
Infoterm News

(Compiled from Infoterm Newsletters 51 and 52)

In Memoriam Edouard Natanson

On 17 August 1988, the Russian terminologist Dr. Edouard Natanson died in Paris. A representative of the Soviet School of Terminology, Dr. Natanson was an enthusiastic and competent researcher in the field of terminology.

In 1967, he submitted his doctoral thesis "Terms as special vocabulary. The formation of Russian technical terms" at the Institute for Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Subsequently he acted as a scientific researcher on terminology as a member of Soviet institutions, such as the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Technical Information, Classification and Coding (VNIKI) and the Institute for the Information on Inventions and Discoveries. He was also a member of the Committee for Scientific and Technical Terms of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

From 1970 to 1971, he lectured on the theory of terminology at the University of Moscow. At the beginning of the seventies, he first went to Austria and then to France, where he lived until his death. Upon representation of his doctoral thesis entitled "Research into classification aspects, characteristics and properties of dictionaries" at the University of Sorbonne (Paris III) he obtained the "Doctorat d'Etat" in 1975. He worked as a terminologist at the Conseil International de la Langue Française (CILF-) and as a lecturer at the University Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV).

Dr. Natanson wrote a large number of papers dealing with fundamental investigations into terminology; these papers were presented at symposia or published in specialized periodicals. It is to be noted with deep regret that two of his major works, viz. "Traité de terminologie" (526p.) and "Critères distinctifs et propriétés des dictionnaires" (223p.) were never published: they are available only as xeroxed copies from Infoterm. Thus, the valuable work of this outstanding terminologist and linguist has so far been inaccessible to specialists in terminology. It is to be hoped that one day terminologists will discover this terminological treasure, analyse it and make it available to those working in the field.

Helmut Felber

Establishment of the International Network for Terminology (TermNet), Vienna, 12 December 1988

(As a note on this event was already published in IC 89-1, p.29 we omit this information from INL 51 here).

The Terminology Committee of the American Translators Association

The purpose of the ATA Terminology Committee is to support American research and documentation in the area of translator-oriented technical terminology and to promote cooperation with international efforts to standardize and harmonize activities in terminology and knowledge engineering throughout the world. Current ATA Terminology Committee activities include:

- Development of a system of subcommittees for the purpose of preparing highly specialized, documented terminology data bases in important, leading edge technologies
- Cooperation with Infoterm and other international standards organizations in establishing a standard entry format for use in creating terminology data bases, with special emphasis on the potential for data sharing among different computerized systems
- Cooperation with ASTM and other US standards organizations in co-ordinating terminology research and documentation in the United States
- Sponsorship of a section entitled "Computer Assistance for Technical Communicators: Work stations for Technical Writers, Translators and Terminologists in the 90s" to be presented as one of the components of the Second International Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering in September 1990 in Trier
- Cooperation with the TermNet Service Center for the United States and American learned societies and standards organizations in conducting terminology research in the United States. This activity will parallel similar projects in Europe and Japan, culminating in efforts to develop a worldwide profile of international terminology activities.

ATA recognized that - simultaneous to the so-called information crisis - there is a terminology crisis. The ultimate goal of the ATA Terminology Committee is to assist in co-ordinated international programs to guarantee optimum efficiency, accuracy and accessibility of data bases created to cope with the exponential growth of knowledge and the terminology developed to describe it.

Sue Ellen Wright

Colloquy on "Terminologie et Industries de la Langue", Paris, 19-20 Jan. 1989

The Colloquy was organized jointly by the "Agence de coopération culturelle et technique" and the "Centre de terminologie et de néologie". Some 170 participants, mainly from France, but also from other - primarily francophone - countries, such as Canada, attended.

In line with the general heading "language industries", most of the contributions to this Colloquy dealt with the linguistic-lexicographical aspects of terminology. It should be noted that some of the contributors did not clearly differentiate between terminology and lexicography; this fact was also pointed out by Mr. Quémada in his concluding remarks. The sheer fact that the topic of ter-

minology under the heading of "language industries" could attract such a large number of participants in France proves the importance of this issue as well as the existing needs in this field.

At this colloquy, Infoterm presented some basic reflections on the costs involved in setting-up and running a terminological data bank.

