labour (sketched briefly for WG 1, above) necessitates delegation of specific tasks, i.e. one country is to be responsible for a specific project with co-operation of the others with reference to planning and execution.

5. Conclusion

NORDTERM might truely be considered a model representing – on a voluntary basis – a viable means for co-operation and co-ordination of terminology work, taking into consideration the specific problems and needs of so-called "smaller languages".

Further details on NORDTERM can be found in the publications listed below:

1. NORDTERM 1976. Terminologiskt samarbete i Norden. Seminarium i Stockholm 22.–23. April 1976. Tekniska Nomenklaturcentralen (TNC), Box 5243, S-102 45 Stockholm, Sweden

2. NORDTERM. Terminologisk samarbeid i Norden. Bergen 17. Februar 1978, Nordisk Språksekretariat, Postboks 8107 Dep.; Oslo 1, Norway

3. NORDTERM. Terminologisk samarbeid i Norden. København 24. April 1979, Nordisk Spraksekretariat

4. Infoterm Newsletter Nr. 11 in: Lebende Sprachen (1979) No. 1, p. 47 and in Intern. Classificat. 6 (1979) No. 1, p. 41–42

5. TERMDOK Bulletin, TNC, Stockholm; No. 41. See also Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 172; No. 45: Intern. Classificat. 6 (1979) No. 1, p. 43–44.

H. Picht

TermNet Activities

After the meeting of the Infoterm Advisory Board (Vienna, April 4th 1979) at which the programmes for TermNet proposed by Infoterm were fully approved (see Newsletter 13) further action was taken with reference to the implementation of projects within each of the three programmes:

1. TermNet programme I: Developing the scientific basis of terminology, i.e. the General theory and principles of terminology

Recognizing the importance of further theoretical work in terminology Infoterm (in collaboration with other TermNet partners) has already taken the following initiatives and measures:

(1) Adaption and publication of Wüster's lecture held at the University of Vienna (1973/1974), entitled "Einführung in die Allgemeine Terminologielehre und terminologische Lexikographie" [The general theory of terminology and terminological lexicography. – Introduction]. 1979. Copies of this book (comprising a basic volume and a volume of graphic displays) were (and still are being) made available to interested parties (sales outlet: Springer Verlag Wien-New York). Translations will be prepared in E/F/Pl/R/Hu/He.

(2) Preparation and planned publication of a series entitled "Selected readings in terminology/Textes choisis de terminology", edited jointly by G. Rondeau (Université Laval, Québec) and H. Felber (Infoterm, Vienna) and published in six volumes by the "Groupe interdisciplinaire de recherche scientifique et appliqúee en terminologie" (GIRSTERM) and the Université Laval in Québec (Canada).

(3) Preparation of an "International Symposium on Theoretical and Methodological Problems of Terminology", to be held in Moscow, November 27–30, 1979. This Symposium is organized jointly by the Secretariat of ISO/TC 37 WG 1 "Principles of Terminology", the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Infoterm and AILA.

(4) Publication of a memorial volume for Prof. Dr. Eugen Wüster entitled "Terminologie als angewandte Sprachwissenschaft" [Terminology – applied linguistics]. This volume is to appear in late autumn with K.G. Saur Verlag Dokumentation, München–New York–London–Paris, and will comprise some 250 p.

(5) Provision for further research into Wüster's numerous projects still left incomplete but of eminent importance to the future development of the theory of terminology.

(6) Co-editing of a new international journal "Language for Special Purposes (LSP). Research. Teaching. Terminology", a specimen copy of which appeared recently. This quarterly journal informs about the present state of LSP, theory and teaching, as well as terminology work and research.

2. TermNet programme II: Establishing closer co-operation in preparing terminologies

(1) Terminologies of many subject fields and numerous languages have to be updated constantly to reflect the most recent state of development. This necessitates close collaboration between scientific and professional associations; in addition, modern means of terminological data banks allow rapid updating. Infoterm, therefore, has been and is now particularly involved in establishing closer links between subject specialists elaborating terminologies, information specialists and terminologists involved in the development of international terminological principles to ensure a certain degree of uniformity.

