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Lleferydd

**Special EAFI Seminar**

**Minority Languages  
and  
Terminology Policies**

**Proceedings**

**27-28 July 2007, Dublin**



# **Special EAFT Seminar**

## **Minority Languages and Terminology Policies**

Proceedings

27-28 July 2007, Dublin, Ireland

Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair, Blanca Nájera (eds.)

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword <i>Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair</i>	7
Welcoming address, Foras na Gaeilge <i>Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh</i>	9
Official Opening of EAFT Special Seminar on Minority Languages and Terminology Policies <i>Minister for State T.D. Pat Carey</i>	11
<b>I - The Irish Situation</b>	
Presentation from the Irish Language Commissioner <i>Seán Ó Cuirreáin</i>	19
Address by the President of the EAFT <i>Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair</i>	27
Terminology Work in the Irish Language <i>Seosamh Ó Murchú</i>	31
Terminology and Legislation — The Work of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin <i>Colm Breathnach</i>	45
Terminology and the Media <i>Máirín Ní Ghadhra</i>	57
A Translator's View of Irish Terminology <i>Antain Mac Lochlainn</i>	65
<b>II - Other European Minority Languages</b>	
Introduction - Terminologie et Diversité Linguistique <i>Rute Costa</i>	75
La Politique Terminologique du Gouvernement Basque <i>Araceli Díaz de Lezana</i>	81

Le Travail Terminologique en Langue Basque <i>Imanol Urbietta Sorarrain</i>	89
Terminology and Terminography Work in Slovenia <i>Marjeta Humar</i>	93
Catalan Terminological Planning: a Model Based on Social Participation <i>Rosa Colomer and Sandra Cuadrado</i>	103
Terminology Policies in Wales <i>Delyth Prys</i>	113
<b>III - Minority Languages, Terminology and Future Perspectives</b>	
Introduction - "Langues Minoritaires, Terminologie et Perspectives" <i>Marianna Katsoyannou</i>	127
L'aménagement terminologique de l'amazighe (berbère) au Maroc: une question de priorité <i>Aïcha Bouhjar</i>	131
Case Study. International Best Practice: Republic of South Africa (RSA) <i>Gabriele Sauberer</i>	141
Terminology Policies and Minority Language Planning <i>Anja Drame</i>	151

## Foreword

This EAFT Seminar was a very special occasion, being the first of its kind to be held in Ireland, thus affording those interested in terminology here an opportunity to hear about terminology work in other languages, whether they be 'big' or 'small' languages. It also afforded an opportunity for the various streams of terminology in Ireland to present their approaches and views. It provided for terminology work in Irish to be viewed in a larger European and global context, which was a new departure for many of those in attendance. We were privileged to host many worthy speakers from abroad and learn about their practice and progress. There was a wonderful buzz of excitement in the air throughout the seminar as people listened and chatted and exchanged contact details, and we (both the EAFT and our host, Foras na Gaeilge) received a great deal of positive feedback in the aftermath of the seminar. We quickly realised that we should collect and publish the proceedings, although our resources (human and financial) do not normally stretch to allow for this kind of undertaking. The EAFT Board, supportive as always, agreed to invest in the project and TermNet provided a practical solution. Instead of a high-end formal publication, TermNet will provide a print on demand service so that expense will be kept to a minimum.

I should mention that we, unfortunately, did not succeed in sourcing the texts of all talks given at the seminar. However, we do have the PowerPoint presentations for some of these, which will shortly be uploaded on our Web site: <http://www.eaft-aet.net/>

Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair  
EAFT President

## Avant-propos

Ce séminaire de l'AET, le premier de son genre à avoir été organisé en Irlande, fut l'occasion de mieux y faire connaître ce qui se passe en terminologie dans d'autres langues, qu'elles soient « grandes » ou « petites ».

Il permit, notamment, aux représentants des différents courants terminologiques irlandais de comparer leurs approches et leurs conceptions. Grâce à la présence de plusieurs orateurs étrangers réputés qui y firent part de leurs expériences pratiques et de leurs avancées, il permit, en outre, de situer de façon plus large le travail terminologique effectué en Irlande et de le recadrer dans un contexte aussi bien européen que global. Cette nouvelle façon d'envisager une même réalité fut considérée par nombre de participants comme un nouveau point de départ.

On peut, par ailleurs, affirmer, sans se tromper, qu'une réelle effervescence régna durant tout le séminaire ; les discussions et les échanges de coordonnées s'y succédèrent sans discontinuer. Aussi, suite également aux nombreux commentaires positifs transmis aussi bien à l'AET qu'à notre hôte, Foras na Gaeilge, le Bureau de l'AET comprit rapidement que des *Actes* devaient être publiés, bien qu'il ne se sentît pas réellement outillé pour ce genre de tâche éditoriale.

Avec l'aide de TermNet une solution pratique et volontariste put toutefois être trouvée. Au lieu d'une publication classique et très formelle, le Bureau a opté pour un service d'impression à la demande, permettant de restreindre les dépenses au minimum.

Nous voudrions toutefois préciser que nous n'avons malheureusement pas réussi à rassembler les textes de toutes les interventions effectuées lors du séminaire. Vous en trouverez néanmoins les PowerPoint sur notre site Internet : <http://www.eaft-aet.net/>

Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair  
Présidente de l'AET

## **Welcoming address, Foras na Gaeilge**

Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh  
Chief Executive, Foras na Gaeilge  
Ireland

Fáilte romhaibh chuig an seimineár idirináisiúnta téarmeolaíochta seo “Teangacha Mionlaigh agus polasaithe téarmaíochta”. Tá lúcháir orainn gur roghnaigh an EAFT Báile Átha Cliath don seimineár seo ag an tráth seo nuair atá cúram na téarmeolaíochta go mór faoi chaibidil anseo agus tá muid i bhForas na Gaeilge thar a bheith sásta óstáil a dhéanamh ar an seimineár. An-chuid daoine anseo linn inniu agus tá muid iontach sásta sin a fheiceáil.

Ba mhaith liom fáilte ar leith a chur roimh an Aire Stáit Pat Carey – an chéad chuairt aige ar Fhoras na Gaeilge. Fáilte roimh Bhord agus bhaill an EAFT agus roimh na cuairteoirí as ocht dtír éagsúla thar sáile agus roimh na cainteoirí. Tá fáilte roimh phobal na Gaeilge anseo agus ar ndóigh tá fáilte roimh an Choimisinéir teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin. Tá súil agam go n-éireoidh go geal leis an seimineár, go mbeidh díospóireacht bhríomhar ann agus go mbainfidh achan duine tairbhe agus sult as an deireadh seachtaine.

Welcome to this international terminology seminar "Minority languages and terminology policies". I'm delighted that the EAFT chose Dublin for this seminar at this juncture when terminology matters are the subject of much discussion here, and we in Foras na Gaeilge are more than happy to host the seminar. There is a huge crowd here today, which is a source of great delight for us. I would like to especially welcome Minister Pat Carey on his first visit to Foras na Gaeilge. Welcome also to the Board and members of the EAFT and to the visitors from eight different countries and, of course, to the speakers. We also welcome the Irish-speaking public and the Language Commissioner, Seán Ó Cuirreáin. I wish the seminar every success, and hope you will have lively debate and that everyone will enjoy and benefit from the weekend.

## **Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh**

In 2006 Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh was appointed Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge, the Irish-language agency of the North-South Language Body in Ireland, set up in 1999 to promote the Irish language and carry out all the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language. This entails facilitating and encouraging the speaking and writing of Irish in the public and private arena in the Republic of Ireland, and in Northern Ireland where there is appropriate demand, in the context of part three of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.



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## **Official Opening of EAFT International Seminar on Minority Languages and Terminology Policies**

Minister for State T.D. Pat Carey, T.D.,  
Minister for State Department of Community,  
Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all here today to this International Seminar on Minority Languages and Terminology Policies. I welcome especially those of you who have come from abroad to visit us. The number of countries from which representatives have come to join us is striking, from as far away as Morocco, indeed. You are all very welcome to Ireland.

This seminar is being organised by the EAFT – the European Association for Terminology. My thanks to the organisers of the event, and especially to Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair, from Foras na Gaeilge, for their invitation to join you here today. Fidelma is, of course, the current president of the EAFT, and we shall soon hear from her about the association. I am especially pleased to be in your company because this is the first Irish-language occasion with which I have been associated since I was appointed as Minister for State last month. I am here with you today on behalf of Minister Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, who is otherwise occupied and cannot be here today.

It is timely that this conference is being held in Ireland this year. As the Irish speakers among us here will know, a great deal of progress has been made in Ireland over the past ten years in relation to the Irish language. Four years ago, the Official Languages Act 2003 was enacted. The Act is the first piece of legislation in which a statutory planning process is laid out to ensure that public services are made available through Irish. According to the provisions of the Act, the Office of the Language Commissioner was established early in 2004. Mr. Seán Ó Cuirreáin was appointed as our first Language Commissioner on the 23rd of February 2004. I am happy to say that the Commissioner is with us here today, and that we will hear from him shortly.

It is extremely important to mention also that Irish achieved the status of the 21st official working language of the European Union in 2005, and that

this new status came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January this year. As a result, there is a great demand for translators and interpreters who are fluent in Irish and other languages. I think that this adds greatly to the status of the language, and to the attitude of the Irish-speaking public towards themselves and to their own language. It also adds greatly, I am told, to the demand for terminological services in Ireland, which is interesting in the context of this particular conference.

For many years now, and particularly since the foundation of Foras na Gaeilge in 1999, great emphasis has been placed on terminology work among those who work to promote the Irish language in Ireland. A lot of work was done on the development of terminology from the early years of the state onwards, especially in the spheres of education and legislation. Committees were formed as early as 1927 to provide terminology for the educational system. The Minister for Education established the Permanent Terminology Committee in 1968.

Terminology work became the responsibility of Foras na Gaeilge when it was founded almost eight years ago. The Terminology Committee has been under the aegis of Foras na Gaeilge ever since. Foras na Gaeilge is part of An Foras Teanga, one of the six North-South bodies which resulted from the Good Friday agreement, which means Foras na Gaeilge is responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the island of Ireland.

The Irish-speaking public is greatly indebted to the Terminology Committee for its work over the years. We should not forget that the members of the Committee voluntarily devote their time and expertise to this work.

This is the first international terminology conference that was ever held in Ireland. I note the wide range of themes and topics which will be discussed today and tomorrow during the conference. This afternoon the focus will be on terminology work in the Irish language. You will hear speakers from various fields – including educational publications, legislation, translation, toponymy, and broadcasting – who will describe their work, and how their terminological requirements are met.

Tomorrow you will hear about terminology work in some of the minority or minoritised languages of Europe and, indeed, in languages from more distant parts, in South Africa and in Morocco. We will also hear about what may be in store for the terminology of minor languages in the future. We can rest assured that this conference will provide a great opportunity for the Irish-language community to discuss terminology issues in Irish. It will also afford

us an insight into the state of terminology work in other languages. Likewise, this conference provides our international visitors with an opportunity to share their experience in this field with us.

We are very grateful to the EAFT for organising this seminar, and for organising it in Ireland. We are also grateful to Foras na Gaeilge for providing the use of their offices and hosting the conference. I am very pleased to be here with you today on my first visit as Minister for State.

In conclusion, I wish the conference every success this weekend. I hope that you will benefit from the various lectures and from the arising discussions about language and terminology. I also hope that you enjoy your visit to Dublin this week.

*Go raibh maith agaibh.*



### **Minister Pat Carey TD**

Minister Carey is Government Chief Whip (Príomh-Aoire an Rialtais), formally a vice-Principal in St Finian's NS, Finglas. Elected for Dublin North West in 1997, 2002 and 2007. He served as Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs from June 2007 until May 2008.

**[Original script follows]**

**FÁILTE**

A chairde, cuirim míle fáilte romhaibh go léir inniu chuig an Seimineár Idirnáisiúnta seo ar *Theangacha Mionlaigh agus Polasaithe Téarmaíochta*. Cuirim fáilte ar leith romhaibhse atá ar cuairt chugainn ó thíortha thar lear. Is spéis liom an oiread tíortha go bhfuil ionadaithe uathu in ár dteannta inniu, chomh fada i gcéin le Maracó go deimhin. Tá an-fháilte romhaibh go hÉirinn.

Tá an seimineár á reáchtáil ag an *EAFT* – is é sin an Cumann Eorpach Téarmeolaíochta nó an European Association for Terminology. Mo bhuíochas le lucht eagraithe na hócáide seo agus go mór mór leis an Uasal Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair ó Fhoras na Gaeilge, as a gcuireadh a bheith libh inniu. Ar ndóigh, is í Fidelma Uachtarán an EAFT i láthair na huaire agus cloisimid uathí mar gheall ar an gCumann ar ball beag. Tá áthas ar leith orm a bheith in bhur dteannta mar gurb é seo an chéad ócáid oifigiúil Gaolainne a raibh mé páirteach ann ó ceapadh mar Aire Stáit mé an mhí seo caite. (Táim anseo libh thar ceann an Aire Éamoin Uí Chuív, an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, atá tógtha suas le cúrsaí eile agus nach bhfuil in ann bheith i láthair inniu.)

**CÚRSAI GAEILGE IN ÉIRINN**

Is tráthúil gur in Éirinn atá an Chomhdháil seo á reáchtáil i mbliana. Mar is eol do lucht na Gaolainne atá i láthair inniu, tá an-dul chun cinn déanta in Éirinn i leith na Gaolainne le deich mbliana anuas nó mar sin. Ceithre bliana ó shin, achtaíodh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003. Is é an tAcht an chéad phíosa reachtaíochta ina leagtar síos próiseas pleanála reachtúil lena chinntiú go gcuirfear seirbhísí poiblí ar fáil trí Ghaolainn. De réir fhorálacha an Achta sin, bunaíodh Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla go luath i 2004. Ceapadh an tUasal Seán Ó Cuirreáin mar ár gcéad Choimisinéir Teanga ar an 23 Feabhra 2004. Tá áthas orm a rá go bhfuil an Coimisinéir linn inniu agus cloisimid uaidh díreach i mo dhiaidhse.

Tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach a lua freisin gur bhain an Ghaolainn stádas amach mar an 21ú teanga oifigiúil oibre de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh i 2005 agus gur tháinig an stádas nua seo i bhfeidhm ar an 1 Eanáir i mbliana. Mar thoradh air seo, tá an-éileamh anois ar aistritheoirí agus ar ateangairí a bhfuil líofacht sa Ghaolainn agus i dteangacha eile acu. Measaim go gcuireann sé seo go mór le stádas na teanga agus le dearcadh phobal na Gaolainne fúthu féin agus faoina dteanga féin. Cuireann sé go mór freisin, deirtear liom, leis an éileamh atá ar sheirbhísí téarmaíochta in

Éirinn, rud atá spéisiúil i gcomhthéacs na Comhdhála áirithe seo.

## **CÚRSAÍ TÉARMAÍOCHTA IN ÉIRINN**

Le roinnt blianta anuas, agus go mór mór ó a bunaíodh Foras na Gaeilge i 1999, tá go leor béime á leagan ar chúrsaí téarmaíochta i measc iad siúd atá ag feidhmiú ar son na Gaolainne in Éirinn. Déanadh a lán oibre in Éirinn maidir le forbairt ar théarmaíocht ó thúsblhianta an Stáit ar aghaidh, go mór mór i réimsí an oideachais agus na reachtaíochta. Tháinig coistí le chéile chomh fada siar le 1927 chun téarmaíocht a sholáthar don chóras oideachais. Bhunaigh an tAire Oideachais an Buainchoiste Téarmaíochta i 1968.

Is faoi Foras na Gaeilge atá cúram na téarmeolaíochta ó bunaíodh é beagnach ocht mbliana ó shin. Tá an Coiste Téarmaíochta faoi scáth an Fhorais ón uair sin. Tá Foras na Gaeilge mar chuid den Fhoras Teanga, ceann de na sé Fhoras Thuaidh-Theas a d'éirigh as Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, rud a fhágann go bhfuil cúram na Gaeilge don tír ar fad ar Fhoras na Gaeilge.

Tá pobal na Gaeilge go mór faoi chomaoin ag an gCoiste Téarmaíochta de bharr a chuid oibre i gcaitheamh na mblianta. Níor chóir a ligean i ndearmad gur go deonach a thugann baill an Choiste a gcuid ama agus a gcuid saíneolais.

## **AN CHOMHDHÁIL**

Is í seo an chéad chomhdháil idirnáisiúnta téarmeolaíochta a reáchtáladh riamh in Éirinn. Tá suntas tugtha agam don réimse leathan d'ábhar agus de théamaí a bheidh idir chamáin inniu agus amárach le linn na Comhdhála. Díreofar ar chúrsaí anseo in Éirinn tráthnóna inniu. Cloisfidh sibh cainteoirí ó earnálacha ar leith – foilsitheoireacht oideachais, reachtaíocht, aistriúchán, logainmneacha agus craolachán ina measc – a dhéanfaidh cur síos ar a gcuid oibre agus ar conas mar a dhéantar freastal ar a riachtanais siúd i leith cúrsaí téarmaíochta.

Amárach cloisfidh sibh faoi chúrsaí téarmaíochta i gcás roinnt mionteangacha nó teangacha mionlaithe de chuid na hEorpa agus go deimhin faoi theangacha ó níos faide i gcéin, san Afraic Theas agus i Maracó. Cloisfidh leis faoi céard a mheastar atá i ndán do theangacha mionlaigh agus an téarmeolaíocht amach anseo.

Is féidir a bheith cinnte mar sin go dtabharfaidh an Chomhdháil seo an-deis do phobal na Gaolainne plé a dhéanamh ar chúrsaí téarmaíochta sa Ghaolainn. Tabharfaidh sí freisin léargas dúinn ar chúinsí téarmaíochta i dteangacha eile. Ar an tslí céanna, tugann an Chomhdháil seo deis dár gcualrteoirí idirnáisiúnta a dtaithí sa réimse seo a roinnt linn.

## **CRÍOCH**

Táimid go mór faoi chomaoin ag an EAFT as an seimineár seo a eagrú, agus é a bheith acu in Éirinn. Táimid buíoch freisin d'Fhoras na Gaeilge as a gcuid oifigí a chur ar fáil don Chomhdháil. Tá an-áthas orm a bheith libh anseo ar mo chéad chuairt oraibh mar Aire Stáit.

Chun críochnú, níl le déanamh agam ach gach rath a ghuí ar obair na Comhdhála an deireadh seachtaine seo. Tá súil agam go bhfaighidh sibh tairbhe as na léachtaí éagsúla agus as an bplé atá le déanamh maidir le cúrsaí teangacha agus téarmaíochta. Tá súil agam chomh maith go mbainfidh sibh ar fad taitneamh agus sult as bhur gcuart ar Bhaile Átha Cliath an tseachtain seo.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

## **THE IRISH SITUATION**



## **Presentation from the Irish Language Commissioner**

Seán Ó Cuirreáin  
An Coimisinéir Teanga, Ireland

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be in here in Dublin today to start this session of the European Association for Terminology seminar to discuss the case of the Irish language. I would like to extend a special welcome to all here today, particularly those who have come from abroad to join us.

The formation, approval and implantation of new terminology undoubtedly presents considerable challenges in different languages. These challenges are exacerbated in the case of a lesser-used language, a minority language, or a language which is under pressure from a surrounding major language or languages.

I believe that there is international consensus on there being two ways to ensure the extinction of a language – diminution of the number of speakers of a language, or limitation of the number of domains in which that language can be utilised. It is in the latter area that the various challenges arise for those working in the field of terminology.

As regards the case of the Irish, I do not claim to have any specialist knowledge about terminology work. But I do feel, especially having spent more than twenty years involved in aspects of Irish-language journalism, that there is without any doubt the capacity and a system in place for term formation, approval, and implantation of new terms in Irish. The expertise, learning, and academic proficiency in this sphere certainly exists, and this has been clearly confirmed over the years by the very important work carried out by the Terminology Committee, the Government Translation Section in the Houses of Parliament, the Placenames Commission, lexicographers, translators and scholars alike, as well as the Irish-language communications media and others. We are very lucky, and we should be proud of that scholarly ability, as well as thankful to those who work so capably in that field of special interest.

The greatest gap to be filled, in my opinion, is in securing the use of

these terms by the public in their daily discourse: and this is most certainly a huge challenge. I feel that the bridges between those involved in term formation and the language community need further development. The new terms must be made conveniently, regularly and consistently available. This can best be achieved through the educational system, the media and modern technology but I believe it will not happen without actively developing appropriate means of cooperation.

We in this country are constantly worried about the state of the Irish language, fearing that the ancient language of our people is in danger of extinction in the modern, sophisticated world of today. We are not alone in that fear. Thousands of other native languages all over the world are also in danger of extinction. It is, in one way, our misfortune that we are situated beside one of the most progressive and vigorous languages that has ever existed, at a time when the process called “globalization” is pushing languages aside and doing away with them. It is thought that there are 6,000 languages in danger of extinction over the next 100 years; and that the number of languages in the world will decrease from nearly 7,000 to 700. This is equivalent to the loss of more than one language in the world every week, week after week, for 100 years.

Some experts are of the opinion that Irish may be one of the languages which will survive past the threshold of the coming century. Two criteria are mentioned in this regard: support from an independent state, and a significant number of speakers. This language still possesses those two features and, although the number of languages in danger of extinction is no source of comfort for us and that we shouldn't assume that we've won the battle ourselves, we can retain some hope that we haven't failed yet.

The latest available official figures show that 1.66 million people aged 3 years and upwards in this State said in last year's census that they could speak Irish. Unfortunately, it is likely that the majority of these are not fluent Irish speakers, but nevertheless, it is clear that they are sympathetic towards the language, and know enough of it that they did not want to be recorded as people without Irish. About 85,000 of these people said that they speak the language on a daily basis.

Life in this country is undergoing immense change. More languages are being spoken on our streets and roads now than ever before, thanks to the immigrants from every corner of the world who have settled among us. A study carried out in Maynooth University last year showed that there are now 167 languages being spoken in this country. We are now a multilingual country whereas, in the past, we thought of ourselves as a bilingual country.

International seminars of this kind are very important so that we can learn from each other. People live in mutual cooperation – but our languages go forth in constant rivalry. If there are lessons to be learned here which will help us all to strengthen and secure the standing of our chosen language, this international event will be of immense benefit.

It is marvellous that debates will take place here through the medium of three official languages – English, French and Irish – and that there is an interpreting system available to ensure that nobody will be left out or marginalised because of a lack of understanding of these different languages.

This seminar is being held here at a most opportune time. The Irish language has, this year, received official recognition and status as a working language of the European Union. This is also the first full year in which all of the direct provisions of the Official Languages Act are in force. The newly elected Government has committed itself to the production of a 20-year strategic cross-sectoral plan for the future of the language based on a vision statement published before Christmas last. The demand for, and continued growth of Irish-medium schools – Gaelscoileanna – and the progress of the newly independent Irish-language television service, TG4 – are all matters of pride. I understand that we will also see the official publication this year of a most comprehensive study of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht or Irish speaking regions. And although one might not expect hugely positive findings, it does suggest that a firm basis for future planning is being established.

I note too that your organisation, The European Association for Terminology, has been fortunate this year, not just in electing an Irish president but in doing so, to choose my friend, Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair, for that position. I congratulate her on her appointment and wish her every success during her tenure of office.

C'est au travers des séminaires comme celui que nous pourrions partager nos expériences et apprendre les uns des autres. De cette façon nous pourrions mieux nous préparer pour relever les challenges de demain surtout dans la sphère terminologique.

Cette langue irlandaise a été transmise de génération en génération depuis plus de 2000 ans sans aucune rupture, ce qui en fait tout la plus ancienne langue écrite avec une tradition littéraire et toujours en usage de nos jours en Europe au nord des Alpes. Ce serait un désastre inacceptable et incommensurable si cette continuité devait se briser maintenant. Pour une langue qui a su traverser toutes les périodes sombres et difficiles de son

histoire il serait incompréhensible de la voir sombre pendant une période faste et prospère. Ceci doit nous interpeller. Le challenge est de nous assurer que cela n'arrivera pas et que notre langue reste encore moderne et courante.