All-Union Scientific Conference on Problems of Unification and Standardization of Technical Terminology held from 27 February to 1st March 1989, Jurmala (Latvia)

This Conference was organized by the Ministry of Health of the USSR, the Principal Terminological Commission of the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) of the USSR, the editors of the Medical Encyclopedia of the AMS of the USSR, the Ministry of Health of the Lettish SSR, and the Terminological Commission of the Academy of Sciences of the Lettish SSR. The Conference consisted of a Plenary Session of nine papers dealing with the state of the present medical terminology, the methodological basis and the regulation of theories of medical terminologies. There were eight Working Sessions, i.e.:

- (1) Principles and methods of the regulation of medical terminology (13 papers)
- (2) Semantic and structural aspects of medical terminology (32 papers)
- (3) Peculiarities of medical terminology in foreign languages (16 papers)
- (4) Medical terminography. Information retrieval languages in medicine (25 papers)
- (5) Problems of medical terminology in the National Republics (12 papers)
- (6) Terminological problems of chemical medicine (42 papers)
- (7) Terminological problems of medico-biological sciences (17 papers)
- (8) Terminological problems of hygiene, microbiology, epidemiology and organization of health services (25 papers)

The meeting concluded with a plenary Session which focussed on the analysis of the working sessions and resolutions.

The Japan Terminology Association

This Association has undertaken a survey of all technical standards and learned societies in Japan with the objective of ascertaining the scope of terminology activities throughout that country, at all levels of scientific and technical endeavours.

Nederlandstalige Terminologiedag, Eindhoven, 15 December 1988

SaNT, a joint Commission for Dutch terminology, composed of the Belgian and Dutch standards bodies and the Dutch Language Association, together with the

Technical University of Eindhoven convened a one-day meeting to assess the state of the art of Dutch terminology. More than 130 participants, both from the Netherlands and the Dutch (Flemish) speaking area of Belgium attended. Several papers, ranging from Dutch terminology in the building/construction industry to book-binding and Dutch terminology teaching were presented. The role of the Dutch language within the European Communities, viz. EURODICAUTOM, the terminology data bank of the CEC, as well as training opportunities within the framework of institutions of higher learning and future cooperation were presented and discussed. Dutch, as a language of "limited diffusion" was the topic of a paper presented by Infoterm with particular reference to the International Network for Terminology (TermNet), established recently in Vienna.

Terminology and Knowledge Engineering, Vienna, 13-14 January 1989

A two-day seminar was held at the premises of Infoterm on the topic "Terminology and Knowledge Engineering". It covered problems regarding the processing of knowledge from a scientific point of view as well as terminological phraseology and terminology documentation. Future seminars on related topics are intended.

International Conference on Terminology Standardization & Unification in Theory and Practice, Tunis, 13-17 March 1989

The conference attracted more than 100 participants both from the Arab world and a number of international and national institutions. 27 papers on a variety of terminological topics were given and elicited a number of interesting discussions. The majority of papers was dealing with aspects of Arabization, standardization or both. The scientific programme was subdivided into four sessions chaired by renowned terminologists. A two-day session dealt with the principles and methods of terminology standardization and unification.

The conference was opened by the Director General of INNORPI, Mr. Ali BENGAIID in the presence of the leading officers of the organizing institutions and of the Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Economy and it was closed by the Minister of Cultural Affairs of Tunisia. The keynote lectures were delivered by representatives of international and national institutions. In the various presentations frequent reference was made to the First Arab Conference on Terminology in 1986 and the remarkable progress achieved in the meantime. There was, nevertheless, unanimous agreement that there was still a long way to go to accomplish the aims of Arabization and of standardization which would allow the Arabic language to serve as an adequate tool in the transfer of knowledge among the Arab countries.

Mention should also be made of the recommendations adopted on the occasion of this conference. These recommendations as well as the proceedings will be available in the near future from the Academy Beit el Hikma, Tunis.

Establishment of ArabTerm

On the occasion of the International Conference of Terminology Standardization & Unification in Theory and Practice, Tunis, 13-17 March 1989, a workshop on cooperation in terminology in the Arab world took place. As a result of this workshop a number of representatives of major Arab institutions involved or interested in terminology and individual experts met to found the Arab information Network for Terminology (ArabTerm) as an association according to Tunisian law. Eleven members were appointed to the Board:

Mr. Ali Bengaid, President and Director General of INNorPI

Mr. Jamil Issa Al Malaika (Iraq)

Mr. Zouhaier Marrakchi, Head of Translation and Terminology, INNorPI

Mr. Amor Jilani, Deputy Director General of INNorPI.

The seat of the secretariat of ArabTerm will be at the Tunisian National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNorPI), which will provide administrative facilities and staff.