(2) On the occasion of its 70th Anniversary the Union of International Associations (UIA) will organize a World Forum of International and transnational associations (Brussels, June 23–27, 1980). One of the proposed working commissions (Commission III) will be dealing with problems of "Transnational communication in the

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world today" with particular emphasis on language, information and documentation. Infoterm will use this opportunity to raise specific questions related to terminology.

3. TermNet programme III: Establishing closer co-operation in collecting, recording, processing and disseminating terminological data and information

In addition to projects reported on in Newsletter 12 and Newsletter 13 the following TermNet projects are underway:

(1) BT 1 "International bibliography of terminological articles and books". – Data on some 900 publications have been collected with the assistance of other TermNet partners and are stored at the Université Laval (Québec, Canada). They are available on tape; final publication is pending.

(2) BT 2 "International Bibliography of standardized vocabularies/Bibliographie Internationale de vocabulaires normalisés/Internationale Bibliographie der Normwörterbücher". –

This Bibliography, published in April 1979 (see Newsletter 13), covers bibliographical references on some 9000 terminological standards (relating to any subject field and language treated). It is at present being kept up to date with all data stored on tape.

(3) BT 3/4 "International Bibliography of monolingual multilingual specialized vocabularies". As described in Newsletter 12, a special bibliography covering multilingual vocabularies (in some 15 European languages) has been undertaken jointly by Infoterm and the ECE. So far bibliographical references on approximately 1000 vocabularies have been assembled. The date of publication is as yet not fixed.

Another bibliography, on social science vocabularies and thesauri, originally prepared for the Unesco's INTERCONCEPT project (which is, broadly speaking, to become an international information system for the social sciences) is also being updated and now covers some 250 references. Eventually, publication and dissemination (by Unesco) is foreseen.

(4) "Guidelines for recording bibliographical data". – These guidelines a draft of which had been prepared by Infoterm for the Advisory Board Meeting (see Newsletter 13) are now in the process of revision at UNIBID (UNISIST International Centre for Bibliographic Descriptions), to ensure compatibility within UNISIST. (International bibliographies as such require unified recording of bibliographical data.)

(5) Guidelines for recording data on organizations, commissions, committees, data banks, etc. involved in terminology work.

These Draft Guidelines also prepared for the meeting mentioned above are being examined with reference to computer application.

(6) "Vocabulary of terminological data banks". – On the basis of preparatory work carried out by the European Communities, Infoterm and Siemens (Munich) this project will now be taken up full speed, in collaboration with all those interested in terminological data banks.

(7) "Comparative study of data elements for terminological data banks". – This study is to be undertaken shortly jointly with all those willing to participate. It is intended to convene a meeting of a working group in 1980.

(8) "A model terminology file". – Such a model for a specific subject field is to be undertaken in the very near future.

(9) Problems relating specifically to data banks storing standardized terminologies are to be dealt with by TermNet in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the framework of ISONET.

Future meetings

October 1–5, 1979: Trujillo, Universidad Nacional de Trujillo, Peru. First International Symposium on "Las Barreras Lingüísticas en el desarrollo de las ciencias y de la tecnologia en los países del Convenio ANDRES BELLO".
Further information may be obtained from: René Medina Tello, Presidente del Comite Organizador, Jefe del Dpt. de Idiomas y Linguistica. Ciudad Universitaria, Apartado 315, Trujillo, Peru.

January 23–25, 1980: ISO/TC 46/SC 3 ("Documentation/Terminology"), Madrid (Agenda not available)

June 23–27, 1980: Brussels, World Forum of International Transnational Associations.
The four proposed working commissions of the Forum are:
- The association phenomenon and its transnational aspects
- The participation of associations in international organization and in world order
- Transnational communication in the contemporary world
- The sociology and practical organization of international and transnational meetings.

Within the theme of the third commission problems will be considered such as:
1) Language and transnational relations – concepts, terminology, interpretation, translation,
2) Information and communication in the transnational network;
3) The role of the transnational network of associations in international documentation;
4) The nature, detection and description of world problems, their interrelationships, and their relation to organizations.

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