En vous écoutant et en apprenant de vos différentes expériences grâce à ce séminaire, j'espère que nous serons dans une position plus forte pour promouvoir le travail terminologique. Je souhaite vivement le succès de ce séminaire et de chaque participant et je vous remercie très sincèrement pour l'opportunité de vous adresser à l'ouverture aujourd'hui.

I wish the seminar and all who participate in it every success and I thank you most sincerely for the opportunity of addressing you at today's opening.

Go n-éirí go geal le himeachtaí an tseimineáir seo agus mo bhuíochas libh as ucht éisteacht go foighneach liom ar an ócáid seo.



### **Seán Ó Cuirreáin**

Seán Ó Cuirreáin was appointed by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, in February 2004 as the country's first language commissioner, on the advice of Government following resolutions approving the appointment in the Dáil and Seanad. Originally from the Donegal Gaeltacht, and a graduate of University College, Galway he had previously worked primarily in journalism and broadcasting. His office functions as a compliance agency and an ombudsman service in relation to state services through the medium of Irish.

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**[Original script follows]**

A dhaoine uaisle ar fad,

Tá an-áthas orm a bheith libh anseo i mBaile Átha Cliath inniu agus tús a chur leis an seisiún ar leith seo de sheimineár an Chumainn Eorpaigh do Théarmeolaíocht le cás na Gaeilge a phlé. Ba mhaith liom fáilte ar leith a chur romhaibh ar fad anseo inniu, go háirithe roimh chuartheoirí ó thíortha eile na hEorpa atá inár measc ar an ócáid seo.

Níl amhras ar bith ann ach go bhfuil dúshláin mhóra i gceist maidir le cruthú, faomhadh agus daingniú téarmaíocht úr i dteangacha éagsúla. Tá, ar ndóigh, an scéal níos deacra fós más teanga neamhfhorleathan atá i gceist, teanga mhionlaigh nó teanga atá faoi bhrú cheana féin ag mórtheanga nó mórtheangacha ina timpeall. Creidim go bhfuil glacadh idirnáisiúnta leis go bhfuil dhá bhealach ann a chinnteoidh díothú teanga – líon na gcaitheoirí a bheith ag dul i léig nó líon na bhfearann inar féidir an teanga a úsáid a bheith á theorannú. Sa réimse deiridh sin a thagann na dúshláin éagsúla i gceist dóibh siúd atá gafa le cúrsaí téarmaíochta.

Maidir le cás na Gaeilge, níl mise ag maíomh ar bhealach ar bith go bhfuil aon saineolas ar leith agam maidir le réimse na téarmaíochta de. Ach braithim, go háirithe tar éis breis agus scór bliain a chaitheamh gafa le gnéithe de shaol na hiriseoireachta i nGaeilge, go bhfeictear dom nach bhfuil amhras ar bith ann ach go bhfuil an cumas agus an córas sa tír seo le téarmaí nua a chruthú, a fhaomhadh agus a dhaingniú i nGaeilge. Tá an saineolas, an léann agus an cumas acadúil ann chuige sin agus é sin deimhnithe go foirfe in imeacht na mblianta san obair ríthábhachtach atá déanta ag an gCoiste Téarmaíochta, Rannóg an Aistriúcháin i dTithe an Oireachtais, An Coimisiún Logainmneacha, ag lucht foclóireachta, aistriúcháin agus lucht léinn go ginearálta chomh maith leis na Meáin Chumarsáide Gaeilge agus eile. Tá an t-ádh orainn agus ba cheart go mbeimis bródúil as an gcumas scolártha sin agus buíoch díobh siúd a fheidhmíonn go cumasach sa réimse sainspéise sin.

An áit is mó a bhfuil bearna le líonadh, dar liom, ná i gcinntiú go gcuirtear na téarmaí nua seo in úsáid i mbéal an phobail, agus ní bréag é gur dúshlán ollmhór é sin. Braithim go bhfuil tuilleadh forbartha le déanamh ar na droichid idir lucht daingnithe na dtéarmaí nua agus an pobal teanga. Caithfidh teacht a bheith ar na téarmaí úra go furasta, go rialta agus go leanúnach. Is tríd an gcóras oideachais, na meáin chumarsáide agus an teicneolaíocht nua-aimseartha is fearr is féidir é sin a dhéanamh ach ní

chreidim go dtarlóidh sin gan an comhoibriú cuí a fhorbairt go gníomhach.

Bíonn inní leanúnach orainn sa tír seo faoi staid na Gaeilge agus muid faoi amhras go bhfuil teanga ársa ár muintire i mbaol a caillte i saol nua-aimseartha, sofaisticiúil an lae inniu. Nílimid inár n-aonar san inní sin. Tá na mílte teangacha dúchasacha eile i mbaol freisin ar fud an domhain mhóir. Tá sé, ar bhealach amháin, de mhí-ádh orainn go bhfuilimid buailte, gualainn ar ghualainn, le ceann de na teangacha is forásaí agus is treise fáis dá raibh riamh ann, ag am nuair atá an próiseas sin ar a dtugtar domhandú nó “globalization” ag brú teangacha ar leataobh agus á gcur de dhroim seoil. Áirítear go bhfuil 6,000 teanga i mbaol a gcaillte sa 100 bliain amach romhainn, agus go laghdóidh líon na dteangacha ar dhromchla an domhain ó bheagnach 7,000 go 700. Is ionann sin agus níos mó ná teanga amháin ar dhromchla an domhain a bheith á cailliúint gach seachtain, seachtain i ndiaidh seachtaine, ar feadh 100 bliain. Bheadh cuid de na saineolaithe den bharúil go bhfuil seans ann go mbeidh an Ghaeilge ar cheann de na teangacha a mhairfidh thar thairseach an chéid seo chugainn. Luaitear dhá shlat tomhais leis sin: tacaíocht ó stát neamhspleách agus pobal líonmhar cainteoirí. Tá an dá rud sin fós ag an teanga seo agus, cé nach ábhar sóláis ar bith dúinn líon na dteangacha atá i mbaol a gcaillte, agus nár chóir dúinn talamh slán a dhéanamh de go bhfuil an cogadh buaite againn féin, is féidir linn dóchas éigin a bheith againn nach bhfuilimid tar éis cliseadh fós.

Léiríonn na figiúirí oifigiúla is déanaí atá ar fáil dúinn go ndúirt 1.66 milliún duine, 3 bliana d’aois nó ós a chionn, sa Stát seo i ndaonáireamh na bliana anuraidh go raibh Gaeilge acu.

Faraor, ní dócha go bhfuil Gaeilge líofa ag a bhformhór mór ach, fiú mura bhfuil, is léir bá a bheith acu leis an teanga agus oiread di ar eolas acu nár mhaith leo go n-áireofaí iad mar dhaoine gan Ghaeilge. Thart ar 85,000 acu sin a dúirt go n-úsáideann siad an teanga go laethúil.

Tá an saol agus an tír ag athrú go mór. Tá níos mó teangacha á labhairt anois ar shráideanna agus ar bhóithre na tíre seo ná mar a bhí riamh roimhe seo, a bhuíochas sin do na himircigh as gach cearn den domhan atá tagtha inár measc. Léirigh staidéar a rinne Ollscoil Mhá Nuad anuraidh go raibh 167 teanga á labhairt anois sa tír seo. Tír ilteangach muid anois san áit ar mheasamar roimhe seo gur tír dhátheangach sinn.

Tá tábhacht an-mhór le seimineáir idirnáisiúnta den chineál seo le gur féidir foghlaim óna chéile. Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine – i gcoimhlint leanúnach le chéile a mhaireann ár dteangacha. Má tá ceachtanna le foghlaim anseo a chuideoidh linn ar fad seasamh ár rogha teanga a neartú agus a dhaingniú, beidh tairbhe thar na bearta leis an ócáid idirnáisiúnta seo.

Is breá an rud go mbeidh díospóireachtaí ar siúl anseo i dtrí cinn de theangacha oifigiúla – Béarla, Fraincis agus Gaeilge – agus go bhfuil córas ateangaireachta ann le cinntiú nach mbeidh aon duine fágtha ar leataobh nó ar an imeall de bharr easpa tuisceana ar na teangacha éagsúla sin.

This seminar is being held here at a most opportune time. The Irish language has, this year, received official recognition and status as a working language of the European Union. This is also the first full year in which all of the direct provisions of the Official Languages Act are in force. The newly elected Government has committed itself to the production of a 20 year strategic cross-sectoral plan for the future of the language based on a vision statement published before Christmas last.

The demand for, and continued growth of Irish medium schools – gael-scoileanna – and the progress of the newly independent Irish language television service, TG4 – are all matters of pride.

I understand that we will also see the official publication this year of a most comprehensive study of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht or Irish-speaking regions. And although one might not expect hugely positive findings, it does suggest that a firm basis for future planning is being established.

I note too that your organisation, The European Association for Terminology, has been fortunate this year not just in electing an Irish president, but in doing so, to choose my friend Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair for that position. I congratulate her on her appointment and wish her every success during her tenure of office.

C'est au travers des séminaires comme celui que nous pourrions partager nos expériences et apprendre les uns des autres. De cette façon nous pourrions mieux nous préparer pour relever les challenges de demain surtout dans la sphère terminologique.

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## **Address by the President of the EAFT**

Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair  
An Coiste Téarmaíochta (The Terminology Committee),  
Foras na Gaeilge, Ireland

### **WELCOME**

Je voudrais dire bienvenu en Irlande à tous nos visiteurs aujourd'hui – c'est un très grand plaisir pour nous à Foras na Gaeilge de vous rencontrer ici chez nous. Je vais maintenant continuer à parler en irlandais mais il y aura de l'interprétation entre les trois langues: irlandais, anglais et français.

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to you all here today. I welcome especially our visitors to Ireland, to Dublin, and to Foras na Gaeilge, and a special welcome to the Irish speakers here today to the first major European Association for Terminology event to be held in Ireland. I am proud to see a such a fine crowd here, and I sincerely hope that this seminar will provide an opportunity for us all to learn about the circumstances of terminology work in the context of the various languages to be discussed today and tomorrow, as well as a chance to share our experience together, exchange opinions, and to openly debate at least some of the challenges that we encounter in our daily work.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of the EAFT for agreeing to hold this seminar in Ireland, and for their support and assistance in organising it. And on behalf of the EAFT, I would like to heartily thank Foras na Gaeilge, my own organisation, for agreeing to host this seminar, and for assisting us in relation to interpreting costs. We are extremely grateful to Minister Carey for agreeing to perform the official opening, and to the Language Commissioner for providing such a fitting introduction to the subject of the seminar. We are particularly indebted to the various speakers for giving up their free time and holidays to be here with us today and, finally, the EAFT is proud and grateful to see so many people here today to attend the seminar, and we hope you will enjoy and benefit from the event.

### **EAFT**

I will say a few words at first about the EAFT for the benefit of those of

you who may not be familiar with our work until now. This voluntary association was founded in 1996 in Denmark for the purpose of promoting the terminology profession in Europe and among those involved in terminology work in European languages, to encourage cooperation and the exchange of information and experience between the various terminological associations which operate in European language communities, to promote awareness of the work which is undertaken in various European languages, and to support those involved in this work so that as many terminologists as possible will be in touch and that we will have a contact network from which to garner support. The EAFT aims to achieve this through organising various activities. The most major event of these is the biennial Terminology Summit – which has been held to date in Paris, Barcelona, and Brussels. Themes which are central to terminological work are explored at these Summits, such as, for example, aspects of various work practices, different kinds of approaches in our various situations, aspects of training, and the application of theory in daily practice.

Aside from that, we organise annual workshops or seminars like this one, where we aim to share information about developments in the field of terminology, or concentrate on a specific theme. The members of the EAFT are kept informed of terminological events in various countries by distributing newsflashes by e-mail, and by posting announcements on our Web site.

In 1999, the aims of the association were defined and agreed in a formal document known as “The Brussels Declaration” which is available on the Web site. A directory of the associations and organisations which are involved in terminology work in various European language communities was compiled in 2004, and is also available on the Web site. A new layout of the site is currently in planning and, when it is ready, material from conferences over the last number of years will also be published there.

From time to time, we organise special interest groups to concentrate on specific areas of interest, to carry out research, and to organise activities based on that research.

## **THE "SMALLER" LANGUAGES**

A few years ago, the EAFT decided to concentrate on issues relating to minor or ‘smaller’ languages and, as a result, at our last Terminology Summit held in November 2006 in Brussels, a round table was organised on the theme of minor languages. As we were preparing for that theme, we discovered that there was a major terminological problem in this field, conceptually and regarding the terms or labels used for languages which are not considered major languages. Several terms, such as “minority

languages”, “minoritized languages”, “lesser-used languages”, “less-taught languages”, “languages of limited diffusion”, are in use. Eventually, it seemed to us that there are major languages and minor languages, with the global linguistic canvas changing stubbornly and relentlessly, so that the number of major languages is decreasing and the number of minor languages increasing accordingly, and I found that some of the challenges we thought here in Ireland related uniquely to Irish now relate not only to minor languages but to many languages previously considered major and vigorous.

One of the main reasons for this is globalization and the dominance of English, according to what we heard from speaker after speaker after speaker. If the Irish-language community imagined that we were alone in the world with our great burden of specific problems, this is not the case. It was for this reason that we decided to organise this seminar in Ireland, and particularly in light of the new status of Irish this year as an official working language of the European Union.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR**

We felt that we needed to concentrate on terminology policies in operation in various language communities to see if we could identify a pattern, to learn about various approaches and practices or to suggest new practices. Taking this into account, we decided to organise the structure of the seminar as it appears on the programme; that the case of the Irish language be introduced firstly, then the cases of other minor or ‘smaller’ languages in Europe, and then policies being pursued in some languages further from home.

In order to understand the case of the Irish language, it was necessary to assemble the various streams of terminology in order to illustrate the ways in which Irish terminology comes about. Thus, we will hear today from speakers with backgrounds in textbook publication, in translation of legislation, and from the media. Although the EAFT does not usually discuss themes relating to toponymy, any kind of nomenclature is a valid aspect of terminology and, since translators, editors, writers, teachers and other members of the public regularly send enquiries about placenames as well as terms to us in the office of the Terminology Committee, we felt that it would be interesting and helpful to ask the head of the Placenames Branch to speak to us today about their work, and about the policies in place in relation to toponymy in Irish.

After that, we will hear short interventions from two users, a translator and a teacher, and we will close with a panel discussion when people will

have an opportunity to question the speakers, express opinions and make points or suggestions, so that we will all benefit from the session. There will be time for a question or two after each intervention, of course, but we will be trying to stick to the timetable as closely as possible, and would rather keep any major debate to the end of the session.



### **Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair**

Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair has worked as Secretary to the Irish-language Terminology Committee, An Coiste Téarmaíochta, since 1997. She was elected to the Board of the EAFT in 2004 and was elected President in 2007. She is involved in various working groups of TC37, the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) technical committee concerned with terminology and other language and content resources.

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## Terminology work in the Irish Language

Seosamh Ó Murchú  
An Gúm, Foras na Gaeilge, Ireland  
Member of Irish Terminology Committee

**This article gives an overview of the terminology work carried out in the Irish language since the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, with particular emphasis on the work done since the formal re-establishment of the Terminology Committee in 1968, and on the current terminological methods, developments and challenges facing the work of the Committee. Among the issues discussed are those relating to the structure and approach of the Committee, domain loss and cultivation, the digitisation of terminology, problems associated with dissemination of terms and training of terminologists and in dealing with consistency of terms across a broad range of domains.**

### TERMINOLOGY IN IRISH

Terminology in Irish goes back a long way and, as with any living language, new terms were constantly being coined and are evidenced in the rich written heritage of the Irish language. This tradition goes back further than most other modern European languages and provides a bedrock from which modern day terminologists can draw inspiration as well as practical use. Our literary heritage clearly shows that Irish has been linguistically engaged, during various periods, with Latin, Old Norse, French and, most recently, English. Apart from the linguistic influences these languages brought to bear on the development of Irish, there was the deliberate political and colonising influence which intensified over the years and which has greatly contributed to domain loss in many areas as we shall later see. However, I wish to primarily discuss the terminology work carried out in Irish during the modern period since the foundation of the Irish state in 1922 and especially during the current period.

One of the main aims of the fledgling Irish state was the re-establishment of the Irish language as the main language of the people. To what extent this aim was realistic and achievable remains debatable but it is worth noting that one of the main planks on which this policy was founded was the Education system. This indeed was soon to become the main medium through which the hopes and schemes for the revival of Irish were channelled. While this was beneficial in some ways, it unfortunately confined

Irish and the Irish experience for many people to the classroom and left large areas of Irish life untouched. This meant that bilingualism was very often the result of an educational process rather than an organic phenomenon or intergenerational transfer. This compares unfavourably with linguistic policy in the French-speaking provinces in Canada for instance, where all packaging and labels on retail goods have to be bilingual, thus creating a natural and ubiquitous bilingual environment.

Among the first acts of the new Department of Education was setting about the process of coining new terms in Irish and seeking to reclaim lost domains and to establish new ones. Most of the domains were based around the primary and secondary school curricula, and covered such areas as Science, Biology, Maths, Geography, History, Home Economics, Arts and Crafts, Physical Education and, later, Business Studies, Computing, Music, etc. These were essentially concerned with domain conquest where new terms were created to deal with concepts which had largely been previously unexplored through the medium of Irish or where the tradition had been broken a long time previously as in the case of medicine, which had been a relatively flourishing area of discourse and writing during the later middle ages.

Initially the terminology work was centred around the inspectorate within the Department of Education and proceeded on a fairly *ad hoc* basis. Then in 1968 it was decided by Ministerial order to put the practice of terminology work in Irish on a more formal footing and the Terminology Committee was re-established comprising of linguistic experts from different fields of knowledge. They set about creating approved standardised terminology for the education sector and, in particular, for the textbooks and dictionaries used in Irish-medium schools. As the results of the Committee's work began to be published and filter through the system via the schools and in conjunction with the requirements of other official public bodies, the demand for official terminology began to increase and the staff of the committee began to deal more and more with requests for terminology from a wide range of sources including the general public. This has increased exponentially in recent years with the growth of the all-Irish schooling sector, the establishment and growth of Irish television and radio and, above all else, the huge increase in the amount of translation work being done as a result of the Official Languages Act 2003 and the recognition of Irish as an official working language of the European Union in January 2007.

Other areas of terminology tackled in the last half century were Agriculture and Trades. These areas involved both re-conquest and conquest as well as expansion and cultivation of domains. Some sections of these areas were particularly well served from a terminological point of view

with many concepts having a multiplicity of terms in Irish while the more modern aspects of the subject fields had to be developed from scratch. This was also the case in relation to Flora and Fauna and Astronomy where the main challenge in terms of creating appropriate standardised terminology was to settle on a recommended term while acknowledging the existence of legitimate and correct equivalents.

The Terminology Committee and terminology work in general underwent another significant development with the establishment of Foras na Gaeilge in 1999 as the Irish-language agency of one of the six cross-border implementation bodies that resulted from the Belfast Agreement (1998). Under the terms of this agreement and under the subsequent legislation enacted in Dublin and London, the functions of the Terminology Committee and the responsibility for the development of terminology and lexicography in Irish were transferred from the Department of Education to Foras na Gaeilge. This has greatly expanded the remit of the Terminology Committee to cover all fields of activity in Irish on an all-Ireland basis apart from legal terminology which is the responsibility of a separate body, Rannóg an Aistriúcháin, the translation section attached to the Irish Parliament.

As part of this new dispensation, a number of important projects have taken place under the stewardship of Fidelma Ní Ghallchobhair, the Secretary of the Committee. These include the digitization of a vast amount of terminology which had heretofore been only available in print format and a considerable amount of previously unpublished material, the localization into Irish of the Microsoft Office and Windows XP program suites, the verification of terminology for the Garda Síochána (Irish police force) as well as for the Defence Forces. In this period also there have been a number of specialised dictionaries published (e.g., *Dictionary of Computing and Information Technology*, *Dictionary of Literature and Criticism*). The terminological advice service to the public has been greatly streamlined and the most significant terminology project to date in the Irish language has taken place, namely the development and implementation of a National Terminology Database, [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie). This latter project has been carried out in conjunction with Fiontar, an Irish-medium unit of Dublin City University and with funding from the INTERREG III programme as well as from Foras na Gaeilge.

## **AN GÚM**

One of the vehicles for the propagation of terminology in Irish has been the publications of An Gúm which was set up as a state-funded publishing house under the auspices of the Department of Education in 1926. Its remit was to provide general reading material in Irish for the public at large and textbooks and children's literature for the education sector. In addressing

these challenges it set out on an ambitious programme of translating some of the major works of popular literature. The works translated were mainly from English but also notably from French, German, Spanish and Italian. Despite a difficult relationship with some famous Irish-language authors and the attendant constraints and frustrations of state bureaucracy, An Gúm was and remains, a successful publishing venture. During the 1930s, for instance, despite all the intensive and mechanical procedures associated with the printing industry, An Gúm still managed to publish over ninety books a year. It was, of course, through its textbooks and publications for schools that most of the terminological work of the Terminology Committee saw the light of day.

Another major area of activity of An Gúm has been general lexicography and the publication of specialist terminological dictionaries. An Gúm has published the main authoritative general dictionaries produced in the last 50 years, de Bhaldraithe's English-Irish Dictionary (1959) and the major Irish-English work, *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* (1977) edited by Niall Ó Dónaill, as well as a number of smaller pocket and school dictionaries. While publishing a number of short terminological dictionaries throughout the forties and fifties, it was with the re-establishment of the Terminological Committee in 1968 that the systematic publication of specialised dictionaries was undertaken by An Gúm. At the moment over 20 specialised dictionaries remain in print.

Because An Gúm publications have been regarded as authoritative texts, it has developed a symbiotic relationship with An Coiste Téarmaíochta. As Senior Editor, I serve in an *ex officio* capacity on the Steering Committee of the Terminology Committee and all queries regarding terminology arising during the editorial stage of any range of texts being prepared by An Gúm are referred to the Committee for consideration and approval. These decisions are then immediately implemented in the relevant texts.

Owing to the range and variety of publications produced by An Gúm, from pre-school texts to general readers to encyclopaedic publications to complicated technological textbooks for senior cycle students, a vast amount and variety of terminology queries have been generated over the years covering most domains and special purpose language pertaining to modern requirements. The subsequent approved terms have been incorporated into the Committee's database and are accessible through the aforementioned Web site [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie).

## STRIVING FOR CONSISTENCY

As An Gúm publications have been used in the Irish-medium educational sector they have been both the vehicle for the propagation of terminology, as previously stated, but ironically also have been the source of some confusion and disquiet regarding the authoritative forms of terms in some areas. This is mainly due to the fact that once a text is published it remains in a somewhat fossilised state *vis a vis* the changing world it attempts to describe. This applies equally to the ongoing work in terminology, which is constantly evolving and which, once mistakes or inconsistencies are identified, quite rightly seeks to rectify these straight away. Thus, it happens from time to time that the Committee revisits a term already in use in textbooks or previously published in a dictionary and decide for etymological, linguistic or terminological reasons that the term should be modified or replaced. The problem which immediately arises in this case is how to quickly and effectively convey this change to the relevant users. In the past, this has proven quite problematic and the situation has arisen whereby the term for the same concept has changed within a series of books on the same topic. An example springs to mind in the case of Physics where the word for 'transformer' in electronics went from 'claocladán' (based on a native root) to 'trasfhoirmeoir' (transliterated term) and back to 'claochladán' within the same series of a five module textbook published over a period of two years. The establishment of the online database - while not completely eliminating the problems associated with revised terms - has certainly made it easier to efficiently flag any new amendments and developments.

A further complication and drawback in relation to the consistency of terminology across domains and among user groups has been the discrepancy between terminology published in textbooks and dictionaries and that in use in examination papers produced for public examinations. Traditionally Irish language versions of examinations were produced by the Department of Education in a highly secretive manner for security reasons, and often by a cohort of retired departmental inspectors who were sometimes unaware of recent publications in use or the most recent developments in the terminology of their subject. This situation has in the past often led to understandable confusion and frustration among teachers and pupils alike. A number of years ago the responsibility for the state examinations was transferred to a newly-established State Examinations Commission and the question of consistency and communications in relation to the terminology in use in the examination papers has improved dramatically to the point where the problems have almost been totally eliminated.