The objectives of ArabTerm are:

- basic and applied terminology research;
- the elaboration of principles, methods and other tools for terminology work, such as classification schemes and thesauri in the Arabic language to be published via manuals and/or standards;
- the preparation of terminologies in both conventional and computerized form as well as their unification and standardization;
- the processing, storage and dissemination of terminological data;
- the collection, analysis and exchange of terminological information;
- the development of terminology training at all levels via preparation of a unified curriculum and specialized teaching aids;
- increasing the availability of terminological publications and the establishment of a deposit library for terminological publications; translating relevant terminological literature into Arabic;
- the attainment of a unified terminology planning policy within the Arab world;
- organization of and participation in meetings and congresses on terminological issues;
- establishing external liaison channels and taking part in worldwide terminological activities, publications and institutions in the Arab world.

One of its first major activities will be the publication of a newsletter to provide regular information on terminological activities, publications and institutions in the Arab World.

Close cooperation with other Arab institutions and organizations as well as international institutions and organizations, especially the organizations of the UN system and Infoterm is envisaged.

Workshop on Teaching Aids in Terminology Standardization, Tunis, 6 March 1989

The Workshop identified following target groups of teaching and training in terminology standardization:

- experts active in terminology standardization;
- convenors and secretaries of terminology standardizing bodies within the framework of national, regional and international organizations;
- terminology experts active in specific subject fields.

There was agreement that these training courses ought to be tailored to meet the specific needs and to take into account the individual background of the target group. Terminology standardization serves the precise preparation of standards and supports the consistency of terminology standards, reports, and other technical documents.

Several topics to be included in a training kit were discussed, viz.:

- the role of terminology standardization in standardization in general and in specific subject fields;
- the impact of terminology standardization on terminology planning;
- terminology standardization and regulation;
- international terminology standardization and its organizational structure;
- methodology of the standardization of terminologies;
- the structure and the work of ISO/TC 37 and related bodies;
- general principles of terminology standardization;
- fundamentals of terminology work, basic concepts and models, object - concept - designation, terminology, terminology and documentation;
- stages of terminology work (project management);
- practical aspects of terminology work.

Workshop "Knowledge Transfer Centre Based upon an Advanced Terminology Documentation", Tunis, 16 March 1989

The topic of the Workshop is of high relevance both to developing and developed countries. On this occasion a document on "Knowledge transfer via computer-assisted terminology documentation (Infoterm 11-88)" was presented.

During the workshop, the discussion focussed on the requirements which are to be considered regarding efficient transfer of knowledge. There was unanimous agreement that the knowledge transfer should be conceived as "bi-directional", since it is also necessary for so-called "developed countries" to obtain knowledge from and about developing countries. There was also agreement on the fact that the multifunctionality of terminologies presents a valuable asset in the solution of problems which—at present—hamper effective knowledge and technology transfer. Infoterm's research in the field of terminology documentation methods, its expertise in systems design related to the development of terminology documentation systems and its active involvement in

standardizing activities in the fields of terminology, documentation and classification was widely acknowledged; it is planned to utilize these research results in the establishment of large-scale computerized knowledge transfer centres.

Workshop on the Preparation of Principles for Descriptive Terminology Work, Tunis, 16 March 1989

During the workshop two major types of descriptive terminology work were distinguished, viz. terminology work in certain subject fields, especially those of social sciences and the humanities and purpose-oriented terminography, such as translation-oriented terminology work.

Due to special conditions concerning the epistemological status of objects and concepts, concept relations, concept descriptions, terms, assignment object - concept - term, etc. specific methods have to be elaborated in order to facilitate terminology work in these subject fields. Decisive components are the precise documentation of objects under investigation, different concepts - and as a consequence - different theories concerning the same object, the documentation of conceptual dynamics and the "migration" of many concepts from one subject field to the other.

These methods can thus be used as research tools since competing theories with their specific concepts and terms may be compared and analyzed more easily. In both domains, terminology standardization is impossible or undesirable. Adequate documentation of terminologies in both the source language and the target language is an important asset of the translation process proper.

For the establishment of terminological data bases in the social sciences and the humanities and for computer-assisted translation, these considerations should be taken into account by establishing adequate categories, files and links between them. Recording and output formats should be harmonized for exchange purposes.

The participants present agreed that there was an urgent need for international cooperation in the field of terminology work in the social sciences (including law) and the humanities. Organizations such as COCTA (the Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis in the Social Sciences) have already been active in this respect for several years. The new work item of ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG2 "Descriptive terminology work - methods" should be based on existing guidelines, manuals as well as theoretical and empirical studies prepared by terminologists.

Terminology Course Held in the Republic of China, Taipei, 17-21 April 1989

The course was held by Infoterm at the Fu Jen Catholic University in Hsinchuang.

