Infoterm News

(Compiled from Infoterm Newsletter 32)

First Hispanoterm terminology course/workshop, Madrid, November 8–10, 1983

Within the framework of TermNet Programme 1 Infoterm assists in the teaching and training of subject specialists by means of in-house facilities, lectures, and the provision of teaching material or advice in the designing of courses or workshops.

The need for co-ordination of terminological activities in the Spanish-language area has become increasingly evident in recent years. In response to this need the Centro de Terminologia Cientifica y Tecnica (centre for scientific and technical terminology), also called Hispanoterm, was established in 1978. Hispanoterm is affiliated to the Instituto Miguel de Cervantes, a research institute for the Spanish language. It is supported by a large number of other scientific and technical research institutes, all of which belong to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (higher scientific research council).

In the near future Hispanoterm is expected to function as a TermNet centre, co-ordinating terminological ativities in the Spanish-speaking countries (a detailed report is to appear in TermNet News 9).

In order to disseminate knowledge of terminology science in Spanish-speaking countries, Hispanoterm translated Wüster's „Einführung in die Terminologielehre und Terminologische Lexikographie" into Spanish. The translation will be published under the title "Introducción a la Teoria General de la terminologia y la terminografia".

In co-operation with the Copenhagen School of Economics and Business Administration and Infoterm, a programme was prepared for the course/workshop "Application of principles and methods in terminology research", geared particularly to subject specialists. The fact that there were almost forty participants clearly shows that there is a growing awareness of the need to keep abreast of developments in terminology.

The course as such included the following topics:

- common language – special language terminology
- terminology work and science
- terminological principles
- methods of terminography
- planning and implementation of terminology projects
- terminology documentation

For the course the teaching material used in the Infoterm standard training course was adapted to Spanish needs. The material, which exists partly in English and partly in Spanish, will be the basis for future terminology training by Hispanoterm.

The workshop included:

- reports on Spanish terminological activities
- a report on international co-operation in terminology
- presentation of the NORDTERM model as an example of cooperation in terminology
- presentation of the organization and functions of Hispanoterm

An extensive discussion on the organization and functions of Hispanoterm followed the workshop. It was felt that Hispanoterm should not only co-ordinate terminological activities in Spain but should also play a leading role in the co-ordination of terminology in other Spanish-speaking countries.

EACROTANAL Training Seminar on Terminology, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, December 7–17, 1983

A "Training Seminar on Terminology", organized by the East African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages (EACROTANAL), took place in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. EACROTANAL is an intergovernmental organization composed of six East African countries (Tanzania, Burundi, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia and Sudan).

African experts at the B.A., M.A. and Ph. D. levels from 5 countries participated in the seminar, which also included workshops. Lecturers from Austria (Mr. C. Galinski, Infoterm), and Canada (Professor J. Baudot and Professor A. Clas, both from the University of Montreal) were invited to treat subjects ranging from terminology science to terminological data banks. In addition, experts from Ethiopia and Uganda reported on terminological activities and experiences in their respective countries. English-French consecutive interpretation was competently carried out by staff members of EACROTANAL.

The seminar dealt with:

- general aspects of terminology (theory, specialized languages, concept and term, definition, etc.)
- terminological activities (neologisms, terminology documentation, terminology research and products, standardization of terminology)
- computerized terminology (hardware, software, terminological data banks, data exchange and networking, etc.)
- general theory of terminology (different schools, specialized theories of terminology, classification, terminological dictionaries and terminological thesauri, terminological data, etc.)

All participants felt that there was a need for additional training, and by the end of the proceedings the need for co-operation among member countries of EACROTANAL had become apparent as well. It was proposed that such seminars be organized at the national level in order to provide experts from individual countries with the opportunity to participate. It was felt that future training sessions should emphasize the practical application of general terminological principles and the development of national guidelines for terminology work and terminology documentation with due respect for spoken languages (oral data in terminology documentation).

During the seminar information was provided on terminology problems faced in two African countries – problems which are typical of those in the region as a whole:

Ethiopia

There are more than ninety languages in Ethiopia and they can roughly be divided into three language groups: Semitic, Cushitic and Nilotic. Amhara (Amharic), the first official language, is the native language of more than 20 % of Ethiopia's 33 million inhabitants, while another 10 % use it as a second language. For many

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1984-2-97 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access -

more Amhara ist the lingua franca, and its use is spreading rapidly. During the past few years efforts have been undertaken to modernize this language by creating up-to-date terminologies based on naming principles. Ethiopia can to a certain extent draw upon its classical language Ge'ez, which today is only used as a liturgical and literary language in the Coptic Church. It also draws upon the experience gained in other Semitic languages, like Arabic in Egypt and modern Hebrew in Israel.