The question of how best to convey changes in standardised terminology, for instance, as well as other developments in the language is an issue common to all languages. In the case of majority or dominant world languages, however, the process tends to take place organically with dissemination taking place by virtue of the language's strength and vibrancy. In the case of minority or lesser-used languages there is more need for specific strategies and direct intervention by bodies such as the Terminology Committee and direct involvement with specific user groups such as teachers, third-level institutions, translators and legislators. This does indeed take place in the case of the Irish language and is aided by the increased use of discussion fora and electronic communications in general.

## **THE ROLE OF THE TERMINOLOGY COMMITTEE**

While initially dealing mainly with the requirements of the education sector, there has always been a wider dimension to the work of the Terminology Committee. In recent years, this role has been continually expanding and there has been a phenomenal increase in the last number of years in the amount of requests for terminology verification from institutes and individuals outside of the education sector. A striking feature of the work of the Committee over the years, and a great testament to the diligence of the staff working there, was the detailed records kept of requests received and the recording of terminology lists, many unpublished, which have proved to be a rich source of information and reference in the recent move towards digitisation of all approved terms. This work has left a very rich source of terminology extant including the published dictionaries, compiled lists in various domains and a huge collection of miscellaneous terms arising from terminological queries from the public. The amount of work conducted over the years and the range of domains involved was only truly understood when work began on the National Terminology Database previously mentioned.

It's worth noting that all this work was carried out on very meagre financial and human resources over the years. The Terminology Committee has never been adequately staffed and was indeed scandalously neglected for many years under the Department of Education. While a slight improvement has taken place under the new structures within Foras na Gaeilge, the unit still remains severely under-staffed notwithstanding new staffing proposals which exist on paper and are proving tortuously difficult to progress under the weight of the Byzantine bureaucracy that attends the Cross-Border institutions. The staffing level at the moment stands at three, one full time terminologist and two assistant terminologists on contract. These are supplemented during the summer months by students on placement work.

Apart from the full-time staff in the office, the membership and work of the Terminology Committee and its various specialist subcommittees is entirely voluntary. These people are motivated by recognition of the importance of the work involved and the need for this work to be carried out to the highest professional standards.

When one considers the volume of work undertaken and completed under these circumstances and in the light of modern day economic mantras based on value for money in the public service so beloved of the worldwide neo-conservative political orthodoxy, one can only conclude that the Terminology Committee has outperformed all other state-sponsored institutions since the inception of the state both in terms of quality of work and indeed value for money.

### **THE COMMITTEE'S MODUS OPERANDI**

As alluded to above, the Committee operates on the basis of a Steering Committee with a membership of 20 and smaller specialist subcommittees which are established from time to time to discuss and agree terms for specific fields as decided by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis and adjudicates on lists of miscellaneous terms prepared and circulated prior to the meeting by the terminologists. The terms discussed and authorised at the meetings are noted, minuted and formally sanctioned at the next meeting and are then ready for dissemination, publication and input into the National Terminology Database.

The Steering Committee is made up of a wide range of people with backgrounds and expertise in various professional and linguistic fields. The variety of the backgrounds of the membership is indeed one of the Steering Committee's main strengths as each brings a specific perspective and knowledge to the discussion and debate, as well as the special awareness of the needs of the particular user groups with which they are most familiar. Thus, due emphasis is given to the usability and 'friendliness' of terms being discussed as well as to their semantic accuracy and etymological structure. These perspectives and insights are constructively discussed and help to ensure that comprehensive and balanced decisions are reached concerning the sanctioning of terms.

The current, recently-appointed Steering Committee consists of editors, educationalists, professional and legal translators, university professors, lexicographers, linguists, journalists and broadcasters and representatives of relevant public bodies dealing with terminology, the translation section of the Irish Parliament, and the various sections of the

European institutions involved in translation of European directives and legislation.

Underlying the discussion and deliberations of the membership at the monthly meetings, with its pressures and subjectivity, is the professional approach taken to the terminological issues themselves and the groundwork carried out by the terminologists in preparation for the deliberations of the Committee. It is this thorough groundwork which enables the discussion and analysis to be absorbed and brought to a fruitful conclusion.

## THE APPROACH

The methodology and approach to term formation in Irish has been refined and developed over the years and has kept abreast of best practice in the field through regular contact and involvement of the current Secretary to the Committee with terminologists and practitioners from across the world. The work carried out in suggesting terms for approval is done scientifically and exhaustively, and the preparatory work carried out on the miscellaneous queries from the public initially involves considerable research.

The necessary starting point in coming up with a new Irish term is to find definitions and context examples. Behind each term there is a concept and one of the first steps toward the development of relevant terminology is to define the underlying concept and then to find examples of the term in use in its natural context. This is necessary to help in deciding how best to extract as accurately as possible an equivalent meaning in the target language. This process ensures as far as possible continuity in terminology and approach. Further research is necessary if it is thought that the most likely candidate term will be a loanword. In this case, the etymology of the original – usually English – term is researched and the original Greek or Latin roots are attested. Apart from the semantic information thus gleaned, this is also done partly for phonetic reasons in order to establish, for instance, the length of the vowels in the Greek or Latin roots.

Once these facts have been established other sources are also consulted. In the case of Irish, the *Dictionary of the Irish Language* (now available electronically at [www.dil.ie](http://www.dil.ie)) covering Old and Middle Irish is a particularly rich and fecund source of reference; one of the main considerations in coining a new term is its place and relationship within the historic and traditional structure and usage patterns of the language. The equivalents of the term in some other European languages are often also examined and then the team's own expertise and experience is brought to bear, leading to one or more suggested terms for consideration and subsequent approval or amendment by the Steering Committee.

## THE RESULTS

Once the preparatory work and research carried out by the terminologists is completed the recommendations for new terms will reflect one of the following approaches depending on the context and domain of the concept in question, whether the term is highly specific/technical or is metaphorically based for instance:

- Use of native Irish terms or expansion of existing meaning of native terms
- Semantic extensions for native words/particles
- Adding a new context to a (perhaps redundant) native word
- Transliteration of loanwords
- Use of native Irish metaphor instead of foreign metaphor
- Calque (metaphor translated directly)

Practically all of the new terms developed in the last number of years as the work of terminology has become increasingly methodical can be associated with one or more of these approaches. In the case of loanwords, for example, a complex system of rules governing transliteration from languages using the Roman alphabet has been developed and is revised when the need arises. Some work has also been carried out on transliteration from Russian and Arabic.

In helping to arrive at an appropriate decision, which may include any of the above, certain evaluation criteria are used in adjudging the suitability of terminological recommendations. These criteria can be listed as follows:

- Concept-oriented
- Natural
- Identifiable
- Derivability
- Easy to use
- Easy to remember
- Grammatically uncomplicated
- Coordinated within field, across fields
- Accessible in sources

While it often proves impossible to satisfy all these criteria when deciding on an appropriate term it is an extremely useful practice to have them as working guidelines during the entire terminological process.

While it is true that continuity and consistency of terminology are two of the main objectives to be sought after and which users of terminology most

demand, it must be recognised that revision and refining is an equally important part of the work of the terminologist. The nature of the work is ever-evolving because the world around us and the language to describe it are evolving, thus creating a constant and increasing demand for new terms. Fresh thinking about concepts and terms sometimes has implications for terms previously coined and causes them to be revisited.

As previously mentioned, an important aspect in this regard is to properly manage the revision process and to inform as many stakeholders as possible about any new developments or amendments.

## **CONCEPT-BASED PRACTICE**

While recognising the centrality of the concept in the terminological process, it must be pointed out that terminology work in Irish is somewhat different to international terminological practice in that, until now, the work consisted almost entirely of term formation and dissemination. No elaboration other than grammatical information was attempted as all the human resources available were focussed on attempting to meet the demand for new Irish terms. Now that the entire stock of terminology is stored in a database, it has become possible to consider some further elaboration of the material, starting with more detailed subject-field tags, and adding contextual examples.

The approach used in many “larger” languages is that of the concept system, whereby an array of concepts relevant to a specific – usually narrow – field is initially assembled, each concept is carefully defined and a database of these concepts and their definitions is produced. The next step is to collect terms designating these concepts using a corpus and corpus query software. This approach is certainly appropriate for majority and worldwide languages as the linguistic raw material is readily available to enable such an approach. However, there has not been sufficient specialized material written originally in Irish to justify this approach. Most technical texts in Irish are translations, in which case any new terms are likely to have been sought from the Terminology Committee. Since the terms for which Irish equivalents are sought are originally submitted almost exclusively in English, it is the English term being sought that is the initiator of the terminological process. This phenomenon often proves challenging since languages conceptualize differently, particularly two languages so very different from each other as Irish and English.

## PROBLEMS

Despite the significant progress made in the last number of years, there are still some problems and sources of discord relating to terminology work in Irish. To synthesise briefly, these pertain to the fact that Irish as a minority language suffers from the problem of uncultivated linguistic domains and registers. There is no quick solution to this problem and it can only be alleviated by long-term systematic domain conquest and reconquest. Other problems already mentioned include the difficulties associated with amending terms and gaps in the dissemination system.

Another issue which has come increasingly to the fore in recent times is the lack of training available in the fields of terminology and lexicography within the third level education and university sector. Traditionally, there has been an overemphasis on the literary aspects of the language in undergraduate courses with the result that it has proven very difficult to recruit adequately-skilled personnel for work in these areas and, as a result, most of the training in terminology work actually takes place by necessity 'on the job'. There are encouraging signs, however, that this imbalance is gradually being redressed and there is evidence that the third-level sector is beginning to recognise the value and usefulness of the skills associated with terminology and lexicography work and is prepared to provide suitably-designed modules in degree programmes as part of strategic partnerships with third parties such as Foras na Gaeilge.

A completely different factor which also has an impact on the success or otherwise of terminology in Irish is the subjective issue of people's strong views about the acceptability or otherwise of new terms in the language. This is a highly emotive issue and is not always debated in an informed or reasonable way. Speakers and users of a minority language are often very sensitive and protective of the language and see new terms, neologisms, transliterations and loanwords as somehow diluting the purity of the language and need to be therefore rejected. The only way of dealing with this issue is to try and convey to as wide an audience as possible that new terminology is a sign of a living vibrant language and to put the matter in the wider context of how languages develop and evolve.

The other side of this coin is the reluctance of many native speakers to accept any kind of new terminology in Irish, living as they do under the constant encroachment of English and being subject to the same Anglo-American cultural colonisation as the rest of the country. In many cases, new terminology in Irish is seen by native speakers as unnatural and the product of bureaucrats or committees based far away in Dublin. The word 'committee' does not always convey a very positive image in Ireland! There

is a wide range of sociolinguistic issues involved in any proper discussion of these issues which it is not possible to undertake here, but which need to be addressed in due course.

## **CHALLENGES**

Looking ahead to the challenges for terminology work in Irish, the most immediate must be to meet the increased demands arising from the Official Languages Act, the Public Sector, the EU, the Translation Sector, the Education Sector, new curricula and syllabi. There is no other way around dealing with this challenge other than investing more money and providing more resources for terminology work. In straightened economic circumstances this will be an ongoing battle but it is one which will have to be joined nonetheless.

The proper training of terminologists and academic recognition for Terminology has been mentioned above and hopefully will be addressed with some creative and strategic thinking on all sides.

Side by side with terminology work, the necessary work on general lexicography and outstanding questions relating to the review of language standardization and grammar must be resolved with the co-operation and input of all relevant stakeholders.

Full use must also be made of the possibilities provided by the enormous advances in communications technology to help better disseminate the terminology and by the availability of increasingly sophisticated software and tools in the area of language processing and computational linguistics.

Finally there is a need for properly funded research in order to answer the big questions which are often asked but also left aside due to lack of resources. These centre around the issues of acceptability of terminology, implantation, the success of various terminological approaches and comparative studies with other languages.

Given what already has been achieved by a small but highly motivated group of professionals and given the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead, terminology work in Irish is entering an exciting and potentially definitive phase. We can only hope that the necessary vision and resources will be available to enable it to maximise its potential.



## **Seosamh Ó Murchú**

Seosamh Ó Murchú is Senior Editor with the publishing house, An Gúm, which is part of the North-South Language Body in Ireland, Foras na Gaeilge. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Terminology Committee.

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## **Terminology and Legislation — The Work of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin**

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**This article describes the work of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin (the Translation Service of the Parliament of Ireland) and in particular seeks to illustrate the extent of the terminology work which is carried out as part of the translation process in the case of the Irish language. Some general terminology problems are illustrated and certain aspects of the process of terminology standardisation peculiar to the legislative process are also discussed. Finally the question of terminology dissemination is addressed through the illustration of the use of the Internet by the Parliament to publish its output.**

Rannóg an Aistriúcháin is the translation section of the National Parliament of Ireland (the Oireachtas). Ireland has two official languages, Irish and English. The work of the Rannóg involves translation between these two languages, mainly from English to Irish. In this article I will provide an overview of some aspects of the work of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin. I will discuss some terminological issues in the context of legislation in particular and also in the context of the work of the Houses of the Oireachtas in general. I will try to give an insight into the types of terminology contained in the legislation and into some specific problems that arise in the process of translating legislation and to give a short account of the methods and practices followed in the Rannóg.

Rannóg an Aistriúcháin was established on the foundation of the State in 1922 in order to service the needs of the Oireachtas so as to facilitate the carrying out of its business in the two official languages. The remit of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin includes the translation of Primary Legislation i.e. the Acts of the Oireachtas, of the Order Paper (the daily agenda) and of the Standing Orders for both Houses of the Oireachtas (the Dáil and the Seanad), of proposed amendments of the Constitution, the provision of simultaneous translation services from Irish to English during sittings of the Houses of the Oireachtas and the translation of other documents such as annual reports, etc. as necessary. The Rannóg is also responsible for official legal terms in Irish. The individual Government Departments are responsible for the translation of Secondary Legislation, that is statutory instruments, ministerial orders, regulations, etc. That work was also performed by the

Rannóg until the end of the nineties.

The Rannóg is responsible for legal terminology in Irish, as I have already said. At the time of the foundation of the State it was necessary, of course, to standardise this terminology as it is, obviously, of particular importance with regard to the administration of the State. This work was carried out by degrees as legislation was being translated. During the 1940s, however, under the Irish Legal Terms Act 1945 (*An tAcht Téarmaí Dlíthiúla Gaeilge 1945*) and as a result of the work of the Irish Legal Terms Advisory Committee (*An Coiste Comhairlitheach um Théarmaí Dlíthiúla Gaeilge*) the process of official approval of the terms being used was begun through a series of orders in the form statutory instruments. The lists contained in those orders were later published as a dictionary. Though that dictionary has since gone out of print, the material compiled in it is, of course, available in the electronic resources which encompass the work of the Rannóg and which I describe below.

It should also be mentioned here, that, even though the Irish language is a lesser-spoken language, because it is an official language of the State, it was accorded a special status, as a treaty language, from the time of Ireland's accession to the European Economic Community as the European Union was then known. Therefore the Treaty of Rome and the other major European treaties down to Maastricht and the draft Constitution which was proposed recently were all translated into Irish. These treaties naturally contain a wealth of terminology and their translation was carried out by European Commission translators under the supervision of the Rannóg. The Irish language has since been accorded full official status within the European Union and it is now clear that the terminological needs arising from that position can be catered for without too much difficulty. Some of the terminology arising out of that European work is also available in the electronic resources of the Rannóg.

This article deals with terminology and of course the work of the translator and the work of the terminologist are different. Because of the state of the Irish language, however, it is often the case that Irish language translators find themselves doing more terminology work than their counterparts working in other languages. As regards widely-spoken languages, for example, the terminology work carried out by a translator consists mostly of identifying and consulting appropriate reliable sources of terminology in the target language that corresponds to the terminology contained in the source language. In the case of the Irish language translator, having done that, it is often the case that the translator discovers the term doesn't exist and is consequently obliged to coin a term or to contact *An Coiste Téarmaíochta* (The Irish Language Terminology

Committee) for advice.

The provision of a suitable term then usually necessitates quite a lot of extra research than is needed in the case of other languages where it involves simply ensuring that the proper term has been selected from among different alternatives.

Because this is the case, Rannóg an Aistriúcháin is also, of necessity, a terminology generating body. We have to coin new terms when faced with new concepts. A translator working in the Rannóg doesn't usually in the course of the work have to do this on a daily or weekly or even monthly basis, but often enough as part of the normal work of the office the official Irish term corresponding to a concept is decided and that in essence is terminology work. As I say, new terms are not produced on a daily basis in the Rannóg but I think people would be surprised by the wealth of terminology contained in the legislation.

I would like, therefore, to give an account of the different terminologies found in the legislation. Firstly there is a particular vocabulary relating to the legislation itself as a subject. All of the terminology needed in order to refer to legislation and to matters relating to legislation had to be decided upon at the start. Therefore, there are, for example, lists which relate to the division of Acts:

**Divisions of an Act**

cuid	part
caibidil	chapter
alt	section
mír	paragraph
clásal	clause

And there are sets of words relating in particular to actions performed in respect of enactments:

**Verbs**

aisghair	repeal
cúlghair	revoke
leasaigh	amend
leathnaigh	extend

And words used in connection with specific processes within an Act, such as:

**Verbs**

aisghair            repeal

cúlghair            revoke

leasaigh            amend

leathnaigh        extend

And words used in connection with specific processes within an Act, such as:

**Processes**

míniú                definition

léiriú                interpretation

forléiriú            construction

foláionn            includes

The interesting thing about these lists is that it could be said in some cases that the particular words don't correspond with what would be generally used today. In the first list above, for example, one would expect that *alt* would be used for the English "paragraph". Insofar, however, that the particular concept denoted is a definite autonomous unit of the text it is clear that *alt* is the most appropriate Irish word regardless of what English word is used. And again, in the third list, today we would usually use *sainmhíniú* (rather than *míniú*) for definition but examples of the kind of thing referred to make it clear that "definition" here is closer to "explanation (of usage)" rather than a "exact designation (of meaning)". The words *cúlghair* and *aisghair* appear to me to be new words. They are found in Dineen's Dictionary of 1927 but in the case of the entry *cúlghair*, as Dineen has it, he gives the meaning "the act of recalling", and it is unclear what it refers to.

Another area of terminology found in the legislation is legal terminology. There is no need to say too much regarding this area except that it covers a wide range, from the names of the various courts to different kinds of offences, and from property law to family law, etc.

The following examples illustrate particular difficulties and the approach adopted in general.

These are particular stages and actions involved in a court case:

**Legal Terminology**

breith	decision
breithiúnas	judgement
achomharc	appeal
cinneadh	determination
iarratas	application
iarraidh	request
foriarratas	motion

Again in this case, *cinneadh* would probably be used in general speech for the English “decision” and indeed there are instances in the legislation where “decision” and “determination” are used almost interchangeably as if there were little difference between them. But in cases where a definite distinction is made between them in a single Act it is clear that a “determination” follows on from the stage at which a decision is made and that there is more finality attached to it and therefore it becomes obvious again that *cinneadh* is better used for “determination” in such contexts. As regards the approach to term formation, it is worth noting the word *foriarratas* in the above list. A “motion” in this context is a form of *iarratas* (application) rather than a *rún* (resolution) or *tairiscint* (proposal) as it would be in the context of debates for example. The term was coined through the use of the prefix *for-* which is essentially an emphatic particle. We have that prefix again in a legal context in the verb *forghníomhú* for “execute” in the case of a warrant, etc. and as we saw earlier in *forléiriú*. And prefixes were used as well in the case of *aisghair* (*ais* + *gair*) for “repeal” and *cúlghair* (*cúl* + *gair*) for “revoke”.

In addition to matters of legislation itself and the law there are quite a few other areas that are closely related to legislation in so far as they have to do with the administration of the State. These areas would include, in particular, finance and taxation, social welfare, matters of government — matters such as Ministerial powers, elections and so forth — and local government. These areas all have vocabularies and expressions peculiar to themselves. And as well as all of those areas there are also the areas of everyday life that are regulated by the various organs of State, such as health, education, commerce, transport, the environment, foreign and European affairs, defence, etc., etc. Terminology related to all of those areas

Is to be found in the Acts which relate to them. For example, it is the Defence Acts that set down the commissioned ranks there are in the Army — *ginearál* (general), *cornal* (colonel), *ceannfort* (commandant), *leifteanant* (lieutenant), etc. — and, therefore, they are the official titles of army officers even if, in the case of *cornal*, for example, in the latest standard dictionary *Foclóir Gaeilge – Béarla, Ó Dónaill* the headword appears as *coirnéal*. In that regard, it is appropriate here to deal with cases where terminology changes over the course of time and with a particular problem that arises within legislation as a result.

I referred earlier to the concept of “definition” within an Act. The following is an example of a definition I had to translate recently:

"arms" means a firearm within the meaning of the Firearms Acts, 1925 to 1990, and includes ammunition within the meaning of the Firearms Act, 1925, an explosive within the meaning of the Explosives Act, 1875, and any other substance or thing that is an explosive substance within the meaning of the Explosive Substances Act, 1883;

ciallaíonn “airm” arm tine de réir bhrí Achtanna na nArm Tine, 1925 go 1990, agus folaíonn sé armlón de réir bhrí an fhocail “amuinisean” in Acht na nArm Teine, 1925, pléascán de réir bhrí an fhocail “explosive” san *Explosives Act*, 1875, agus aon substaint nó ní eile is substaint phléascach de réir bhrí na bhfocal “explosive substance” san *Explosive Substances Act*, 1883;

The version *amuinisean* which appeared in the 1925 Act is deprecated and so is no longer used and therefore it was necessary to translate the English in such a way as to introduce the modern standard term but still include the word actually used in 1925 as that word is referred to. The beginning of the Irish text therefore reads as follows:

"arms" means a firearm within the meaning of the Firearms Acts, 1925 to 1990, and includes ammunition (armlón) within the meaning of the word *amuinisean* in the Firearms Act, 1925...

Similarly in the case of the references in the definition to Pre-Treaty English Acts (Acts enacted by the English administration in Ireland prior to Irish independence and that are in English only) it was necessary to show the English terms to which the Irish words are intended to correspond therefore the rest of the definition reads:

"arms" means .... an explosive (*pléascán*) within the meaning of the word "explosive" in the Explosives Act, 1875, and any other substance or thing that is an explosive substance (*substaint phléascach*) within the meaning of the words "explosive substance" in the Explosive Substances Act, 1883;

These are examples of the sort of thing which needs to be done at times where changes occur in the terminology itself. It doesn't happen too often though. It should be mentioned here that ordinarily we are required to adhere to the existing terminology in order to ensure consistency from one Act to the next.

In addition to the primary legislation which I have been dealing with up to now, I mentioned, as well, that we also translate the Order Paper (agenda) for the sittings of both House of the Oireachtas. As regards terminology the most interesting material is probably to be found in the titles of documents which are laid before the Houses and are therefore recorded in both official languages. Many of these documents are statutory instruments and relate accordingly to the areas that are the concern of the various Government Departments. For example, many fish species get mentioned in the titles of Fishery Orders from the Department of the Marine and it happens sometimes that species are mentioned for which Irish names are not yet attested.