It was organized by the newly founded Graduate Institute of Translation and Interpretation Studies (GITIS)

of the College of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Students from the aforementioned Institute, staff members from the German and English Departments of Fu Jen Catholic University as well as a representative of the Chinese University of Hong Kong were in the attendance. Most of the participants are already actively involved in terminology projects. The curriculum presented covered an introduction to LSP-research, machine-assisted translation and, last but not least, the theoretical foundations of terminology work and terminological documentation. A special section dealt with terminological activities in the Chinese language. In this section the possibilities of cooperation between the various countries using this language were investigated. Special emphasis was given to the application of computers in the work of translators, terminologists and knowledge engineers.

GITIS started its teaching activities in September 1988 as the first attempt in the Republic of China to offer formal education for translators and interpreters at the graduate level. Within this framework, a two and a half year programme leading to a Master's degree is now being developed; terminology training forms an integral part of this course.

Training opportunities for terminologists/translators at the Centre Jacques Amyot

Several French universities offer training opportunities in terminology, generally within the curricula for translators/interpreters. To cite a few examples, the Department of Foreign Languages of the University of Rennes II (with a special course on terminology), Lyon II, the "Institut supérieur d'interprétation et de traduction (ISIT, Paris)", and the "Ecole supérieure d'interprétation et de traduction (ESIT, Paris-Dauphine)". The Centre Jacques-Amyot, an association subsidised by the Commissariat général de la langue française, organises training courses for continuous education in terminology geared at professionals from industry and research as well as free-lance translators and students.

There had been such courses in April and May 1989. Similar seminars are planned for October, November and December 1989.

(For details on the activities of this Centre see TermNet News 19).

Meetings

Nov.22-23, 1989: Vienna, Austria. International Symposium on Terminology in Advanced Microcomputer Applications organized by TermNet, and supported by Infoterm and the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITR).

Some of the topics dealt with: Terminological data categories and their combination within or between records; implementation of concept relations and problems of diachronic development; problems of exchange of terminographic data; documentation in computerized terminography; application of classification and/or thesaurus and/or indexing language and their notations; support of technical writing, formulation of definitions, translation; communication with external partners and sys-

tems; conversion to electronic publishing, etc. Six prominent systems will be presented. For further information contact: International Network for Terminology (TermNet), P.O.Box 130, A-1021 Vienna.

Jan.4-6, 1990: Maastricht, Netherlands. 1990 Maastricht-Lód'z Colloquium on Translation and Meaning in Practice.

Oct.11-13, 1990: Lód'z, Poland. Colloquium on Theoretical Aspects of Translation and Meaning.

The Institute of English of the University of Lód'z and the Dutch State School of Translation and Interpreting in Maastricht are organizing a twin Colloquium on Translation and Meaning. The overall aim of the twin Colloquium is to provide an international forum for discussion between theorists and practitioners of translation on the role of meaning in the process of translation. The Maastricht session will deal with the practical aspects of meaning and translation and that in Lód'z with the theoretical aspects. For further information, contact: Dr. Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, Department of English, University of Lód'z, Ko'sciuszki 65, PL-90514 Lód'z, Poland; Dutch State School of Translation and Interpreting, P.O.Box 964, NL-6200 AZ Maastricht.

Oct.2-4, 1990: Trier, FRG. Second International Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering - Applications (TKE '90) organized by the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer and Infoterm in cooperation with the University of Trier, the City of Trier and InTraeG, Stuttgart.

The conference will deal with the following topics: Terminology and knowledge theory, knowledge engineering - New applications for terminology - Documentation languages and ordering of knowledge - Electronic dictionaries - Descriptive terminology - Knowledge engineering in the social sciences and humanities - Natural language processing and knowledge engineering - Terminology and knowledge engineering: new professional profiles, teaching and training - Computer support in technical communication - Knowledge-based systems - Knowledge transfer tools. For further information contact: Infoterm, P.O.Box 130, A-1021 Vienna.

New Publications

TermNet News (TNN) 22 "Special issue on the Ibero-american countries" has been published and is also available in French and Spanish/Portuguese.

BiblioTerm (BIT) 29 and *StandardTerm (STT) 9* were published in March 1989. These three journals may be ordered from Infoterm.

Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development

This journal publishes articles on the many aspects of multilingualism and multiculturalism. It covers a wide range of fields such as contributions to theory, reports of research studies, descriptions of educational policies and systems, and accounts of teaching or learning strategies and assessment procedures. A prime function of this journal is to disseminate views and experiences as widely as possible. For further information contact: Multilingual Matters Ltd., Bank House, 8a Hill Road, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7HH, England.