Uganda

Thirty-seven languages are spoken in Uganda. However, English is the official language for all official and business transactions as well as for education. Luganda is the most widely spoken language and is understood by two-thirds of the population. It is also the official medium of instruction at the lower levels of primary schools in Buganda (Central Region) and a large part of the Eastern Region of Uganda.

56th Aslib Annual Conference "Information for National Recovery: Needs – Resources – Technology", University of Stirling, Scotland, September 13–16, 1983

At this conference a member of Infoterm presented a paper entitled "Information – the basis of Japan's forecast technological and economic development". The paper dealt with Japanese activities in the field of terminology in relation both to the importance of terminology for developing the software for the fifth generation computer and to the need for high quality terminological data in information retrieval and spezialized communication. The "Computer-aided terminological retrieval system for specialized Japanese vocabulary" being developed at the Technical University of Vienna was also presented. This unique system allows specialists in technical fields to access Japanese information after only a few weeks of intensive training and without necessarily having in-depth knowledge of Japanese.

ISO/TC 37/WG 5 "Vocabulary of terminology", Frankfurt, November 30–December 2, 1983

Chapter 2, "Concepts", of ISO 1087 was the main item of discussion following a decision at the previous ISO/TC 37/WG 5 meeting in Frankfurt, April 21–22, 1983 (see Infoterm Newsletter 29). Definitions were developed for "characteristic", "concept" (generic, specific, comprehensive, partitive), "relationship" (hierarchical, generic, partitive, sequential, pragmatic, superordinate, subordinate, co-ordinate), "concept field", etc.

Members then discussed Chapter 7, "Theoretical foundations and practical applications", and adopted the following structure: "Terminology science" (subdivided into "General theory of terminology" and "Special theory of terminology"), "Terminology work" (with the subfields "Terminological research" and "Terminography"), and "Terminological standardization" (subdivided into "Standardization of terminological principles" and "Standardization of terminology"), Comprehensive definitions of these concepts were adopted as well.

Members decided to table chapters 3 and 4, namely "Definitions and other means of describing concepts" and "Terms", for forthcoming meetings to be held in Vienna, May 2–4, 1984, and in London, October 15–16 1984, respectively.

Theoretical problems of scientific and technical terminology and translation practice, Omsk, February 3–5, 1983

(Extract from Omskij Terminologičeskij centr. "Priglasitel'nyj bilet i programma", Omsk. 1983)

The third scientific conference on theoretical problems of scientific and technical terminology and translation practice took place in Omsk (USSR), February 3–5, 1983. It was organized by the Omsk Terminology Centre, founded in 1978. At the plenary session, Ms. Tkačeva, head of the Centre, gave the opening address and described the scientific work and perspectives of the organization. "Methods of terminology research", treated by Ms. Konovalova, lecturer at the Institute for Foreign Languages of Leningrad University, completed the plenary session. The conference then broke up into two workshops.

The first one, conducted by Ms. Tkačeva, dealt with theoretical problems of scientific and technical terminology. Thirty papers were given, including:

- "Some aspects of the semantic development of technical vocabulary" by A.L. Belogub;
- "Unification of terminology: means and perspectives" by K. Ja. Averbuh;
- "Systemic structure in terminology" by N.P. Romanova;
- "Correspondence of national and international terms" by N.V. Begun;
- "Acronyms in modern English" by R.V. Kantor;
- "Terminological abbreviations in modern German used in newspapers" by R. I. Sorokina;
- "The problem of term equivalence in the field of metrology in French, German, English and Russian", by T. V. Dimitrenko.

The second workshop was entitled "Translation practice" and was chaired by Ms. D. M. Arambickaja. Among the thirteen papers presented were the following:

- "Working with technical terminology" by A. T. Alybina;
- "Some problems of translation of German terms" by I. N. Suslov;
- "Some aspects of English terminology concerning cryobiology and cryo-medicine from the point of view of translation" by L. A. Matveeva.

The last day was devoted to a seminar on translation problems and solutions.