As regards our approach to terminology, because of the type of work we do in the Rannóg and because of the conditions in which we work the Rannóg is a terminology generating body. Along with the areas I mentioned above it should also be remarked that it is in the Rannóg that the Irish titles of many state bodies, companies and offices are coined because they are established through legislation. There are certain linguistic practices and conventions laid down as to how those titles are formed. Apart from those areas which relate specifically to our work, when we encounter terms that are not available in the precedents we consult all the other sources, and in particular of course, the sources of An Coiste Téarmaíochta, both the printed and electronic sources. Our translators frequently discuss versions with the Coiste on the phone and we receive substantial advice in that manner. It should also be mentioned that the Chief Translator in Rannóg an Aistriúcháin is an ex officio member the Permanent Terminology Committee of An Coiste Téarmaíochta. In the normal course of events, however, we need the term immediately and therefore we decide on versions ourselves. We follow the general guidelines issued, and some of us, for example, have experience of the system of transliteration used in the naming of chemicals in Irish and we adhere to them. In the case of placenames we follow the guidelines of the Coiste Téarmaíochta as regards foreign placenames and we consult Oifig na Logainmneacha in the case of Ireland. I feel there is a tradition in the Rannóg, stretching back to the time when it was established, of basing

versions as much as possible on native roots. For example, the word *faireachán* (act of watching from the verb *fair*) is the version used for English “monitoring” even though the borrowing *monatóireacht* might be in more general use elsewhere. In the case of an electronic instrument, however, we would use *monatóir* for monitor.

Finally I would like to give a brief summary of the various ways in which the work of the Rannóg is being made available to the public through the internet.

Firstly, the Acts of the Oireachtas can be accessed on the site [www.achtanna.ie](http://www.achtanna.ie). They are searchable through English and Irish, therefore anyone seeking a term can easily search for it on this site if they think it is likely to occur there.

Figure 1 below shows the search page with a search for the term ‘acetorphine’ being performed.

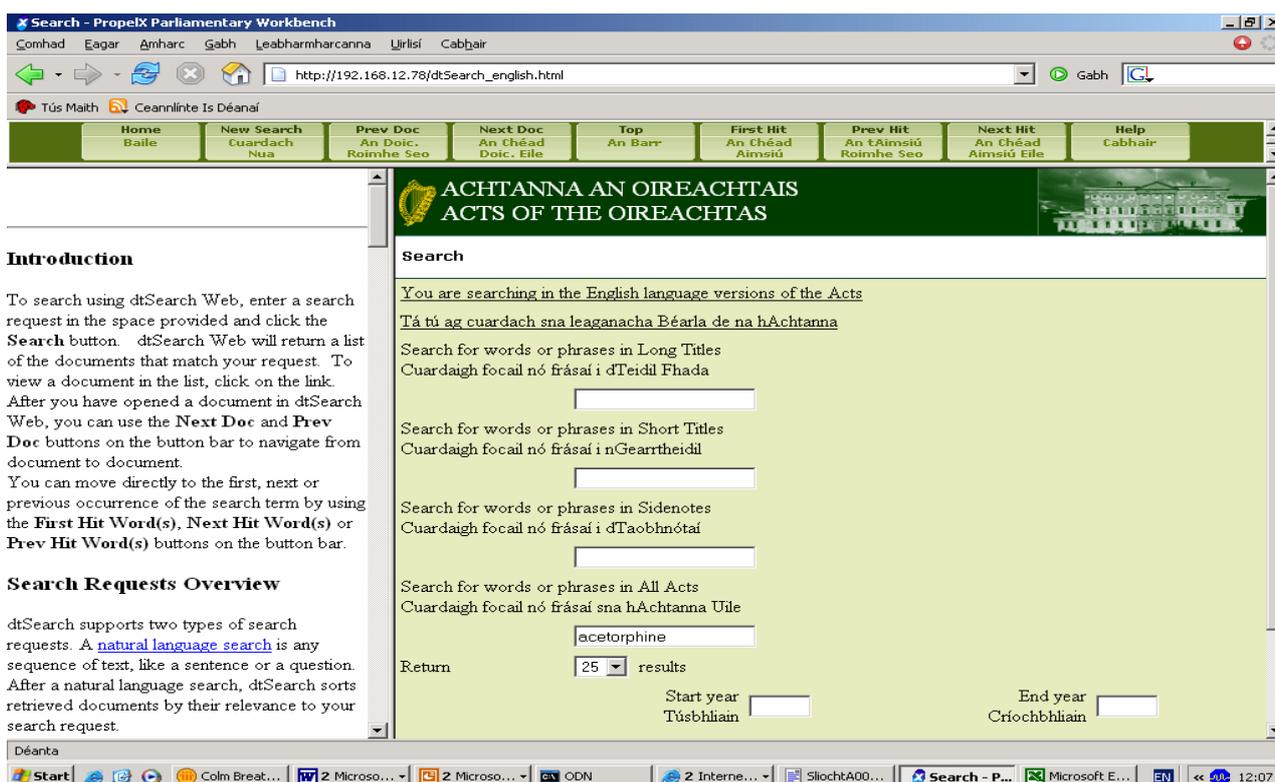


Fig. 1

Figures 2 and 3 above contain lists of chemicals insofar as they relate to the names of controlled drugs. Similar lists containing terminology relating to different areas of knowledge can be found throughout the Acts. The First Schedule to the Official Languages Act 2003, for example, contains a list of Government Agencies and Boards and of commercial and non-commercial

State Companies and the various Electoral Acts contain a wealth of information on placenames as they are used describe the boundaries of constituencies.

Figure 2 shows the result with the search term highlighted.

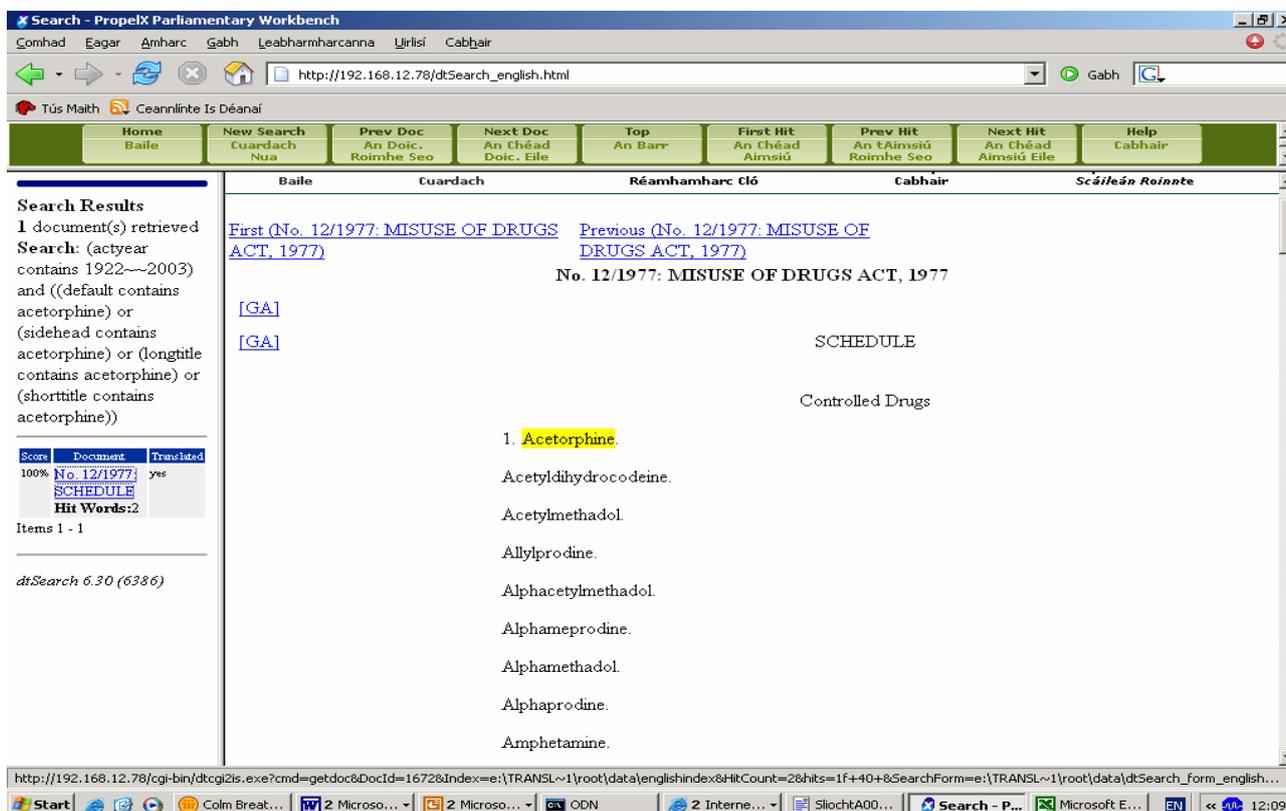


Fig. 2

Figure 3 shows the corresponding Irish language version, the Irish language term being the first term occurring on the list.

I referred to Order Papers of the Houses. These are published on the Oireachtas website [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie). Figure 4 below, an example from an Order Paper of the Dáil, is a page showing documents laid before the House — containing two statutory instruments, an official report and a European Union document.

And lastly, material from the internal data bases of the Rannóg has been made available in the form of an Additional Glossary attached to the material in the site [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie) compiled jointly by Fiontar (in DCU) and Foras na Gaeilge.

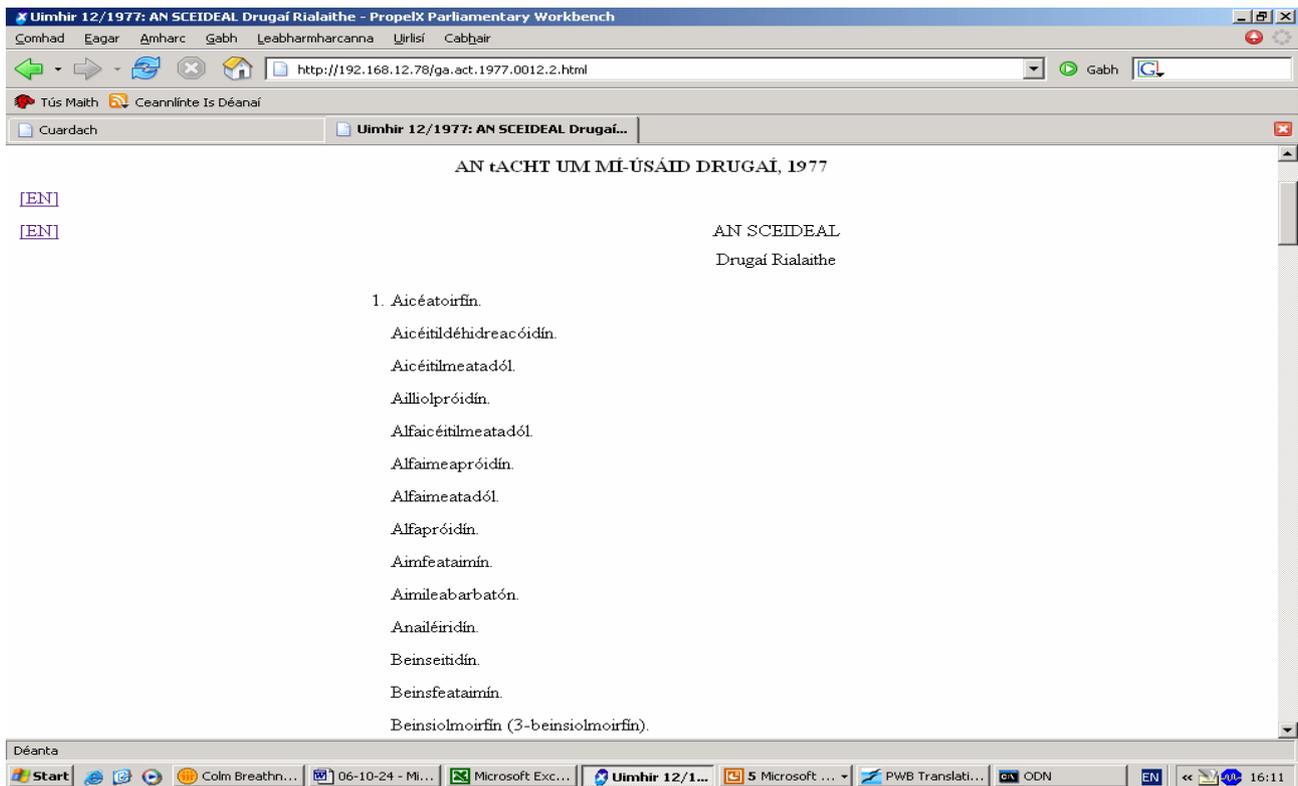


Fig.3

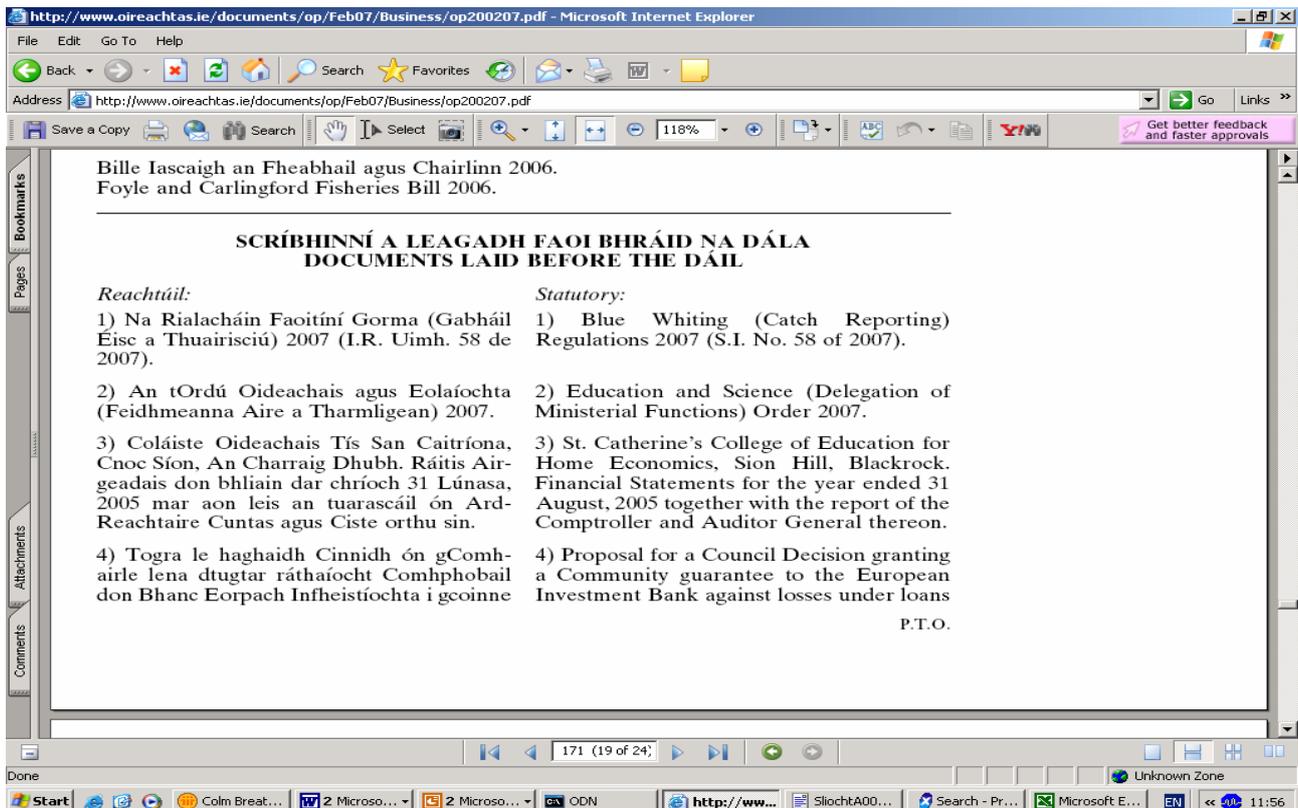


Fig. 4

Figure 5 shows a view from a search performed in that site.

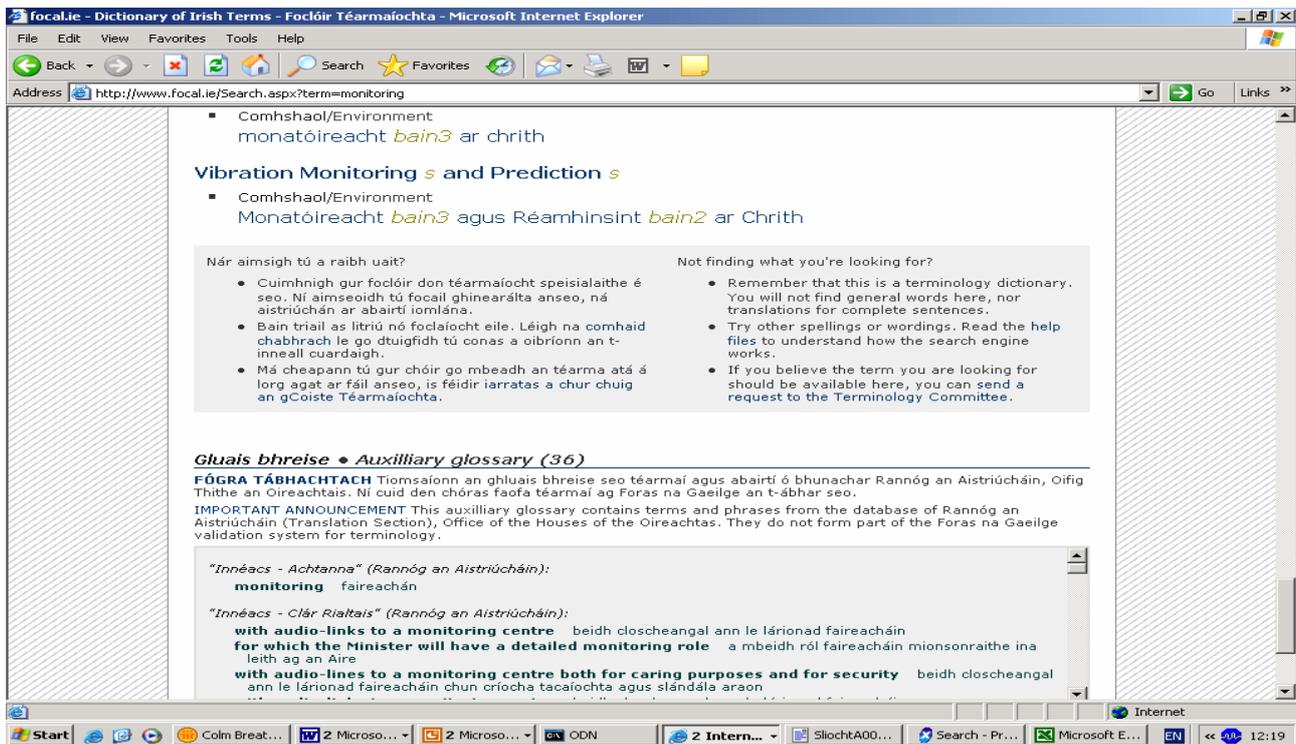


Fig. 5



## Colm Breathnach

Colm Breathnach is an Assistant Chief Translator in Rannóg an Aistriúcháin. He joined the Rannóg in 1997 and prior to that he was the Secretary to An Coiste Téarmaíochta, the official Government Irish Language Terminology Committee with responsibility for the formulation and standardisation of Irish Language terminology with particular reference to the requirements of the education sector. In 2000 he and Dr. Andrea Nic Thaidhg published *Cat agus Luch* (Dublin, Coiscéim, 2000) a translation into Irish of the Günter Grass novel *Katz und Maus*.

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## Terminology and the Media

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**This talk describes the processes employed in relation to terminology practice in the spoken media, particularly in the radio newsroom. The obligations of the newsreader are outlined and examples are given of some terms or phrases which proved challenging in the past. Reference is made to the importance of term dissemination, and the importance of term implantation and the attendant challenges are also discussed.**

When I was asked to speak today, I asked what exactly would be expected of me. I am not qualified and have no expertise in the fields of terminology or linguistics. Indeed, I would and do readily accept corrections of my Irish and terminology, ever since the first day I became professionally involved with the media. As I say, I am no expert, nor am I a translator or interpreter. I depend on the expertise of many of the people who have already spoken here today, as well as on dictionaries, terminology books, and computer facilities. But it is not quite so simple.

Fidelma told me that she would send me a series of questions which would serve as a guideline or framework for this talk today. As soon as I saw the first question, I realised that a challenge lay ahead. “Is there a policy about terminology in your workplace?” If you want the simple answer, it is “No, we don’t”. If you want an explanation, I hope to give some insight from my experience of the problems and challenges which often dictate that a specific policy cannot be laid out; or perhaps it would be more correct to say that it is not as simple as a question of policy.

One of the reasons I was asked to speak to you today is that I have experience of working on radio, on television and in the print media. It must be said at the outset that these three media are quite different as regards use of language and terminology and, therefore, they each have their individual attendant problems and challenges.

I will focus on the radio, for the most part, since this is the medium in which I have most experience, but the basic terminology problem is the same with all media. Every couple of weeks, a statement or report comes from an economic, or medical, or political organisation, which creates a new

buzzword: at present, there is much talk of the housing market and “negative equity”. A couple of months ago, when significant changes occurred in the health insurance industry in this country, we heard talk and debate every day of “risk equalisation”. At one time, there were up to five translations of those words in use by the various media and, to this day, I do not think that a satisfactory term has been found. I believe “cothromú priacail” is the one most often used. Almost every episode in the Northern Ireland peace process over the past ten years produced some new turn of phrase or adage. It was easy to deal with ‘the d’Hondt system’, but what would you do with ‘sequencing’? If my memory serves me correctly, we spoke of it in terms of the “choreography of the actions and the steps that were to be taken”. God help whoever was translating on the day that the “benchmarking” system was created to rectify wage problems in the public service, especially to satisfy the demands of the teachers. It was a long time before the phrase “córas coibhneasta” [relative system] was coined, but it is an elegant, incisive phrase which describes what is involved – the relation between the rates of pay between the public sector and the private sector, in comparison with each other based on the work being done.

These are just a few examples of terms which presented themselves, terms which were in every English news report within half an hour. For those who have another half hour to write Irish headlines, there is little opportunity to consult a committee or a policy group. You have to find a term, be that a translation of the English words, or a wording explaining the English term. Things happen suddenly in a newsroom, and often there is not much time to find a satisfactory term. As a result, we often resort to an explanation of the English term to explain the situation in Irish. This is a particular problem for radio and television. You have a little more time with printed material, and if you publish a new term which was not used previously or is strange to readers, in a newspaper, they can read over it again. They can read it ten times, find a dictionary, or search for the word on the Internet.

On the radio, you only have one chance to tell your story, unlike television where the pictures should tell a lot of the story. Speech on television is largely an explanation of those pictures; therefore, and, especially so when you only have a minute and a half of a report to tell the story, you must use your imagination and make full use of the power of the pictures. It is not the same with radio. You only have the spoken words, and you only have one chance. A lot of people only hear the news once a day; they want to be informed of the news, instead of being bothered by terminology which they do not understand. That is the first challenge when you are writing a radio script. It has to be brief, clear and understandable to the listener. Whoever is reading the news or conducting an interview, must ask themselves “What is my chief responsibility here? Is it to convey the

story in a clear, incisive manner and to inform the listener, or to translate the English story precisely with the newest and most accurate terms available?”

There has been a campaign underway in this country for some years to secure the installation of the device known as the “defibrillator” in public places. The establishment of the campaign was inspired by the death of the footballer, Cormac McAnallen, and these instruments are now being installed in public places such as shopping centres. Until now, a newsreader was most likely to say “inneall defibrillator” [defibrillator machine] when reporting on the campaign. Recently, I heard a colleague describing a “device which gets a beat out of the heart again” - almost an entire sentence, but in clear Irish, and an explanation of the device which conveys the meaning to the listener. It is no help, however, to those who will be installing the devices in Gaeltacht areas and need to attach an accompanying sign. Still, it prompts a question: who is right in this case? The person who uses the English word, or the one who explains the concept with a sentence of Irish?

It is often said in my line of work that listening to the radio is very beneficial to learners of the language. Be that as it may, it is my personal opinion that a person writing a news report cannot be thinking of the learners out there. The report needs to be written accurately, precisely and clearly. The greatest obligation of the newsreader is to inform people of the news. The newsreader is not obliged to teach, and I do not think it is right to put pressure on people to use a term if it does not come naturally to them and if it is not used in everyday speech.

Despite what is often thought and said, we in Raidió na Gaeltachta do spend a considerable amount of time discussing among ourselves which is the most appropriate term to use when a new story breaks. We discuss the most fitting translation and we consult the available terminological facilities. We are surrounded by dictionaries, terminology books, gazetteers and maps. We often need to contact the post office in a small town in the countryside to find the correct Irish place-name when a big news story happens there. At the end of the day, there is a very simple answer to our questions: what is the best and clearest way to translate a story so that our public will be able to understand it?