New Infoterm Documents

2-88fr GALINSKI, C.: Facteurs financiers dans la mise au point d'une banque de terminologie (Some reflections on the costs for setting-up and operating a terminological data bank (TDB). In: Maxwell, D., Schubert, K., Witkam, A.P.M. (Eds.): New directions in machine translation. Conference proceedings, Budapest 18/19 Aug.1988. Budapest: John von

Neumann Society for Computing Science. Dordrecht/Providence: Foris Publ.1988.

16-88en BUDIN, G.: The application of terminology-based knowledge data bases in the humanities and the social sciences and its impact on research methods. Wien: Infoterm 1988. p.

1-89en GALINSKI, C., NEDOBITY, W.: International Terminology Standardization. Wien: Infoterm 1989. 8 p.

Hidden Glossaries

AAA: Brotikon. Alles Wissenswerte über Brot, seine richtige Verwendung und ernährungswissenschaftliche Bedeutung (Broticon. All you should know about bread, its correct use and its importance for nutrition). Wien: Anker, s.d., 19 p.

AAA: Business buzzwords. International Management 43(1988)No.1, p.19, No.2, p.17, No.3, p.19, No.6, p.22, No.7/8, p.20, No.9, p.20, No.10, p.22, No.11, p.22, No.12, p.19.

AAA: Hackerese: Mitteilungsblatt des spanischen Übersetzer- und Dolmetscherverbandes (A.P.E.T.I.), (1988)No.3, p.16

AAA: Les travaux du Comité d'étude des termes médicaux français, "Clair-Dire". (The work of the Committee for the study of medical French terms). L'Actualité terminologique/Terminology Update 20(1987)No.3, p.12-14

AMYOT-McFERN, F.: La mesure en psychologie: les tests (Measuring in psychology: tests). L'Actualité terminologique/Terminology Update 21(1988)No.3, p.3-7

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DUPONT, S.: Les aides techniques pour handicapés (Technical aids for the handicapped). L'Actualité terminologique/Terminology Update 20(1987)No.2, p.1-3

FAHEY, P.: Russian basic terms. No Uncertain Terms 3(1988)No.3, p.14-15

GAGNE, S.: L'influence du caractère vocal sur la taxonomie des oiseaux du Canada (The influence of the vocal character on the taxonomy of birds in Canada) L'Actualité terminologique/Terminology Update 21(1988)No.3, p.14-17

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. DIVISION OF LANGUAGES. ARABIC TRANSLATION SECTION: Provisional list of Arabic technical and scientific terms. English-French-Arabic (Letter A). s.l.: Intern.Atomic Energy Agency 1988. 44p.

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COCTA News 1989:2

ENDOGENOUS SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS: A Critical Problem in Developing Countries Call for Papers for the COCTA-sponsored INTER- COCTA Panel at the XII World Congress of Sociology, Madrid, 9-13 July 1990

The endogenous development of sociology and the other social sciences in many Third World countries is handicapped by conceptual limitations. These limitations derive from the understandable fact that these disciplines in their modern forms originated in Western countries from which they were exported to the rest of the world. Unavoidably, Western scholars, thinking mainly about the social structures and dynamics found in their own societies, cultivated and used the concepts needed in their own work. When non-Western scholars employ these concepts while doing research on fundamental problems encountered in their own societies, they discover at least two basic kinds of limitations.

First, because many, though not all, of the West's social science concepts presuppose cultural and social dynamics that are not universal, these concepts are often ill-adapted for use in the endogenous development of the social sciences in non-Western environments. Terms like 'class', 'nation', 'the state', 'family', 'bourgeoisie', 'individualism', 'pluralism', 'property', etc. all suggest and derive from experiences and realities that have only approximate counterparts in non-Western societies and even those that seem to fit well often suggest contexts or carry implications that are quite inappropriate. This is not to say that many concepts - those associated with methodology and the logic of inquiry, for example - are not universally applicable, as are most natural science and mathematical concepts.

Second, students of Third World realities easily recognize important phenomena and processes that defy clear explication by means of Western concepts and terms. To some degree this deficiency can be remedied by borrowing terms from regional languages. However, these words are heavily freighted with local connotations and they do not spread well - thus terms taken from Arabic, Chinese, Hausa, Sanscrit or Thai may be very useful in their original contexts, but it is difficult to gain acceptance for their widespread use to characterize realities that, in fact, may be pervasive throughout wide domains outside their original provenance. Such concepts, which are widely needed in Third World research, may originate from the impact of the outside world, from imperialism and industrialization, for example, and from pervasive conflicts between indigenous and foreign values and institutions. To handle these realities adequately, vigorously emerging sociological research needs to introduce and gain acceptance for a great many completely novel concepts, and the terms suitable for naming them.