Japanese experts in computer science

On November 29, 1983 a delegation of thirteen computer experts, headed by Prof. Nagao of the University of Kyoto, visited Infoterm. The members of this delegation, representing the Japan Electronic Industry Development Association (JEIDA), reported on a number of research projects related to fifth-generation computer development that are under way in Japan. As a corollary, the development of adequate software has steadily gained importance. In this connection the conceptual approach of the theory of terminology seems to offer a scientific basis for the structuring of information stored in large data and knowledge banks. Problems of machine and machine-assisted translation were discussed as well. The visit offered an opportunity to

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1984-2-97 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access - (cc) BY

exchange ideas particularly with a view to utilizing the large amount of information available for this purpose on Infoterm premises. In addition, Infoterm was asked to assist Japan in all aspects of future terminology work, particularly terminology standardization and the establishment of terminology centres.

Meetings

Oct. 15–19, 1984: London, 7th Meeting of ISO/TC 37 and meetings of (a) ISO/TC 37/SC 1 "Principles of terminology" (October 17–18, 1984).
(b) ISO/TC 37/SC 2 "Layout of vocabularies" (October 15–16, 1984).
(c) ISO TC 37/WG 4 "Computational aids in terminology and lexicography" (October 18, 1984).
(d) ISO/TC 37/WG 5 "Vocabulary of terminology" (October 15–16, 1984).

Topics for the various meetings of ISO/TC 37 will be:

- guidelines for the preparation of classified vocabularies
- layout of monolingual and multilingual classified vocabularies
- preparation and layout of terminology standards
- international unification of concepts and terms
- systems of concepts and their representation
- vocabulary of terminology

Contact: Secretariat of ISO/TC 37, Österreichisches Normungsinstitut, Postfach 130, A–1021 Wien, Austria

---

TERMIA 84

The International Association of Terminology (TERMIA) has announced a conference on "Terminology and International Cooperation" to be held in Luxemburg, Aug.27–29, 1984. The list of papers which have been proposed to the Program Committee is given in the latest TERMIA News Bulletin 2(1984)No.1, p.41–44. (For the themes of the conference please see Int.Classif. 1984–1, p.38). The 25 papers originate from 16 countries, including five developing countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Mexico, Rwanda, Sudan and Venezuela.
For further information contact Prof.J.C.Sager, Center for Computational Linguistics, UMIST, P.O.Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD, England.

Networking in Terminology 1985

The Second Infoterm Symposium on "Networking in Terminology" will take place in Vienna from 15–17 April 1985. The First TermNet Assembly will follow on 18 April, and the First International Workshop on Terminology Documentation on 19 April. *Suzanne Richer*, Terminology and Documentation Directorate, Ottawa, Canada, chairs the organizing committee.

Primary emphasis will be placed on the terminological needs and experiences of subject specialists. In addition, experts on terminology and related fields - including representatives of international scientific and technical associations active in terminology - will participate, together with specialized language mediators and scientific editors. A focus on specific terminological problems will be balanced with consideration of the international cooperation needed to solve these problems.

5th European Symposium on LSP

Your attention is drawn to this Symposium which will be held in Leuven, Belgium from Aug.26–30, 1985. For further information, please contact: Instituut voor Levende Talen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Versaliusstraat 21, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

Committee on Lexicographic Terminology (COLT) Formed

Ladislav Zgusta, president of the Dictionary Society of North America, has announced the establishment of a Committee on Lexicographic Terminology, chaired by Fred W.Riggs. Through the good offices of *R.R.K.Hartmann*, the newly formed European Society of Lexicographers, EURALEX, has agreed to collaborate in the work of this committee. Its goal involves efforts to help lexicographers improve the adequacy of their technical vocabulary for use in the discussion of lexicographic problems.

Preliminary work clearly shows that lexicographers, like social scientists, are reluctant at this stage to seek agreement on preferred terms for their important concepts. They are willing, however, to participate in the exchange of information on current practices, a fact that became evident when 60 DSNA members responded to a questionnaire on their terminological preferences for designating the concept of a "multiword lexical unit". Between 20 and 30 different terms for this concept have been discovered. A copy of the report analyzing the returns and thereby revealing the preferences of lexicographers who need to use this concept is available on request from the COLT chairman.

A second terminological note now in draft will ask members to indicate their preferences for designating different kinds of synonyms that need to be distinguished from each other in the preparation of dictionary entries. These interest-provoking activities will be accompanied by a serious effort to elaborate a conceptual glossary for lexicography, following the INTERCOCTA model (see COCTA News). The foundation for such an effort has already been laid on the basis of the Glossary of Lexicography by *Jennifer Robinson (Dictionaries 1984, No.5)* and the index to *R.R.K.Hartmann: Lexicography: Principles and Practice.*
For further information please contact F.W.Riggs, University of Hawaii, Political Science Department, Honolulu, HI, 96822, USA.

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1984-2-97 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access - (cc) BY