In case there is any misunderstanding here, I am not trying to be negative in my address today. I am trying to illustrate the choice that we often need to make between a turn of phrase which will convey our news to people, or a strange new term. Unlike in Dineen’s era, abstract terminology is now accepted in every language and in many realms of life. English-language broadcasters regularly use these terms, phrases or clichés. On their own, they mean nothing, but they are accepted and, gradually, in the

right context, these terms acquire life and meaning.

The world has changed greatly in recent years due to technology. Think of terms like “broadband” (leathanbhanda), “fibre optic” (snáithín optach), “Internet” (lidirlíon), “electronic mail” (ríomhphost). None of these terms were widely used twenty years ago, but they are accepted now. They themselves mean nothing, but since we understand what they mean in the context of the present day, they are accepted. With the passing of time and as the public get used to them, they become understandable. The same thing happened with the term “teilifís” [television] - to project vision. It isn't always necessary to make things abstract – often the solution to the problem (the term or the translation) lies in the natural wisdom of the Irish language. If translators have the vocabulary and belief in their own ability, it is worth exploring this wisdom. I remind you once again of the translation of “benchmarking” as “córas coibhneasta”.

Isn't “eadrascán/eadrán” a much better word than “cainteanna” [talks]; “cáinainéis” instead of “buiséad” [budget]; “ingearán” instead of “héileacaptar” [helicopter]; “aighneacht” rather than “cur i láthair” [presentation]; or “inneall” instead of “meaisín” [machine]. Wasn't the person who created the phrase “go gcuirfí polasaí i bhfeidhm ón mbun aníos” [to implement a policy from the bottom up] wise, instead of looking for an abrupt translation of the principle of “subsidiarity” in the European Union?

I believe that pioneering work has been done by the radio, especially over the past forty or so years, through using new terms like those I have mentioned and introducing them to contemporary speech; many of them relating to modern technology. And because of the influence of the media on our lives, there are words being used in everyday speech in recent years now that would not be in use at all were they not heard so often on radio and television.

A report read by somebody who is prepared to adhere to more natural, indigenous phrases is always nicer and more natural. The danger with the translation of words is that the meaning of a story will be lost and that the script will be ruined by anglicisms, something which is happening more and more often. The other day, I heard somebody talking about “titim uisce” [falling of water] when speaking of a waterfall [eas]. We should be careful to use the natural, indigenous version if such exists, or even to try to find a term based on that natural quality.

This reminds me of another question relating to the media in this era of the sound bite or “bluirín fuaime” as it is called in Irish. They do not suit Irish. It is extremely difficult to base a report on ten seconds of speech since it

takes a lot longer to say anything meaningful in Irish.

I remember reporting on events at the European Parliament in Strasbourg while colleagues from the English media were able to do a lot of their day's work based on twenty- or thirty-second sound bites that they did with MEPs while walking on the pavement. That is not the nature of Irish – more words are needed to convey a point and, therefore, it is necessary to provide the time. It is not possible to avoid this through creating terms in order to save time.

I have not yet referred to the matter of terminology relating to the industry itself. When TG4 was founded, a joint committee comprising representatives from all the various media was established, and terminology relating to the work/industry was agreed. The actual use of the terms devised at that time is, I would say, a source of disappointment since it is the nature of the work, especially in television, that there is a large staff and, because of this, terms are used which the entire staff will understand. This is an example, perhaps, of the difficulty in persuading people to use the newly-devised terms.

At any rate, to return to the series of questions which I was given as a framework for this talk here today, I believe that I have answered them, more or less, even if indirectly. The radio [Raidió na Gaeltachta] has no strict or rigid terminology policy, nor did I encounter any such system in television [TG4] while I was working there, but I cannot say whether this is still the case. Nevertheless, we have procedures and work practices in the radio which lead to constant debates over terminology and turns of phrase and how best to use them.

Turning briefly to the wide world outside the media, what is most mostly urgently needed is agreement on standard terms and commitment to implement them, particularly at state level. An example of this is the fact there are two Irish versions for the HSE [Health Service Executive] – “Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte”, and “Feidhmeannas na Seirbhíse Sláinte”. It should be made clear which one is more accurate, and which is the official title of the organisation, and that no other version of the title should be accepted.

This reminds me of another story concerning radio work which *An Comisínéir Teanga* [the Irish Language Commissioner] himself will remember. During a debate at work some years ago, someone asked what was the point in translating people's names to Irish, especially those of politicians, when they never use those Irish versions. Why did some of our colleagues believe in translating the names, for the sake of having their

scripts in pure correct Irish? Why only translate the ones which were easy to translate, e.g., *Éanna Ó Cionnaith* [Enda Kenny] and leave the names whose translations were not so clear in English, e.g., John Bruton? In the end, it was decided that all the members of the Oireachtas would be written to in order to explain the situation, and that the choice would be left up to them. Did they want the Irish version of their names to be used on Raidió na Gaeltachta and, if so, which version did they want? Not surprisingly, all the politicians said that they wanted to use the Irish version – from *Parthalán Mac Eachtairn* [Bertie Ahearne] to *Éamonn Ó Caoimh* from East Cork. What? *Éamonn Ó Caoimh* from East Cork. Yes, deputy Ned O’ Keeffe, indeed, Minister of State Ned O’ Keeffe, requested that the Irish-language version of his name would be used. He probably did not remember that a Minister of the same name, to whom Raidió na Gaeltachta regularly speaks, was also in the Dáil.

This shows, I think, the urgent need for agreement on standardised terms and work practices, and ensuring that they are used so that the listeners’ ears will become accustomed to them. Again, I must emphasise the importance of the natural wisdom and learning of the Irish language. It is not enough for us to be slaves to time constraints, or to the length of the report or column. I have already mentioned that I do not believe that it is in the nature of the Irish language to be submissive to the “sound bite” culture.

Another question relates to the dissemination of terminology. In this day and age, this can undoubtedly be done electronically. The challenge for those engaged in term formation in the media is the fact that the first attempt to devise a new term often falls to us. I believe that a great deal has been achieved in recent years in terms of using modern technology for Irish, without yielding too much to English words. There are, however, still some problems to be solved. I also believe that we should always be careful to avoid anglicisms and artificiality for the sake of having a term. We in the media are often the first to voice these terms out loud – and it is difficult to do this if you find the term or phrase alien and unfamiliar.

I will finish then as I started: it is a challenge for all of us to speak a minority language in this modern era when life is changing by the second. What we must not forget is that, while we are trying to keep up with this modern life, we are speaking an ancient language and that we should show a little respect for it when looking for terms which will be needed and used by generations long after us. If I don’t write a news story and tell it in a way which my listening public will understand, I’m not doing my job.



## Máirín Ní Ghadhra

Máirín Ní Ghadhra has worked with RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta for most of her adult life and currently presents the early morning news and current affairs programme, Adhmhaidin. A law graduate from NUI Galway and native of the Cois Fharráige Gaeltacht, she formerly spent a period working with Cead Cainte, a TV current affairs programme produced by RTE for TG4.

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# A Translator's View of Irish Terminology

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**This paper examines the difficulties encountered by English-Irish translators in using terminology sources. Particular reference is made to inconsistency and conflicting advice within the same sources and disparity in use between various institutions.**

I was invited to take part in this panel with the request that I speak from the perspective of a user of modern Irish terminology. In fact I am not so much a 'user' as an out-and-out addict. As a translator and as a trainer of translators, my work absolutely depends on the availability of Irish terms equivalent to those found in English source texts. As such, I welcome the arrival of new resources such as the on line terminology database [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie) and the ongoing research and publications of the Coiste Téarmaíochta (CT), which is the Terminology Committee of the Irish language promotional body, Foras na Gaeilge. There is a new energy in the work of Irish language terminology, despite a lack of resources and staff. It is with reluctance, then, that I draw our attention back to some long-standing problems and to the substantial inconsistency in various sources of Irish terminology.

Let's deal quickly with the obvious blunders made by translators who, when translating a polysemous word in English, select an Irish word that relates to an inappropriate meaning or shade of meaning. Take, for example, the use of the Irish word *fuil-líonadh* to translate 'congestion' in the compound term 'traffic congestion'. When non-Irish speakers are told that *fuil-líonadh* means, literally, 'blood-filling' they may guess that the term has been incorrectly used in its medical sense i.e. of an organ becoming clogged with blood. Perhaps if the translator had linked traffic congestion to blood pressure we might have more sympathy. As it is, I can make no excuse for the translator, whose TL vocabulary should include the correct, non-specialist term *brú tráchta* without any recourse to terminology sources. Worse again, *fuil-líonadh* was apparently chosen from [focal.ie](http://focal.ie) where its correct usage is clearly delineated by markers such as 'ailment', 'symptom', 'injury', 'medicine', 'medical'. It would please me to say that such lazy misuse of sources is rare in Irish translation but the evidence is otherwise. 'Congestion' is not the only polysemous term to take leave of (one of) its senses during the act of translation.

Much incorrect usage is more subtle than the example above. *Plúchadh* (literally 'stifling', 'suffocation') is a common conversational word for asthma but would be quite inappropriate in translating a title such as the Asthma Association of Ireland. Instead the organization is known in Irish as *Cumann Asma na hÉireann*. One might more readily excuse a translator guilty of errors of register. Few aspects of language are more subtle or elusive and Irish language dictionaries and terminology lists very rarely give any direction on such matters. *Plúchadh* and *asma* are both given on focal.ie with no indication that the international term might be more suitable for specialist use. Of course, a translator who writes *Cumann Plúchaidh na hÉireann* is still at fault. No professional with real sensitivity to language and an adequate knowledge of the TL would consider that to be an acceptable translation. Even so, the lack of direction on the matter of register raises the question: 'Do Irish language terminology sources occasionally fail even scrupulous and highly competent translators?' The answer is obviously yes, because no works of reference can ever anticipate all the needs of their users. There is, however, a more systematic flaw in the provision of terminology in Irish: **inconsistency** from one source to another and sometimes even within the same source.

Too often translators are confronted by a choice of Irish terms for one and the same concept. This cannot always be described as a flaw in the terminology sources. It would be impossible, for example, to prescribe a single term for much native flora and fauna without privileging one dialect of Irish over another. A bat may be given any of the following names: *ialtóg* or *ialtóg leathair*, *eitleog* or *eitleog leathair*, *sciathán leathair* ('leather-wing'), *feascarluch* ('evening-mouse'), *leadhbóg leathair* and the exotic *bás dorcha* ('black death'). All of those names are in use to some or other extent. Users of Irish will hear and read these terms and may consult terminology sources hoping to find them. The conflicting prerogatives of descriptivism and prescriptivism lead to all of them being listed while a certain prominence is given to one (*ialtóg*). Most of the terms related to bats will feature *ialtóg* rather than any of the other words for bat. Thus, a 'bat roost' is a *fara ialtóg* and different species of bat are known as *ialtóga* plus various qualifying words. There is however no absolute impediment to describing a bat roost as a *fara sciathán leathair* or some other such formulation using any of the words above. A multiplicity of terms is possible, but a translator's skill in using terminology should extend to an awareness of what I'll call, for want of a better word, the alpha term *ialtóg*. At the very least, the translator should avoid using *bás dorcha* in the Irish title of a group of bat-lovers.

My next example better illustrates the systematic problems faced by competent and scrupulous translators. I and many other colleagues recently had to sit an accreditation examination for Irish translators. The exam is

administered by Foras na Gaeilge, the all-island Irish language promotional body. It was necessitated by the experience of state bodies who depend on translation services to fulfil their obligations under the Republic of Ireland's Official Languages Act (2003). It is a challenging exam, and rightly so. State bodies need to know that accredited translators receiving public money can provide an adequate service. Candidates were given access to various on-line and printed terminology sources during the exam, which contained nothing that could be characterized as highly specialist or arcane.

It did, however, have lines such as this: 'Because the disease agent's protein originates inside the host cells it triggers antibody production by the immune system.' The main translation decision to be made in relation to that sentence is choosing an Irish word equivalent to the polysemous 'agent'. When the exam was finished a number of us disregarded the advice we give our own students and took part in a 'post-mortem' analysis of the questions. Most of us agreed that the choice in regard to 'agent' was a simple one. 'Gníomhaire' is mostly used in relation to people engaged in a commercial activity e.g. *gníomhaire eastáit* ('estate agent'). The closely related word *gníomhaí* is mostly used in a grammatical context or in referring to individuals who are active in some way e.g. *gníomhaí teanga* ('language activist'). The correct chemical term, or so we imagined, is 'oibreán'.

One candidate, suddenly rather anxious about the direction of this post-mortem, pointed out that there was support in various sources for *gníomhaí* in the context of chemistry. Sure enough, a quick perusal of the entries for 'agent' on focal.ie revealed the extent of the confusion. The entry for *gníomhaí* at the top of the web page seems to restrict that word's use to grammar or to references to a 'doer' or 'active person'. The entry for *oibreán* quite clearly marks that word's use in chemical processes. So far so clear. The headwords are followed by a series of examples illustrating the use of each term. Unfortunately these examples are just as likely to confuse as to instruct. Culled from various dictionaries published over decades, they contradict and confound each other. Thus the *Dictionary of Geology and Geophysics* (2004) suggests two terms for 'agent of erosion': *gníomhaí creimthe* and *oibrí creimthe*. With the addition of *oibrí*, whose usual meaning is 'worker', we now have a *ménage à quatre*. In *Dictionary of Physiology and Health* (1981) *oibreán baictéarach* is given for 'a bacterial agent'. One is relieved to see 'oibreán' reinstated until one comes across 'gníomhaí bÁCála' for 'baking agent' in *Handbook of Retailing Terms 2003*.

This last example gave me much cause for thought. *The Handbook* was compiled by the predecessor of Foras na Gaeilge in an attempt to persuade supermarkets and department stores to use bilingual signage. The methodology adopted was to prepare lists of bilingual signs already in use

and the person responsible for this work was none other than the current author. If one accepts that *gníomhaí* is equivalent to 'activist' then *gníomhaí bÁCála* strongly suggests something like 'baking activist' (one who is militant about baking?) Can I excuse myself by pleading that I was only following dictionaries? In *Dictionary of Agriculture and Dairying* (1987) we find 'gníomhaí ceimiceach' for *chemical agent*. It seems harsh to blame the translator who has to pick a way through this terminological maze.

The high degree of inconsistency in Irish language terminology sources has been discussed at length in the books of Maolmhaodhóg Ó Ruairc, a member of the EU Council of Ministers translation staff and the only author to have published a substantial body of work on pragmatic translation from English into Irish.<sup>[1]</sup> The arrival of focal.ie has highlighted the problem to an even greater extent, as indicated by the example of 'agent' above. The CT is aware of the problem and has taken action. Users of focal.ie are invited to register inconsistencies or terms they believe to be flawed. The hope is that over time a greater degree of consistency and clarity can be achieved.

I thought it might be useful to complete this paper with a brief analysis of some of the causes of the substantial inconsistency in Irish terminology.

## NATIVE TERMS AND INTERNATIONAL TERMS

In common with other European terminology bodies, the CT has for some time gravitated towards the use of transliterated 'international' terms in the specialized realms of LSP. This is in contrast to the amateur zeal of earlier Irish revivalists, who advocated, as a point of principle, coining specialist terminology from 'native sources'. A useful example of the nativist tendency is the rejection by the writer Seán Ó Ciarghusa<sup>[2]</sup> of *téarma* as an Irish equivalent for the word 'term'. He suggested instead *dánfhocal*, which might be translated as *mot d'art* but which was unfortunately ambiguous; *dánfhocal* already being in use with the meaning 'a verse epigram'. In a landmark essay published in 1947 G.H. Paghan, who lectured in science through the medium of Irish, highlighted similar flaws in Irish scientific terminology<sup>[3]</sup>. Many of the terms he scorned in his essay have disappeared from use and have been replaced by more acceptable Greek and Latin-based terms e.g. *ciandarcán* (from *cian* 'distant' and *dearc* 'look') has been replaced universally by *teileascóp*.

As might be expected, however, the tendency towards international terms has been uneven. Many of the terms held up for ridicule by Paghan are still in use, including *scagdhealú* for 'dialysis' (from *scag* 'filter' and *dealú* 'separate'). Older, 'native' forms exist alongside fresh coinings. The Irish

lexicographer Tomás de Bhaldraithe singled out as an example of the chaos of Irish terminology the numerous attempts to render into Irish the prefix 'hydro'. In his *English-Irish Dictionary* (1959) he lists 18 different Irish prefixes, including the native *uisce* ('water'). The adoption of the prefix *hidr-* has imposed order but 'hydro-electric station' is given as *uisce-stáisiún leictreachais* on focal.ie and in *Dictionary of Geography and Planning* (1981). Again the translator is left scratching his or her head. No one would suggest a wholesale clearing of older native terms which have taken root in the language. One could easily make a case for 'scagdhealú', for example, as an accurate description of the concept of dialysis. It's more difficult to make a case for 'uisce-stáisiún' and the problem is compounded by the rather vague directions given on focal.ie The international term for electricity, *leictreachas*, has long been in competition with the native *aibhléis*, a word which does not lend itself easily to deriving the hundreds of terms related to the basic concept of electricity. Some direction on the relative status of the two terms would be welcome but in describing *aibhléis* focal.ie gives only '*in úsáid / in use*'. What does that mean? Terminologists can't afford to assume that the public can read such shorthand. A more appropriate marker would be 'informal' or suchlike, which is used successfully elsewhere on the same site.

## INSTITUTIONAL DISPARITY

The Translation Department of the Irish Houses of Parliament is known in Irish as Rannóg an Aistriúcháin. It provides Irish language translations of the following texts (i) The Order of Business in the National Assembly and in the Senate (ii) Bills (iii) Statutory Instruments and (iv) occasional international treaties. The staff of the Rannóg have produced easily the most significant body of Irish translation in the history of the language. Inevitably they have also coined vast numbers of terms. The problem for translators and others who wish to utilise this vast resource is the significant disparity between the terms favoured by the Rannóg and those prescribed by the CT.

Efforts have been made to minimize differences. The Rannóg has representation on the Steering Committee of the CT, for example. Some disparity is inevitable, of course, given that the Rannóg was operational, in embryonic form, even before the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, while the CT was not placed on a permanent footing until 1968. There are further complicating factors. The staff of the Rannóg operate under a certain, but not total, compunction to adhere to precedent. Thus while the common Irish term for 'parking' is simply *páirceáil*, the Rannóg persists with *locadh*, the term originally used in the Road Traffic Acts. The highly specialized nature of legislative translation further militates against a 100% match between the terms favoured by the Rannóg and the CT.

In all commentaries on Irish terminology there is a marked tendency to underestimate the differences between the two institutions. For translators, however, the difficulties are obvious and significant. I recently asked my second year students on the Post-Graduate Diploma in Translation to write a commentary on the terms used in the Irish translation of a text produced by the Legal Aid Board. One would hope for a large degree of uniformity in legal terminology, but one does not always get what one wishes. A student who searched for 'ancillary order' on [achtanna.ie](http://achtanna.ie), a bilingual database of Irish legislation, came up with the following: *fo-ordú* (and an older spelling *fó-ordú*), *ordú foghabhálach* and *ordú coimhdeach*. Those three terms and their variants come from within the Rannóg's own corpus of translations. Other dictionaries yielded further variants on the same theme, such as *fo-órdú cúntach* in *Focal sa Chúirt* by Leachlainn S. Ó Catháin (2001).

Disparity between the CT and the Rannóg, and within those institutions themselves, was evident in terms such as 'custody' (of a child). 'Caomhnóireacht' is clearly prescribed as the appropriate term on [focal.ie](http://focal.ie) but, as is so often the case, that prescription is unfortunately cancelled out in the examples below, which include 'custody of children' / *coimirce leanaí* and 'get custody of the children' / *faigh coimeád na leanaí*. Three terms for the same concept. A useful feature of [focal.ie](http://focal.ie) is the glossary of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin terms which appears at the foot of the web page under the following proviso: '**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** This auxiliary glossary contains terms and phrases from the database of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin (Translation Section), Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas. They do not form part of the Foras na Gaeilge validation system for terminology.' This feature often serves to illustrate the disparity in terminology between the Rannóg and the CT. In the case of 'custody', the term *coimeád* is used within the Rannóg with admirable consistency and there is no mention of *caomhnóireacht* (which more properly means 'guardianship') or *coimirce*.

Some of the students expressed a bias towards the CT terms on the basis that they were used more widely than those of the Rannóg. Indeed, the choice between contending terms is often a very simple one. If 'the League of Nations' is mentioned in a history text the Irish translator would be well advised to follow popular precedent and write *Conradh na Náisiún*. The fact that the Rannóg consistently used *Cumann na Náisiún* is neither here nor there. But legislation impinges on daily life in a great many ways, and so too does the language of legislation. Many 'uncommon' Rannóg uses have imposed themselves on spoken Irish. The word *sóisialach* (which usually means 'socialist') is commonly used in the sense 'social' in the context of the Social Welfare system. Where there is disparity between the term prescribed by the CT and the term used by the Rannóg, translators must make informed decisions more or less on a case by case basis, using such yardsticks as

common usage (which is not always relevant, there being no 'common' usage to speak of), transparency, accuracy and acceptability. Critical assessment of the use of terminology in Irish translations suggests that those skills, and more basic skills, are not universal.

I should also mention those 'unofficial' or 'unapproved' terms that make their way into speech in direct competition with terms coined by either the CT or the Rannóg. Suppose that a translator is working on the text of a notice announcing a vacancy for a facilitator. In the main body of focal.ie he or she will find *éascaitheoir* while the ancillary glossary of Rannóg terms suggests *furasóir*. In fact a number of organizations, including Údarás na Gaeltachta, a development authority for the Irish-speaking regions, have adopted *áisitheoir*. focal.ie recognises some of these terms with the marker *gnáthchaint* / colloquial. Such clear advice on the status of terms is to be welcomed but I'd like to see more of this type of term on focal.ie and other sources. The CT have nothing to say on the word *áisíneacht*, for example, which competes with the officially-coined *gníomhaireacht* in the sense 'agency'. This despite the fact the distribution agency for Irish language books, Áisíneacht Dáiliúcháin Leabhar, is part of the same government body as the CT itself.

Finally I'd like to stress that I mention these difficulties in a strictly matter of fact way. It is not my intention to be unduly pessimistic or critical of the fine individuals charged with the difficult task of providing the Irish language with a modern terminology. If there is an unacceptable level of inconsistency in modern Irish terminology there is also an awareness of the problem and a will to act. And the problem is best addressed by translators and terminologists working in co-operation.

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## **OTHER EUROPEAN MINORITY LANGUAGES**



# Terminologie et Diversité Linguistique

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Les *Leitmotiv* de mon intervention sont la diversité linguistique, ainsi que le besoin et le plaisir de la coopération - au sens de l'action de participer à une oeuvre commune – qui est à la base de la sauvegarde et de la préservation de l'identité linguistique et culturelle de ceux qui participent à la construction d'un monde démocratique où la différence et la diversité sont un atout au sein d'un monde globalisant en état de croissance probablement irréversible.

En Europe, nous sommes très fiers de cette diversité linguistique : l'Union européenne est actuellement constituée de 27 États membres, ce qui représente 23 langues officielles et plus de 50 langues minoritaires. Situation très *sui generis* qui amène Alain Fenet, professeur à l'Université de Nantes à affirmer : «*Cette diversité, c'est l'Europe même. L'identité européenne est le produit d'un nombre infini d'échanges entre de multiples foyers, en même temps que le processus même, constamment renouvelé, de ces échanges. Sans l'entretien de sa propre diversité, la base et gage d'ouverture sur le monde, il n'y a pas d'esprit européen. En d'autres termes, paradoxalement, ce qui unit l'Europe, c'est ce qui la divise*» (Fenet, 2001 : 236).

C'est justement sur la tentative de compréhension de ce paradoxe que doivent retomber nos attentions et nos interventions, car la diversité peut être comprise comme un empêchement aux bonnes ententes entre les différents peuples. En effet, nous le savons tous de part nos pratiques et expériences, qu'une communication multilingue est bien plus difficile, bien plus longue et en conséquence bien plus coûteuse qu'une communication monolingue, ce qui non maintes fois peut nous amener à préférer la non-communication avec ceux qui ne parlent pas une des langues dans laquelle nous communiquons le mieux. De ce fait, le multilinguisme peut nous éloigner d'un désireux discours mono-référentielle tellement nécessaire et désirable entres spécialistes, ce qui peut constituer une entrave à un bon fonctionnement des institutions communes.

Cependant, langue officielle n'est pas toujours synonyme de langue de travail. Travailler en 23 langues officielles en même temps présuppose un

effort financier et humain immense si l'on tient en ligne de compte le fait que la présence continue des traducteurs et des interprètes soit nécessaire pour le maintien d'un fonctionnement multilingue intégral, pouvant avoir pour conséquence un manque d'efficacité là où la promptitude est vivement souhaitable. Par ailleurs, la production textuelle s'accroît et si l'équivalence linguistique peut éventuellement être garantie, le même ne peut être affirmé en ce qui concerne l'équivalence conceptuelle. Le débat technologique ou technique voire, à la rigueur, le débat politique multilingue n'affecte pas directement en profondeur les droits des citoyens ou la souveraineté des états membres au sein de l'institution. Par contre : *«Le droit communautaire rencontre là une difficulté considérable : être véritablement commun et se prêter à une interprétation uniforme, tout en étant formulé dans les langues différentes, expressions de systèmes juridiques différents. Cette recherche de l'«unité dans la diversité et la pluralité» est exigeante, même si elle emprunte les voies diversement contraignantes de l'unification, de l'uniformisation et de l'harmonisation.»* (Fenet, 2001 : 245) Ici nous sommes intelligiblement aux frontières de la faculté de l'ancrage d'une institution multilingue intégral.

D'après Fenet, le pouvoir des marchés empêche parfois que la diversité linguistique soit assurée dans toutes les circonstances de la vie sociale, politique et économique du citoyen ou de l'état membre : *«L'essentiel du droit communautaire a été élaboré afin de réaliser l'intégration économique des Etats membres par la réalisation de l'unité du marché, dans le cadre du libéralisme économique. Au cœur de ce droit se trouve le principe de la liberté de circulation de personnes, des biens, des services et des capitaux, gage de la libre concurrence. Dans ce contexte, la pluralité des langues n'est pas valorisée. Elle a une valeur d'obstacle aux échanges»* (Fenet, 2001 : 248-249). Nous pouvons constater que ceci est une valeur à laquelle se heurte la protection des langues nationales qui sont assailli dans leur intégration en faveur d'une langue dominante, qui n'étant pas toujours l'anglais, l'est presque toujours. D'après le même auteur, le droit économique communautaire peut ainsi interférer avec les politiques de promotion linguistiques, non dans l'intention de porter préjudice aux langues nationales, mais en faveur de *«[...]l'imposition des principes du libéralisme économique au domaine culturel»* (Fenet, 2001 : 250).

Atteindre l'unité dans la diversité est une des exigences la plus difficile à parfaire, car elle peut amener à croire que l'abolition des différences culturelles et linguistiques, est une façon rapprocher les différents peuples, et par conséquent à rendre l'Europe économiquement plus forte : *«Pour les milieux économiques, il s'agit de réduire les barrières à la mobilité qui, selon le prix Nobel d'économie 1999 Robert Mundell, empêchent l'Europe de devenir une «zone monétaire optimale».* Dans cette perspective, l'adoption

*d'une langue commune constitue une exigence pour un développement économique plus fort.»* (Giordan, 2001 :139)

Henri Giordan (2001), dans son article intitulé «La question des langues en Europe» préconise l'existence d'une politique linguistique plus dynamique. Sa proposition retombe sur deux hypothèses parallèles face à un même problème. La première hypothèse serait celle d'essayer de résoudre exclusivement les problèmes de communication. D'après lui, cette mesure nous amènerait de façon presque naturelle à la protection et à la valorisation de la diversité linguistique, qui se trouve être la deuxième hypothèse préconisée.

Considérer l'anglais une langue–outil où la simplicité et la rapidité, réglé par l'efficacité des échanges, serait l'une des caractéristiques de cette langue de communication universelle, qui ne se confondrait pas avec l'anglais de la communauté anglophone, étant donnée que celle-ci a une charge culturelle et collective qui est le résultat d'une histoire complexe, comme toutes les langues identitaires. D'après lui : *«La question cruciale n'est pas l'anglais de s'opposer à sa généralisation, mais bien d'engager une politique d'aménagement linguistique qui empêche l'anglais de prendre la place des langues d'identification et de devenir progressivement la langue «nationale» de l'Union européenne.»* (Giordan, 2001 : 15).

Comme nous pouvons le constater, beaucoup de propositions pour un seul et même problème. L'élargissement de l'Union est venu aiguïser le problème linguistique déjà existant. Le multilinguisme est à la base de la construction démocratique de l'Union en tant qu'espace commun qui se construit sur le fondement de l'identité des peuples ; ceci étant seulement possible si on leur donne les instruments nécessaires à la préservation de cette identité.

Avoir comme langue maternelle une langue dominante est un grand privilège, ne pas l'avoir est un grand désavantage. Participer à des réunions de travail, des conférences, des congrès où la langue dominante n'est pas dominée par le locuteur le rend incertain et l'empêche de discuter, de débattre, de s'insurger de façon efficace et spontanée. Rendre compte d'une conceptualisation scientifique, politique, juridique, technologique ou économique dans une langue mal maîtrisée amène un potentiel orateur à garder le silence et par conséquent à ne pas défendre un point de vue - *qui ça* - fondamental pour la construction démocratique en cause. Comme le réfère Joseph Poth : *«Le monolinguisme contribue à l'insécurité linguistique, un concept nouveau qui reflète une réalité très ancienne. [...] Les participants dont la langue maternelle est très peu répandue restent souvent muets. Ils ont d'excellentes idées mais ils n'osent pas les exprimer, parce*

*qu'ils se sentent mal à l'aise dans les langues officielles [...]. Ceux dont la langue maternelle est internationale sont extrêmement privilégiés. C'est très injuste»* (Poth, 2000 : 29).

Dans un monde où les frontières tels que nous les connaissons sont en mutation, parce que les enjeux économiques prennent le dessus et que les frontières territoriales sont reléguées à un plan autre, mais aussi parce que les sociétés ont une tendance à spirale à se développer en réseaux, remettant en cause la notion d'espace au sens de lieu plus ou moins délimité. La potentialité électronique multiplie les interactions entre les acteurs, producteurs et consommateurs concernés par la terminologie et d'autres segments de la population plus passifs, mais non moins conscient de l'importance de cette chaîne interactive. Il se crée ainsi un espace virtuel de flux d'informations et d'interaction, laissant d'une part des empreintes au sein des nouvelles pratiques terminologiques et, d'autre part laissant émerger de nouveaux profils socio-professionnels.

Dans un tel monde multilingue, les langagiers jouent un rôle fondamental; c'est à eux de garantir la communication multilingue, écrite et orale, presque toujours spécialisée, entre ceux qui veulent ou doivent accéder aux conceptualisations des autres, en y parvenant à travers un système linguistique différent de celui que lui-même utilise.

Dans un tel monde, la langue de communication - appelons-la - de négociation, entre les différents agents concernés peut effectivement se réaliser par le biais d'une seule langue, ce qui présuppose de la part des agents de communication qu'ils aient la langue dans laquelle ils communiquent comme langue maternelle, situation tout à fait normal, mais présuppose aussi que l'un d'entre eux domine au moins, activement, une deuxième langue en plus de la sienne, ce qui en soit est une très bonne chose.

Le danger se situe au niveau national où les spécialistes ont souvent tendance à s'exprimer dans une autre langue que la leur, perdant ainsi en capacité de pouvoir à communiquer, enseigner, rédiger et, finalement, conceptualiser dans sa langue maternelle. Et c'est ici, le plus grand danger pour les langues, essentiellement, les langues de spécialité. En Europe, les langues avec des nombres de locuteurs réduit - je pense au danois, au finnois, au suédois, par exemple - sont en train de réagir sur le plan national et luttent énergiquement contre ce qu'ils dénomment la perte des terminologies de domaines. D'après Nilsson (2005), la perte des terminologies de domaines peut être entendue comme la perte de la capacité de communiquer dans une langue et ceci à tous les niveaux, dans une langue de spécialité due au manque ou à un développement déficitaire des ressources nécessaires, ce qui entraîne la renonciation aux domaines

qui est définie comme l'abandon volontaire ou forcé de la possibilité d'utiliser une langue donnée dans des contextes de communication spécialisés dans un cadre multilingue (cf. Nilsson, 2005)

Or, le maintien du multilinguisme et de la diversité passe en premier abord par l'implantation des politiques éducatives adéquates en ce qui concerne l'enseignement des langues étrangères et de l'autre, par la création et la diffusion des ressources linguistiques multilingues.

Les terminologies sont un instrument fondamental d'aide à la préservation d'une langue. Les dictionnaires terminologiques, même s'ils ne sont pas souvent utilisés par une partie du public auxquels ils se dirigent – les spécialistes du domaine - ont une valeur symbolique et culturelle indéniable qui justifient en soit leur élaboration malgré leurs coûts élevés. D'un autre côté, de part l'existence de ces matériaux, aucun spécialiste ne pourra dire qu'il n'a pas recours à sa langue maternelle, parce qu'il lui manque les instruments qui lui permettent de conceptualiser et de communiquer. Il sera libre de ne pas le faire, ne pouvant pas se sentir incapable de le faire, par manque de ressources linguistiques.

Accepter le multilinguisme présuppose une ouverture d'esprit à l'égard de l'autre, ce qui implique l'acceptation de la culture de l'autre, l'acceptation de la différence. C'est dans cet état esprit qu'il est nécessaire de former; abandonner la perspective monolingue ou même bilingue, implique un changement d'attitude. Ce changement a des conséquences sur les méthodologies de travail, sur la conception des outils informatiques, sur la politique de diffusion des produits. Il est vrai que, dans un premier temps, le travail peut être plus lent, car les débats plus étendus ; les arguments des autres sont, généralement, très forts et consistants, et nous le savons tous, les consensus, sont très difficiles à obtenir ! Néanmoins, ces débats sont d'une richesse inqualifiable ; la qualité du travail obtenue est bien plus consistante et, par conséquent, les langues nationales en sortent admirablement renforcées.

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# **La Politique Terminologique du Gouvernement Basque**

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**Après une petite introduction géographique et sociolinguistique de la langue basque ou euskera, l'article montre l'aménagement du travail terminologique mis sur place par le Gouvernement Basque. Cet aménagement a deux axes fondamentaux : la Commission de Terminologie et la Banque terminologique publique basque EUSKALTERM . À partir de ces deux entités, on présente la méthodologie et les procédures de travail en terminologie basque.**

## **QUELQUES RENSEIGNEMENTS SUR LE PAYS BASQUE**

Le Pays Basque se situe entre la France et l'Espagne: le Pays Basque nord et le Pays Basque sud. En Pays Basque nord il y a trois provinces basques: le Labourd, la Basse Navarre et la Soule. En Pays Basque sud il y a deux communautés autonomes: la Communauté Autonome Basque avec trois territoires historiques, Araba/Álava, Biscaye et Gipuzkoa, et la Communauté de la Navarre. Donc, il s'agit de trois réalités politiques et administratives différentes. La Communauté Autonome Basque et la Navarre ont leur gouvernement autonome, tandis que les provinces du nord n'ont aucune autonomie.

La langue basque ou l'euskera est la langue des basques parlée conjointement avec le français en Pays Basque nord, et avec l'espagnol en Pays Basque sud. Dans la Communauté Autonome Basque l'euskera et l'espagnol sont des langues co-officielles. En Navarre la Loi marque trois degrés d'officialité pour l'euskera d'après les trois zones linguistiques qu'elle distingue: la zone bascophone, la zone hispanophone et la zone mixte. En Pays Basque nord l'euskera n'a pas le statut de langue officielle; la seule langue officielle est le français.

Quant à la compétence linguistique par territoires, d'après l'Enquête sociolinguistique du Pays Basque de 2001, 30% de la population est bilingue à la Communauté Autonome Basque, 10% en Navarre et 25% en Pays Basque nord.

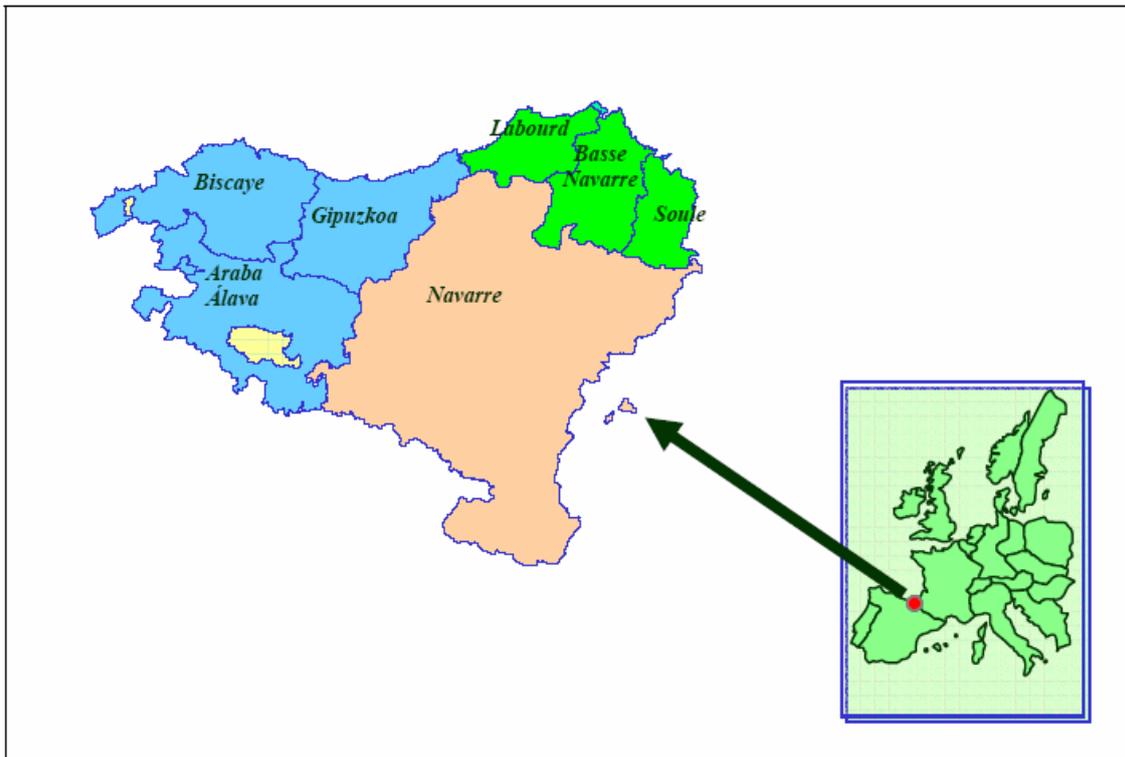


Figure 1. Communauté Autonome Basque, Navarre et Pays Basque nord

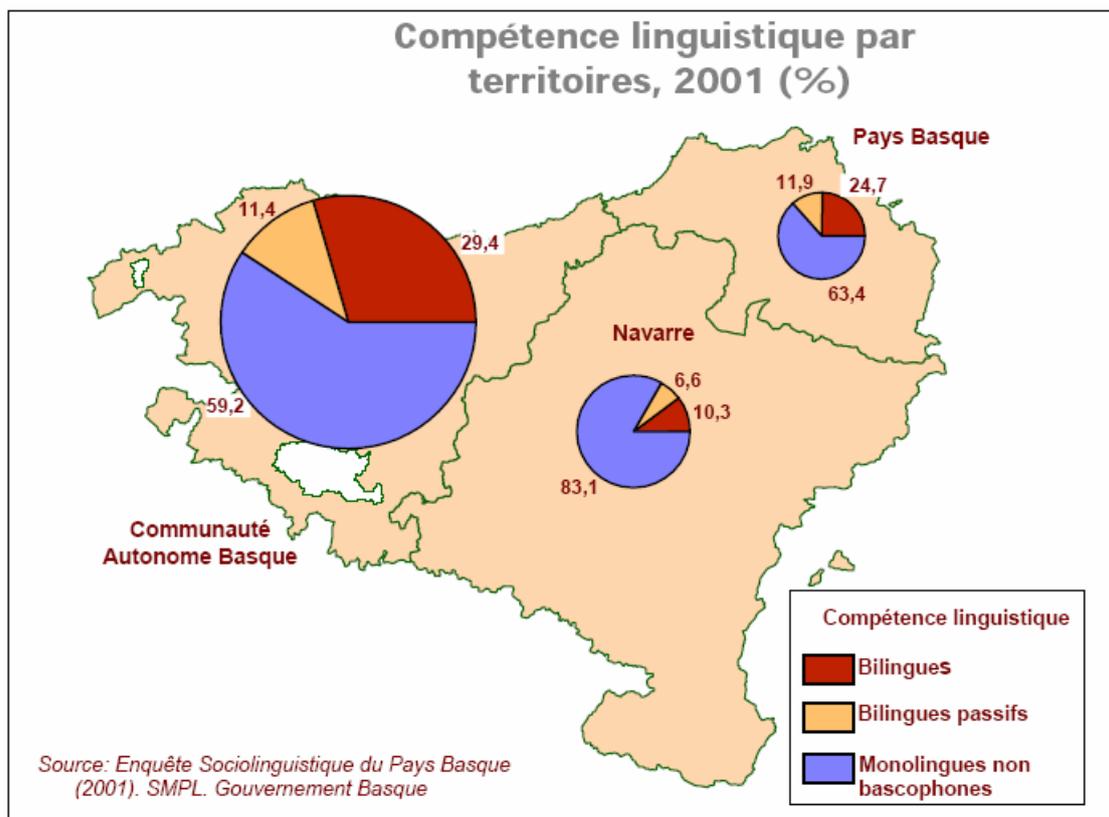


Figure 2. Compétence linguistique par territoires, 2001.

L'enquête analyse un univers à partir de 16 ans. Mais ces données changent de façon considérable si on prend la tranche d'âge entre 5-19 ans où on parle de 61,86% de bilingues à la Communauté Autonome Basque, 46,85% en Álava/Araba, 53,62% en Bizcaye et 82,05 en Gipuzkoa (d'après les données du recensement de population de l'Institut Basque de la Statistique).

## L'AMÉNAGEMENT TERMINOLOGIQUE DE L'EUSKERA

Le Plan Général de Promotion de l'Usage de la Langue basque (1999), élaboré par le Conseil Consultatif de la Langue Basque en 1998 et ratifié par le Conseil du Gouvernement Basque en 1999, fixe la politique linguistique du Gouvernement Basque pour les prochains dix ans. Il établit aussi le besoin de mener à bout la planification du travail terminologique pour l'euskera. Ainsi, le Sous-ministère de la Politique Linguistique du Gouvernement Basque a basé son plan de normalisation de la terminologie basque sur deux axes fondamentaux: la création de la Banque publique basque de Terminologie EUSKALTERM [www.euskadi.net/euskalterm](http://www.euskadi.net/euskalterm), créée sur la base de la banque du même nom élaboré par UZEI en 1987, et la création de la Commission de Terminologie en 2002.

D'autre part, le Sous-ministère de la Politique linguistique a mené à bout la publication de deux œuvres de référence très importantes pour le travail terminologique en langue basque: le dictionnaire de la terminologie (*Terminologiaren hiztegia*, 2003) et le manuel de méthodologie pour le travail terminologique (*Terminologia-lanaren metodologiako eskuliburua*, 2003).



Figure 3. Oeuvres de référence pour le travail terminologique en langue basque

La Commission de Terminologie a été créée par le Décret 179/2002 (Journal Officiel du Pays Basque n° 148 ; dernier Décret 176/2007 de 16 octobre 2007, JOPB n° 204). Les fonctions principales de la Commission sont les suivantes: établir les priorités dans le domaine de la terminologie, proposer les travaux à intégrer dans les plans annuels, fournir les critères à appliquer dans les travaux terminologiques, proposer le terme prioritaire entre plusieurs termes concurrents, donner l'approbation aux travaux terminologiques, proposer des voies pour la diffusion de la terminologie et recommander l'utilisation de la terminologie approuvée.

- Les priorités : la Commission a fixé comme domaines prioritaires l'enseignement (la formation professionnelle et l'Université, ayant compte qu'ils ont continuité dans le monde de l'entreprise), les nouvelles technologies, le paysage linguistique (les affiches des établissements publics, les menus des restaurants...), l'administration publique et le domaine socio-économique.
- Les critères pour le travail terminologique en langue basque: la Commission a établi des critères linguistiques, terminologiques et sociolinguistiques/pragmalinguistiques. De même, elle a fixé les critères concernant le traitement de la néologie : l'acceptation et l'intégration des emprunts et les calques linguistiques, la dérivation et la composition. Pour l'établissement des critères, la Commission a différencié quelques niveaux de la terminologie : la terminologie scientifique et technique, normalement assez internationale; la terminologie basque traditionnelle (la pêche, l'agriculture, l'industrie du fer...), très riche en terminologie mais en train de disparaître dans notre société technologique; la terminologie de la vie quotidienne (nourriture, vêtements, affaires domestiques...) où les emprunts entrent de façon massive); et la terminologie juridique, tout à fait conditionnée par la terminologie de l'espagnol et du français.

Étant donné que dans la pratique terminologique il y a toujours des problèmes qui demeurent sans résoudre, la Commission a décidé d'élaborer *l'Inventaire des problèmes terminologiques*. À mesure que les problèmes sont résolus, les décisions prises s'intègrent dans les documents relatifs aux critères et à la néologie. Comme cela, le processus reste toujours ouvert, actif et vivant.

Finalement, la Commission a créé un modèle de *dossier de normalisation* afin d'approfondir dans l'analyse autour des termes problématiques.

- Prioriser un terme parmi ses concurrents, approuver les travaux terminologiques, recommander l'utilisation de la terminologie approuvée: la Commission a fixé des marques de pondération des termes: *0 Terme rejeté* (non accepté par la CT), *1 Terme utilisé* (n'a pas été étudié par la CT), *2 Terme proposé* (par les experts mais pas encore approuvé par la CT), *3 Terme toléré* (non préféré parce que la CT a recommandé un autre) et *4 Terme normalisé / recommandé* (par la CT).
- La diffusion de la terminologie : le but est de faire arriver la terminologie approuvée aux usagers stratégiques dans chaque domaine. La voie de diffusion la plus importante est EUSKALTERM la Banque de Terminologie Publique Basque. À part cela, d'autres publications sont utilisées pour la diffusion de la terminologie.

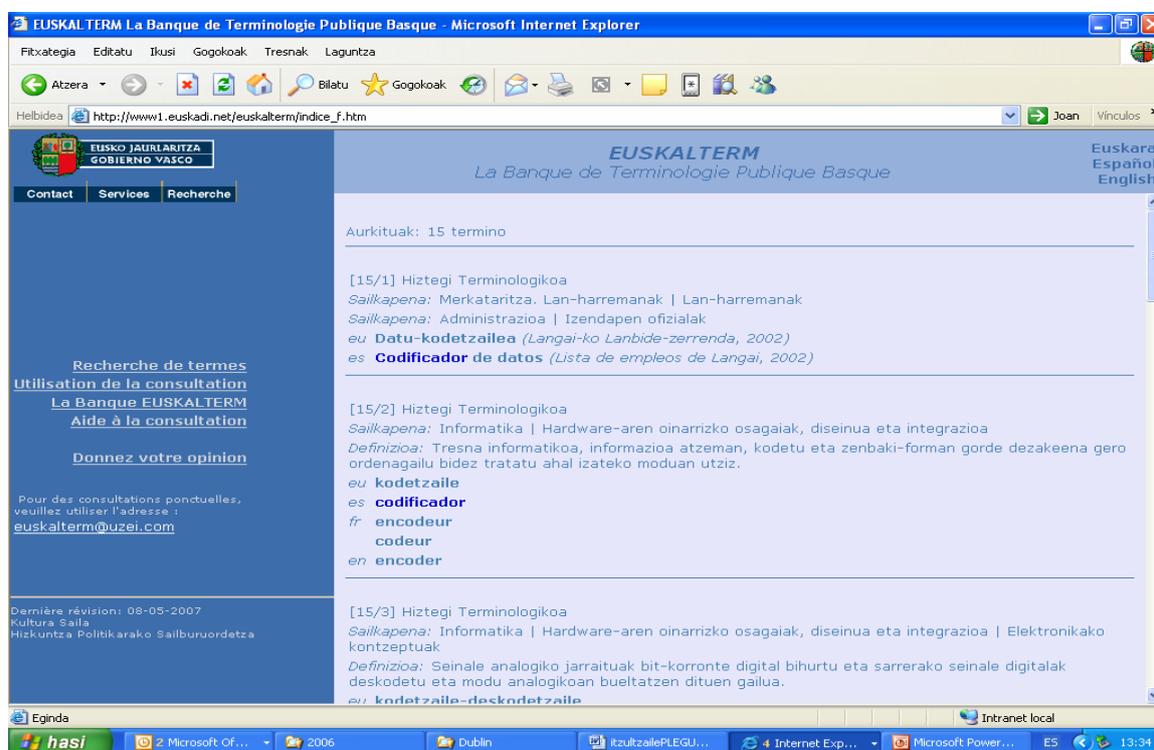


Figure 4. EUSKALTERM la Banque de Terminologie Publique Basque

## PROCÉDURE D'APPROBATION DES TRAVAUX TERMINOLOGIQUES EN LANGUE BASQUE

Le Centre Basque de Terminologie et de Lexicographie UZEI ([www.uzei.com](http://www.uzei.com)) réalise les travaux terminologiques d'actualisation d'EUSKALTERM (selon les priorités établies par la Commission de Terminologie), à travers un contrat signé avec le Sous-ministère de la Politique linguistique du Gouvernement Basque. Ces travaux sont financés par le Sous-ministère de la Politique linguistique et par l'Institut Basque de

l'Administration Publique (IVAP) à travers un accord de collaboration signé à cette fin par les deux institutions.

Le Sous-ministère de la Politique linguistique organise des commissions techniques avec des experts et des linguistes pour chaque domaine de spécialité, pour analyser les dictionnaires réalisés.

Les décisions adoptées par les commissions techniques sont soumises à la Commission de Terminologie.

Après l'approbation par la Commission de Terminologie, les dictionnaires sont intégrés en EUSKALTERM avec les marques de pondération des termes et sont publiés en autres formats (papier, DVD...).

Le dernier pas sera l'analyse et l'évaluation du niveau d'implantation des termes recommandés. Ce travail devra être réalisé dans un futur prochain, c'est-à-dire quelque temps après l'approbation et la recommandation d'utilisation des termes de la part de la Commission de Terminologie et de leur diffusion.

La Commission de Terminologie est aussi l'organe de coordination de la terminologie basque. Donc, des dictionnaires réalisés par entités autres qu'UZEI, sont aussi intégrés dans la Banque de Terminologie Publique Basque EUSKALTERM. Dans ce cas-là, la fiche contient toujours le nom l'entité qui a produit la fiche.

À fin de rendre plus efficace la diffusion et la recommandation de la terminologie approuvée par la Commission, le Sous-ministère de la Politique linguistique a changé l'interface et les fonctionnalités d'EUSKALTERM la Banque de Terminologie Publique Basque et cette nouvelle version va bientôt substituer la version actuelle:

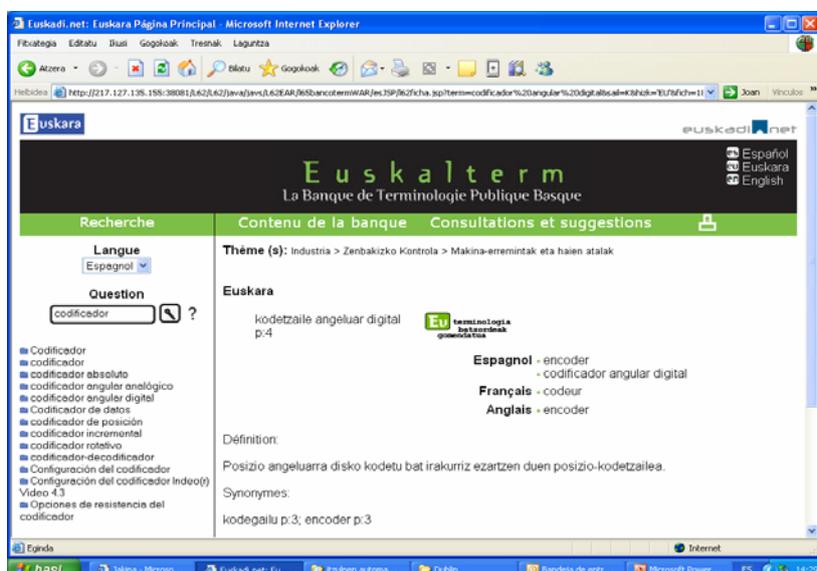


Figure 5. Nouvelle interface d'EUSKALTERM la Banque de Terminologie Publique Basque

Entre les nouvelles fonctionnalités se trouve la possibilité pour les usagers d'envoyer des commentaires, des suggestions, des consultations:

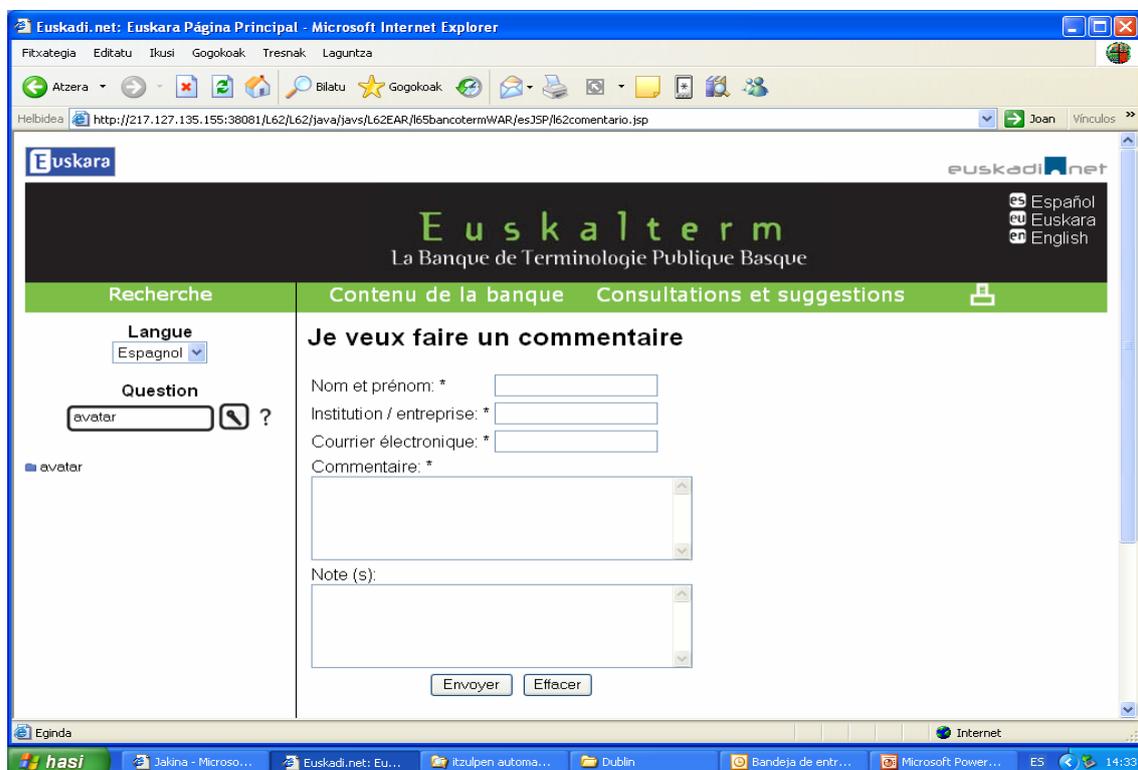


Figure 6. Nouvelle interface d'EUSKALTERM la Banque de Terminologie Publique Basque

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# Le Travail Terminologique en Langue Basque

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**UZEI a créé la banque terminologique publique basque et assure son actualisation. Pour effectuer un travail terminologique, de plus en plus basé sur des corpus textuels, UZEI développe des technologies de traitement de langage naturel (comme le lemmatisateur de termes). Au cours de cette présentation, nous développerons des aspects de cette méthodologie. En guise de conclusion, nous présenterons le projet de recherche TEIS, Système d'Information de l'Implantation Terminologique, dans le domaine de la terminométrie.**

## PRESENTATION D'UZEI

UZEI naît en 1978, comme association culturelle à but non lucratif, répondant aux besoins terminologiques de la nouvelle Université du Pays Basque.

UZEI s'établit en 1986 en tant que Centre de Terminologie. En 1989, UZEI est déclaré d'intérêt public, en raison de son apport aux intérêts de la Communauté Autonome Basque. Finalement, en 2001, Euskalterm devient la Banque Terminologique Publique Basque.

Depuis 2004, UZEI est un agent membre du Réseau Basque de Science, Technologie et Innovation, et développe un travail de recherche, dans le domaine des Technologies de la Langue.

Depuis 2001, UZEI actualise la Banque Euskalterm, pour le Ministère de la Culture du Gouvernement Basque.

## L'ACTUALISATION D' EUSKALTERM (BANQUE TERMINOLOGIQUE PUBLIQUE BASQUE)

L'actualisation comprend principalement deux tâches complémentaires:

### 1. La révision sectorielle de termes:

Nous sélectionnons les domaines dont l'origine terminologique correspond à des dictionnaires publiés depuis longtemps. À titre d'exemple, en 2006, nous avons révisé les domaines du droit civil, pénal, et administratif et en 2007, les domaines des mathématiques, de la psychologie et de l'urbanisme.

## **2. L'élaboration de nouveaux vocabulaires:**

Tous les ans, nous élaborons de nouveaux vocabulaires dans des domaines qui requièrent une terminologie élaborée. Conformément au plan d'action défini par la Commission de Terminologie, et dû à l'incidence de ces activités sur le paysage linguistique et l'utilisation de la langue, nous avons travaillé sur la formation professionnelle, et les domaines reliés à l'activité mercantile.

### **MÉTHODOLOGIE BASÉE SUR LE TRAITEMENT DU LANGAGE NATUREL (TLN)**

UZEI utilise des outils de TLN pour effectuer des révisions de fiches ainsi que pour élaborer de nouveaux dictionnaires. Le travail terminologique sur des corpus textuels prend de plus en plus d'importance, par rapport à d'autres façons traditionnelles de faire de la terminologie.

Deux aspects de cette activité sont à souligner :

- a) La révision de la terminologie utilisée dans les documents: nous utilisons le dictionnaire terminologique et le lemmatiseur de termes (tLEMA) élaboré par UZEI, pour analyser le contenu des documents, afin de découvrir les termes normalisés, ainsi que les "termes à éviter".
- b) L'extraction de la nouvelle terminologie: en utilisant les sorties (outputs) du lemmatiseur, nous employons des techniques statistiques pour découvrir des multitermes qui respectent des patrons morphosyntaxiques déterminés. Les résultats constituent un matériel complémentaire pour le terminologue.

### **PROJET DE RECHERCHE TEIS**

UZEI développe des projets de recherche dans le domaine de l'implantation de termes: la terminométrie.

Ces études constituent une étape nécessaire dans la gestion de la terminologie (dont la responsabilité repose sur l'Administration Publique Basque) pour l'optimisation des ressources assignées.

Ce projet en cours de développement, dénommé TEIS (Terminoen Ezarpenerako Informazio Sistema, Système d'Information de l'Implantation Terminologique en langue basque), bénéficie de subventions du Ministère de l'Industrie du Gouvernement Basque.

Le système permettra de mesurer l'influence de l'Académie de la Langue Basque et de la Commission Terminologique du Gouvernement Basque, dans l'usage écrit des locuteurs de l'Euskera (langue basque).

TEIS inclut trois modules dont un système de récupération de documents web d'Internet qui inclut :

- la conversion de formats
- l'identification de langue
- le classement par dates
- la catégorisation de documents par domaines thématiques
- un identificateur de termes, par le biais du lemmatiseur (tLEMA) et du dictionnaire terminologique correspondant et finalement, un module statistique.



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# Terminology and Terminography Work in Slovenia

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**The paper deals with some of the milestones and legal acts defining the status of the Slovenian language and terminology that were crucial for the development of the language, its modern usage and terminology following Slovenia's secession from Yugoslavia. Both wider social and domestic circumstances, which influenced how the Slovenian language and terminology were perceived, are presented together with language use and future prospects, while the emphasis of the paper itself rests on a continued work in the field of terminology. The paper also presents in more detail the work of the Terminological Dictionary Section of the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia.**

## INTRODUCTION

Until 1918 Slovenia had been part of the Habsburg Monarchy, then part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia from 1918 to 1941, and was one of the six republics of Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1991. Since 1991 Slovenia has been a sovereign, democratic, law-governed, welfare state with a republican form of government, and a member of NATO and the EU since 2004.

The population of Slovenia is just over 2 million people. Official languages are Slovenian, Italian and Hungarian; the latter two have an official status in areas with concentrated settlements of ethnic Italian or Hungarian minorities. Although the population of Slovenia is relatively small, Slovenians have had a literary language since the 16<sup>th</sup> century already. In 2008 we thus celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Primož Trubar (1508–1586), who was a Slovenian protestant reformer, founder of the Slovenian language and the author of the first Slovenian printed book. As a protestant preacher he wrote the first book in Slovenian – *Catechismus* and *Abecedarium*, which was published in 1550 in Tübingen, Germany. In the following years he authored around 25 more books in Slovenian. Protestantism was based on the principle that everyone had to read the Bible in his or her own mother tongue. Trubar wrote: 'To all Slovenes; grace,

peace, mercy and the true knowledge of God through Jesus Christ I pray.’ 1584 is a year that is very important for Slovenian culture – Primož Trubar translated the Bible into Slovenian and Adam Bohorič published the first grammar of the Slovenian language, which was the first time our language was codified in a grammar book. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Slovenian was also introduced into church-run grammar schools.

Many important events followed in the subsequent centuries: in 1812 and 1817 two sections for the Slovenian language were established at Graz and Ljubljana lyceums respectively, and in 1919 the first Slovenian university was founded in Ljubljana. In 1938 the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (acronym SASA) was founded as a supreme national institution of sciences and arts. The main concern of the academy was the compilation of a Slovenian thesaurus and terminological dictionaries.

One can thus say that the Slovenian language joined the ranks of other privileged languages at those two crucial moments in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; it was the 12<sup>th</sup> language overall that got its own translation of the Bible and is also one of the smallest languages of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with its own translation of ‘the Bible of the modern age’ – the Windows operating system and the programs written for it.

The Slovenian language had an underprivileged status in the former Yugoslavia. Even though it was written in the constitution that Slovenian had an equal status to other languages of Yugoslavia (Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian), this, however, was not the case in practice. Slovenian was the official language in Slovenia except when it came to military, diplomatic, customs and federal institutions where Serbo-Croatian was used instead.

In the present-day democratic Slovenia Slovenian is used in all areas of life and its status is defined by the constitution, where it is written that ‘the official language in Slovenia is Slovenian. In those municipalities where Italian or Hungarian national communities reside, Italian or Hungarian shall also be used as an official language.’ The status of the Slovenian language is also defined in Slovenia’s Development Strategy (where it is written that we have to preserve and develop the Slovenian language), also in the National Program for Culture, the Public Use of Slovenian Language Act adopted in 2004, the Resolution on a National Program for Language Policy (2007–2011) adopted in 2007, and in various other acts. In the National Program for Culture it is written that ‘supporting the Slovenian language must remain the main task of cultural policy’. In the Public Use of Slovenian Language Act it is written that ‘the Republic of Slovenia ensures the status of Slovenian through an active language policy.’ The Resolution on a National Program for Language Policy (2007–2011) – a very important act regarding terminology – foresees the carrying out of synchronic and diachronic

language research, revival and harmonisation of the work of terminological groups, especially in the fields of natural sciences, technical fields, economics, management and the military. The program also stresses the importance of research on translation processes and strategies, hyperlinking, and development and accessibility of terminological databases. The support for Slovenian is also enshrined in the coalition agreement between the governmental parties where it is written that 'the coalition will strengthen the position of Slovenian in public use.'

The status of the Slovenian language following independence and democratisation reveals the following characteristics:

- Slovenian is undoubtedly a national language,
- it is used in areas such as the military, customs and diplomacy, which are very important for the strengthening of national identity,
- Slovenian is used in information and communication technology and in mobile telephony,
- EU accession meant that for the first time in history, Slovenian was being used as one of the official languages of a major international organisation,
- there is an increasing interest in learning Slovenian as a foreign language, etc.

Less positive aspects of the new status of the Slovenian language are:

- lack of a coordinated language policy following independence,
- the misconception that independence automatically and completely settled the Slovenian language issue,
- altered relations: democratisation, the information society, globalisation, European integration processes,
- due to EU Directives, certain legal provisions on the preferential use of Slovenian particularly in official or public spoken environments have been annulled (e.g. free movement of goods and people, science and higher education, etc.)

Important advantages:

- a historically developed feeling of Slovenian as a national symbol with an important cultural value,
- complete development of modern literary Slovenian,
- general recognition of Slovenian as a core element of the Slovenian national identity,
- the constitutionally defined status of Slovenian as the official language of an independent state with a recognized status as one of

- the official languages of the EU,
- the existence of legal and executive regulations on the public use of Slovenian in education (as a language of instruction and curriculum), public services (healthcare, postal services, etc.), the media, and so on,
- a high level and variety of cultural events in Slovenia,
- a network of research, development and educational institutions dedicated to Slovenian,
- the creation of a division for the Slovenian language at the Ministry of Culture, which offers opportunities for institutional harmonisation of various activities concerning language policy.

But there are also disadvantages:

- Slovenia's geopolitical position is very challenging regarding the preservation and undisturbed development of Slovenian;
- demographically speaking, the Slovenian linguistic community is relatively weak (two million people speak this language);
- Slovenian has been eliminated from certain areas of public communication (science, higher education, business and advertising);
- lack of resolution and opposition in asserting the principle of equality regarding official EU languages in practice;
- pressure on Slovenian in exercising the principles of free movement of goods, services, people and capital in the EU;
- lack of Slovenian textbooks in higher education;
- the belief present in higher education that Slovenian as a language of instruction represents a barrier to foreign students and professors, and that it must be replaced by English as a foreign language;
- common use of untranslatable foreign-language proper names (names of institutions, events, works of art, etc.) and the selection of foreign names for Slovenian businesses, bars, and so on.

## SLOVENIAN AND ITS TERMINOLOGY

Despite being a small nation, Slovenians managed to survive due to the love for their language and work done on Slovenian terminology. Within the Habsburg monarchy, Slovenians were equal to other developed nations of the monarchy. For example: in 1853 in Vienna Matej Cigale published *Juridisch-politische Terminologie für die slavischen Sprachen Österreichs* (Legal and Political Terminology for the Slavic Languages of Austria). In 1880 Cigale's *Znanstvena terminologija s posebnim ozirom na srednja učilišča* (Technical Terminology Especially for Secondary School Use) was published in Ljubljana and featured an extensive German-Slovenian and smaller Slovenian-German section. Cigale's *Znanstvena terminologija* is

based on the *Německo-český slovník vědeckého názvosloví pro gymnázia a reálné školy* (German-Czech Dictionary of Science Terminology for Upper and Intermediate Secondary Schools, Prague 1853) and Bogoslav Šulek's *Hrvatsko-njemačko-talijanska terminologija* (Croatian-German-Italian Terminology, Zagreb 1874). A similar work was also published in Hungary.

In 1894 *Nemško-slovenska pravna terminologija* (German-Slovenian Legal Terminology) was published in Vienna. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there began to appear practical dictionaries of technical terms, especially German-Slovenian, covering expression used in postal services, railways, gymnastic societies, crafts, trade, etc. Lexicographical works, for the most part without German equivalents, were published after 1930.

From 1960 onwards there appeared:

- explanatory dictionaries without foreign equivalents in the fields of engineering, meteorology, psychiatry, agriculture, veterinary science, law, medicine, geography,
- and translated (also explanatory) or translating dictionaries in the fields of electrical engineering, pharmacy, theatre, alpinism, linguistics, metrology, metallurgy, geodesics, computer science and welding,
- small multilingual practical pocket dictionaries in the fields of cycling, basketball, alpinism, most often with English equivalents.

Since independence in the 1990s there have appeared:

- translating and translated dictionaries necessary for new social and political circumstances in banking, stock exchange, economics, finance, computer science, business, insurance, law, military,
- explanatory or translating dictionaries in the established fields of knowledge such as automobiles, gemology, library science, military, pharmacy, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, clothing technology, metallurgy, the oil industry,
- explanatory or translating dictionaries for new fields of knowledge such as nuclear engineering, computer science, information technology, the internet, most often translated from English and/or with English equivalents.

The past fifteen years have seen, apart from political transformation, also major changes affecting the language; new terminology (most often in English) is arising because of political openness and globalisation, and many Slovenian scientists are joining (or hope to join) international scientists. Thus the principle of supply and demand also affects language use in sciences.

For the first time in Slovenian history the following question has appeared: should Slovenian terminology continue to be developed, or should it be adapted to globalisation trends through the use of English in science? The response of most people is that Slovenian should have its own proper terminology. The language of instruction at Slovenian universities is and should remain Slovenian, except for foreign language instruction. Minority response (especially among scientists) is that Slovenian science can receive global recognition only through the use of English, yet academic programmes of national significance (in the humanities) should clearly be carried out in Slovenian because they cannot be directly subordinated to the principles of supply and demand.

Unfavourable conditions for the development of Slovenian at present are especially that:

- academic conferences often take place only in English,
- researchers earn more points by publishing in English,
- faculties seldom offer lectures on Slovenian terminology, but regularly on English terminology,
- some academic journals are published only in English.

English is taking hold outside the field of science:

- business is conducted in English in companies under foreign ownership,
- the use of individual English expressions in the media and politics such as *televoting*, *hearing*, *briefing* is widely spread,
- advertisements are made in English or in part in English,
- bars, etc. often use English names.

One of the problems is also money since the state does not allocate enough funds for work on Slovenian terminology.

Positive phenomena are:

- legal EU acts and standards are being translated into Slovenian,
- new dictionaries of technical terms are being compiled,
- certain fields of knowledge are dedicating more attention to Slovenian terminology – computer science, information technology, pharmacy, military, law, etc.,
- many individuals and institutions are continuing their work in the fields of terminology and terminography; the most important of these are the Section for Dictionaries of Technical Terms at the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts,

the Slovenian Institute for Standardization, the Office for European Affairs, the Government Translation Office, faculties, professional organisations, etc.

Among the more significant achievements of the Section for Dictionaries of Technical Terms are:

- every year we publish at least one normative explanatory dictionary of technical terms usually with foreign-language equivalents,
- we have produced the *Slovar.Red 2.1* program for processing dictionary material,
- approximately 200 external associates in various technical fields work on our terminological committees,
- we are training research assistants for terminology work,
- we cooperate with the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, ministries, faculties, societies and professional organisations,
- we participate in academic and professional meetings in Slovenia and abroad,
- we organise terminological conferences,
- we are designing a corpus of technical texts in the *Nova beseda* online corpus,
- we cooperate with people from various professions,
- we respond to questions from the public and carry out other tasks.

Our basic principle that guides our terminology and terminography work is having an organised naming system that is able to transmit its knowledge and also do further research.

Dictionary characteristics of the Section for Dictionaries of Technical Terms:

- they are based on excerpts from Slovenian works and therefore express the spirit and culture of the Slovenian nation,
- the dictionaries are produced by committees with the cooperation of top experts in a given field and linguists,
- at the time of the production the expressions are introduced directly into the applied use in lectures, articles, etc.

The Section for Dictionaries of Technical Terms is currently working on explanatory dictionaries in the following fields: botany, spatial planning, pharmacy, art history, law, legal history, expressions in EU legal acts, apiculture, skiing, military, information technology and computer science, and is also working on a general technical dictionary.

Future tasks involved in Slovenian terminology and terminography are as follows:

- raising awareness of the importance of one's native language,
- ongoing Slovenianisation of foreign expressions,
- producing a publicly accessible electronic corpus of technical texts,
- producing explanatory normative dictionaries,
- producing bilingual and multilingual dictionaries for new fields of knowledge,
- producing manuals for terminology and terminography work,
- publishing lexicographic works in various formats,
- the publication of recommended terminology on the internet facilitates its immediate use,
- training experts for the development of nomenclature and technical texts at all educational levels,
- demanding more financial support from the state for terminological work.

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Marjeta Humar co-authored *the Dictionary of Standard Slovenian* and a number of terminological dictionaries in the fields of law, paper technology, mountaineering, geography, gemology, theatre and others. She is currently in charge of several groups involved in the compilation of dictionaries in the fields of pharmacy, military, law, electronics, electrical engineering, information science, legal EU terms, etc. She also participated in the formation of a computer program intended to handle dictionary materials called *SlovarRed 2.1*. She is also a lexicology editor at an international magazine entitled *Slovenski jezik* (Slovenian Language), which is jointly published by the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language, the member of the executive board of the European Association for Terminology in Brussels and others.

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## **Catalan Terminological Planning: a Model Based on Social Participation**

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**Experience shows that to be successful in any social intervention process one needs a broad knowledge of the reality one wishes to affect and respect for the existing circuits and dynamics of communication and social relations. Planning a language is no exception to that rule; indeed, the fact that one is intending to act on people's use of language makes those elements even more important.**

**In the case of activities in Catalan language planning, the approach adopted has been based on a cooperative model of participation and social involvement, designed to guarantee its sustainable coexistence with the other languages found in Catalonia. Undoubtedly the political, social, demographic and legal framework of the Catalan language community has been decisive in the adoption of this model. Be that as it may, after over twenty years' experience Catalan has shaped a style of its own, with idiosyncratic features but also elements that can be exported to other language communities.**

**As an activity linked to language planning, Catalan terminology plays a full part in this cooperative model we have mentioned, and indeed is probably the field where most work has been done to involve the different sectors of society. We must not forget, in short, that the ultimate goal of terminological work, in the fields of both translation and standardisation or documentation, is to foster communication between specialists and an exchange of scientific and technical knowledge in society.**

**In this paper we propose, through different actions taken by the TERMCAT Terminology Centre, to present some of the strategies used in Catalan terminological planning to involve the different social, territorial and sectorial agents in order to reach terminological proposals for consensus that will contribute to the social use and prestige of the language.**

## **INTRODUCTION: A BRIEF SUMMARY OF CATALAN'S PRESENT SITUATION**

The linguistic territory of the Catalan language is spread over 68,000 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 12,600,000 inhabitants. At present, it is divided into seven regions distributed over four states: Andorra, Spain (with the majority of population and land area), France and Italy.

The use of Catalan known in the territories where it is used as a mother tongue is uneven due to different historical and political circumstances. The total number of people who can speak Catalan is about 7,5 million and roughly 10 million understand it.

Compared with the 23 official languages of the European Union in 2007, Catalan is the eighth most spoken as far as the number of inhabitants is concerned, coming in ahead of Danish, Swedish, Finnish, and Hungarian, among others. Despite the facts, Catalan itself is not included in the EU list of official languages.

### **1. Minority languages**

Evidently Catalan has some minority language characteristics:

- There are no monolingual speakers
- The territories where it is spoken are part of larger states (Spain, France, Italy) where the major language is different.
- Scarce use in some social sectors.

However, Catalan cannot be considered a minority language because of:

- Its legal status as an official language,
- Its demography: it is the eighth most-spoken language in the European Union,
- Its socio-linguistic situation: it has not been abandoned by its speakers,
- Its linguistic range: Catalan is a fully codified, regulated and standardised language, totally accepted by academics and citizens.

According to the European Constitution, Catalan is not an official language of the European Union. The Constitution is available in Catalan only as an official government translation, as it is a co-official language in part of Spain. In December 2004 the Spanish government requested reform of the EU linguistic regulations, so that Catalan could be used in certain EU documents. However this is not yet a reality. Our Irish counterparts, on the

other hand, have already realised their goals in this respect. We have an example here of how Irish people have made a big effort to achieve official status for their language. Meanwhile we'll still waiting for this to happen. We hope to be the next.

Considering that the current multilingual status could be reduced to the exclusive use of official state languages, multilingualism clearly represents a threat to those languages not backed by any state. Nevertheless multilingualism represents an advantage considering that it guarantees the linguistic rights of every speaker of a recognized language. On the other hand, multilingualism permits the presence of Catalan on an international scale with similar conditions to those of other languages. Moreover, Catalan products, resources and terminological methods can be exported. Cooperation with other linguistic establishments like TERMCAT sustains resources and working methods.

## **TERMCAT TERMINOLOGY CENTRE**

The key to making the most of multilingual opportunities is having a terminology that promotes the use of the language in specialized fields, such as industry, science and research. In 1985, the "Centre de Terminologia TERMCAT" was created with this objective in mind. It is the coordination centre for terminological work in the Catalan language.

TERMCAT is a consortium created by the Government of Catalonia, the Institute of Catalan Studies and the Consortium for Linguistic Standardisation.

Its aim is to offer Catalan speakers and users terminological resources in scientific, technical and socioeconomic areas. In this sense, we are a public institution with these goals:

- elaboration and dissemination of terminological resources
- standardization of Catalan neologisms
- terminological advice

## **CATALAN TERMINOLOGICAL PLANNING**

In terms of managing change in its broadest sense, experience shows that to be successful in any social intervention process we need a broad knowledge of the reality we are dealing with. Another important factor is respect for the existing circuits and dynamics of communication and social relations. Planning a language is no exception to that rule; indeed, the fact

that we are intending to act on people's use of language makes those elements even more important.

In the case of activities in Catalan language planning, the approach adopted has been based on a cooperative model of participation and social involvement, designed to guarantee its sustainable coexistence with the other languages found in Catalonia. Undoubtedly the political, social, demographic and legal framework of the Catalan language community has been decisive in the adoption of this model. Be that as it may, after over twenty years' experience Catalan has shaped a style of its own, with idiosyncratic features but also elements that can be exported to other language communities.

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In this paper we propose, through different actions taken by the TERMCAT Terminology Centre, to present some of the strategies used in Catalan terminological planning. They involve the different social, territorial and sectorial agents in order to reach terminological proposals for consensus that will contribute to the social use and prestige of the language.

## **1. Sectorial cooperation**

One of the basic lines of work at TERMCAT is the development of terminologies for all sectors of knowledge and activity. In this area it promotes the drafting of terminological products with the active participation of people and organisms representing each sphere. In this way the terminologies produced will be as suitable as possible from all points of view and enjoy the support and involvement of their real users, experts and technicians from the different sectors.

One example of this work of integration is the recently published Dictionary of Psychiatry. It was produced by TERMCAT and a team of doctors from the Catalan Psychiatry and Mental Health Society (a branch of the Catalonia and Balearic Islands Academy of Medical Sciences and Health). The dictionary, which was presented last April to the leading Catalan hospitals (the Hospital de la Santa Creu i de Sant Pau), has been published

by the Elsevier-Masson house, one of the most renowned in the field of biomedical sciences. The project has also had institutional support through the Catalan Government Health Department and the sponsorship of a private company, Laboratoris Almirall.

As we can see, all the social agents directly involved have worked on the production of this terminology: the psychiatrists and their academic organisation; a hospital centre as representative of the fundamental environment in which this professional activity takes place; the publishing house which is closest to doctors and has the greatest prestige among them; the public administration as an instrument that regulates medical and health activity in the country; and the private sector, through the participation of a pharmaceutical company. The aim of this was to guarantee the quality of the work, its prestige and, most of all, the use by society of the terminology it proposes.

## **2. Territorial cooperation**

This model of cooperation TERMCAT wishes to promote is not just a matter of involving the different sectors of society; it also tries to strike a territorial balance in the research work in terms of the representation of geographical variations.

Along those lines, one initiative is the translation into Catalan of **ICD-9-MC: International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification**. In this case, TERMCAT has been commissioned by the Catalan Government Health Department to produce the Catalan version of this new edition. In this project geographical representation did not come from selection of the nomenclature, but from the fact that it was carried out in association with a group of specialised translators in the medical field from Jaume I University in Valencia. Although the Catalan terminology will have a single standard version, the copious indexes of the work have allowed for the inclusion of geographical varieties in cases where there are alternatives according to the territories, provided that they are endorsed by a sufficiently extensive use.

## **3. Social cooperation**

Another aspect of TERMCAT's wish for involvement in the society it works in is cooperation with important groups of users, such as the media language services. In this case, although they are not the end users of the terminology, these professionals play a crucial role in transmitting standardised proposals and spreading them widely within social usage.

The **Terminology antenna** project is the best example of this kind of cooperation. The antenna is a permanent space for communication with the media in Catalan, in the shape of a distribution list supervised by TERMCAT. The aim of the initiative is to provide the media with constant information about terminological novelties that may be of interest to them and to reach consensus in cases which are more difficult to resolve. Likewise, the **Terminology antenna** is used by the media to notify TERMCAT of any terminological needs they detect and their assessment of the possibilities of implanting the new terms proposed.

#### **4. Cooperation with research**

Another side of terminological work as conceived at TERMCAT is the necessary overlap with the theoretical research done in the universities. Here it has promoted cooperation on different levels with the Catalan and Spanish universities through participation in academic and training events, receiving students on work experience and, more recently, the promotion of research projects on aspects related to terminological activity.

In this area TERMCAT has promoted two lines of cooperation with specialists from two universities, Pompeu Fabra University and Barcelona University, to launch studies of the implantation of standardised terms. This is a field where there are no methodologies or theories accepted by the scientific community that allow us to rigorously assess the social use of terms. For that reason TERMCAT, with the universities mentioned, has promoted some initial research that can come up with methodological ideas for approaching these questions scientifically.

Specifically, in the framework of the cooperation established with Pompeu Fabra University, a project has been submitted for the development of a computer tool that could contribute to the automation of data extraction for studies of this kind. According to the agreement with Barcelona University, three pilot studies have been drafted based on a qualitative and observational methodology with the aim of making some initial assessments of the degree of implantation of Catalan terminology into certain sports (climbing, roller hockey and potholing).

Moreover, TERMCAT has signed an agreement with the Open University of Catalonia to increase and improve the computer applications of both institutions for automatic language processing, both for translation and publishing tools and for terminological management.

In that way TERMCAT hopes to contribute to the necessary feedback between the university and the professional world, so that both can benefit from the progress made and the knowledge generated in each sector.

## **5. Multilingual cooperation**

So far we have looked at different aspects of the networking TERMCAT promotes within the linguistic sphere of the Catalan language. In the globalised and multilingual world we live in, however, it is essential to open up to cooperation with other languages. Here TERMCAT is promoting a number of lines of cooperation for international terminological integration.

First we should mention the permanent association with AENOR, representative of ISO in Spain, to prepare the official Catalan version of the UNE-ISO standards with terminological contents, according to an agreement signed in January 2005.

Moreover, since it was created, TERMCAT has taken a proactive attitude of direct involvement in the different international terminological cooperation networks. And so it is a member of the different terminology associations working in Spain and the sphere of Latin languages in general, as well as in Europe and the rest of the world, and currently is a member of the Board of the European Association for Terminology.

As a specific example of that international cooperation, we should mention the cession of the Olympic terminology done by TERMCAT at the request of different organising committees:

- Atlanta: Olympic Games 1996
- Sydney: Olympic Games 2000
- Seoul: World Football Cup 2002
- Turin: Winter Olympic Games 2006

In addition to this, we should mention that on the occasion of the Barcelona Olympic Games 1992 TERMCAT produced a set of terminologies related to all Olympic Sport specialities in Catalan, Spanish, French and English.

Here we should say that less than a month ago TERMCAT received a request from the China National Committee for Terms in Sciences and Technologies (CNCTST) for the cession of the Olympic terminology for the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

## CONCLUSION

To sum up terminology is an important point of social confluence: specialists, technicians, linguists, terminologists, translators, journalists, teachers, documentalists, communicators... We cannot approach a quality terminological task without the involvement and cooperation of all the people and organisms affected by that terminology. Otherwise the results will not have the necessary social support or legitimacy for successful use.

We at TERMCAT are working with this philosophy in the conviction that the best ideas are the ones the users really make their own. Because, in the end, this is the ultimate goal entrusted to us: to provide users with specialised communications in order to contribute to the continuous progress of Catalan as a fully suitable language for science and technology in the 21st century.



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# Terminology Policies in Wales

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**Terminology standardization was introduced to Wales in the early 1990s. Due to the increased use of Welsh in public and official settings, terminology policies to aid the development of standardized terms for Welsh became a priority. Guidelines were established, based on the ISO family of terminology standards, and were followed for database structure and project management as well as for the formation of terms. Further needs have been identified, including training in the use of standardized terminology, simultaneous standardization in both national languages, and further research into socioterminology and the use of appropriate language registers for the target audience.**

## BACKGROUND

In 1993 the School of Education at the University of Wales, Bangor (later renamed Bangor University) won a tender from the School Curriculum Authority to standardize Welsh terms for use in the education of children aged between 5 and 16 through the medium of Welsh. This led to the establishment of the Centre for the Standardization of Welsh Terminology at the University, which now forms part of the Language Technologies Unit (LTU) at Canolfan Bedwyr. A crucial part of the original specifications for this project was that objective criteria for the standardization of Welsh terminology be developed. During this exercise, the relevant ISO terminology standards were first introduced in a Welsh context, and became the basis of the new Welsh standardization criteria. The terms were guaranteed for use in all external school examination papers in Wales for five years, as well as any course materials commissioned by the curriculum authority itself, thus giving the standardized terms great authority in school education in Wales.

The fruit of this first standardization exercise was published in 1998 as a comprehensive bilingual (English>Welsh and Welsh>English) terminology dictionary for the schools of Wales<sup>[1]</sup>. In 2006 a revised and enlarged edition was published, with terminology for education in all mainstream curriculum subjects up to A level standard (for students up to the age of 18 or 19) now included<sup>[2]</sup>. Due to the usefulness and popularity of the dictionary outside

school circles, the 'School' label was dropped from the enlarged edition.

Another critical development in 1993 was the passing of the Welsh Language Act. This made it statutory for the first time for the public sector in Wales to treat Welsh and English on an equal basis, when providing services to the public in Wales. A number of these public organizations recognized the importance of standardizing their Welsh terminology in order to provide services in Welsh, and there followed numerous commissions to Bangor University. To date, the Terminology Centre at the LTU has produced over twenty dictionaries of standardized terminology in different subject areas, working in partnership with public bodies, which usually provided their own subject specialists to the projects. These included bodies in the environment sector, social services, and higher education<sup>[3]</sup>. One of the most active bodies was the North Wales Health Authority (later to become the Local Health Boards for North Wales), which established its own terminology committee, comprising the terminologists from the LTU together with experts drawn from the various health professions. This committee has so far guided the publication of four terminology dictionaries, and has proved to be a good model of consensus-based terminology development in its field.

The passing of the 1993 Welsh Language Act also saw the establishment of the Welsh Language Board to oversee the delivery of the services promised in it. In 1998 the Board commissioned Guidelines for Welsh terminology, based on the international ISO standards. It commissioned further work in 2007 to revise and update the standards, in view of the rapid advances in terminology technology and the field in general<sup>[4]</sup>. One other crucial factor for the development of Welsh terminology policy at this time was the establishment of the National Assembly of Wales in 1998, and the new law making powers given to it in 2006. This devolved government for Wales operated as a bilingual institution from its inception, and a dedicated translation service was formed to aid communication in both Welsh and English. Terminology management and standardization were seen as key issues for the translation service. The service extracts its terminology from its translation memory software, and publishes it interactively on-line as the *TermCymru* terminology termbank<sup>[5]</sup>. The service urges caution in the use of some of its terms, since they have not all been standardized, but are awarded a status of 1-5 according to their location in the standardization process. This is however an extremely valuable service, giving instant access to the terms used by the Welsh Assembly's in-house translators, not only to the free-lance translators of whom they make extensive use, but also to translators and other terminology users throughout Wales.

Meanwhile, the Welsh Language Board has engaged further with terminology activities in its role of corpus planning for Welsh. In 2005 it published a strategic document outlining its plans for the maintenance and revitalization of the Welsh language for the next few years<sup>[6]</sup>. One of the document themes was Information Technology and Corpus Planning for Welsh. Corpus planning includes the standardization of terms, and the provision of linguistic resources to facilitate bilingualism and new opportunities to use the Welsh language. Amongst the objectives named in the document was the establishment of a national database of standardized terms in 2005. The LTU at Bangor University were once again commissioned with this undertaking, and the *National Database of Welsh Terminology* was duly published on-line<sup>[7]</sup>. It is, in reality, a collection of terminology databases, some of them previously commissioned by the Welsh Language Board, with new terminology and other word-lists being added to it as time goes on. One of its novel features is that, in addition to enabling on-line searches, its various vocabularies are downloadable from the web and may be incorporated into translation memory environments such as the termbase tools in Trados Multiterm, Déjà Vu and Wordfast<sup>[8]</sup>.

The Welsh Language Board also established its own Terminology Standardization and Translation Unit, employing two persons, as part of its corpus planning activities. It also set up a Terminology Standardization Panel, composed of linguists, lexicographers and representatives of the translation industry, to revise Welsh terms and decide on the standard forms to be used. This Unit now undertakes its own terminology standardization projects, and its Panel advises the Welsh Assembly's translation service on its choice of terms. Terms approved by the WLB panel are given status 2 in the TermCymru termbank, and this is elevated to status 1 if they have been endorsed and accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government Translation Service<sup>[9]</sup>.

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES**

Two factors account for the vitality and success of terminology activities in Wales during this period. One is the fact that the terminology commissions were customer-led initiatives, with the commissioning body actively involved in the development of the terminology dictionaries. Thus they were keen to ensure that their own organisations would use the standardized terms, but also by supplying their own subject specialists, they themselves came to understand better what is involved in concept-based terminology work and were informally trained in its principles. It is worth noting that these subject specialists were not always Welsh-speakers themselves. Questions on technical concepts and their definitions could be

answered by English speakers proficient in that technical area, and engaging them in the terminology dialogue had a positive impact on their professional work, and on their understanding of issues of bilingualism in Wales.

The other important factor was the fact that the ISO terminology standards were followed from 1993 onwards, with the guidelines initially formulated for the School Curriculum Authority being adopted and further developed for other terminology projects. The Terminology Centre (later the LTU) at Bangor University became a de facto national centre for the standardization of Welsh terminology, and was able to ensure consistency and quality across both form and content of the terminology databases developed by the different public bodies. A few other terminology dictionaries were published by other agencies, mostly based on traditional lexicography principles, but their isolation meant that they were unable to take full advantage of advances in the science of terminology for either content or structure. The issue of following ISO standards not just for the content of terminology databases but also for their format and the use of electronic dissemination channels is a particularly important one. Adhering to ISO standards future proofs work done in one project so that it may be archived, recycled and further developed in another. This is especially true as computer applications and the world-wide web made significant advances during the 1990s and 2000s. Holding terminology data in a well-formed terminology database enabled what were initially paper-based dictionaries such as *Y Termiadur* to be published also as a CD Rom, as an interactive on-line dictionary, and more recently as a downloadable dictionary for mobile phones. Availability and ease of access to terminology dictionaries is at least as important as authoritative directives on their use, as, given the choice, users will utilize the resources nearest to hand.

A 'bottom up' demand-led approach has proved effective, because it has enabled a wide spectrum of stake-holders to take part in terminology projects. Public servants in charge of their organisation's language policy, subject specialists, professional terminologists, translators, bilingual administrators, and educators have all had a part in formulating Welsh terms, and therefore feel ownership for those terms, and an interest in using them. This has also proved a cost-effective method of sustaining the work, each public body being responsible for funding its own commissions. Electronic methods of dissemination have kept costs down, as has cooperation between different agencies. Often, where a small terminology project has proved its worth, additional funding may be forthcoming from another source. For example, *Geiriadur Termau Rheoli Coetiroedd /*

*Dictionary of Terms for Woodland Management*<sup>[10]</sup> and *Geiriadur Termiau Seicoleg / Dictionary of Terms for Psychology*<sup>[11]</sup> were both initially internal projects at Bangor University, funded from monies dedicated to the development of Welsh-medium education at the institution. However, once the projects were sufficiently advanced and draft copies of the dictionaries available for inspection, external sponsors were found to fund the printing of paper versions of these dictionaries. In this way, the Welsh branch of Forestry Commission of Great Britain funded the publication of the Woodland Management terminology dictionary, and the Welsh branch of the British Psychological Association funded the publication of the Psychology terminology dictionary. Attractive launch events to celebrate the success of terminology projects have also proved successful in providing opportunities for terminology stakeholders to network with each other. This has enabled the dissemination of good practice and helped public bodies to learn from each other so that they develop similar terminology policies and commission terminology projects in similar ways.

The role of the Welsh Language Board's terminology standardization unit and panel has proved somewhat less successful. Although the Board has published many valuable strategic documents in the field of language policy and guidelines, the terminology panel itself sees its role as the final authority for standardized Welsh terms, taking a 'top down' approach on terminology matters. It therefore makes its own decisions on standardized forms, and advises the translation service of the Welsh Assembly Government, without regard to standardization decisions taken by other authorities. The principle of transparency of concept (expressed as "where possible, something of the meaning of the concept should be inferred from the term that represents it, without the need for a definition, in ISO 704E 2000) seems to have caused it particular difficulty. Despite the considered opinion of subject specialists on such terms as 'retail' (defined as selling directly to the consumer) and 'primary care' (defined as the first point of contact for patients in the Welsh health care system), it has chosen to promote terms rejected by previous standardizers. Thus, *TermCymru* offers 'manwerthu' for 'retail', which subject specialists had labelled as deprecated in previous projects because it conveys the inaccurate concept of 'selling of small items'. The standardized term in *Y Termiadur Ysgol*, revised and reaffirmed in *Y Termiadur*, is 'adwerthu' ('selling on') which had been deemed to be more conceptually accurate. *TermCymru* offers 'gofal sylfaenol' for 'primary care', although this term had again been labelled as a deprecated term in several health terminology projects because it conveys the inaccurate concept of 'basic care'. The standardized term considered to be conceptually accurate by the health subject specialists is 'gofal cychwynol' ('initial care').

Another term which was the focus of some controversy was the choice of 'mangre' as the Welsh equivalent of the English term 'premises' in a legal context. This featured in highly visible notices prohibiting smoking in public places when the no-smoking ban came into force in Wales on April 2, 2007. The term 'mangre' is an old Welsh word, but had never before been used as the conceptual equivalent of 'premises', its usual meaning being that of 'place, spot, location, site, dwelling place, locality, district, region'<sup>[12]</sup>. According to the *Daily Post*, the newspaper serving most of north Wales, "several North Wales authorities complained at the use of the word **mangre** as the Welsh equivalent for premises"<sup>[13]</sup>, while the *Western Mail*, the newspaper read mainly in south Wales reported that "An obscure word being used on the new no-smoking signs to be rolled out across Wales next year has been branded 'confusing and old fashioned' by Welsh speakers"<sup>[14]</sup>. Following this, the initial decision to use the term 'mangre' was confirmed by the Welsh Assembly Government, with the official explanation that the term was needed to encompass all the range of locations that needed to be covered, and the unofficial argument that the public needed to be educated in the use of good old Welsh words.

This attempt to impose terms on the public departs from the previous consensus-based approach to the standardization of terms in Wales. These difficulties may have arisen in part because Welsh Language Board terminology panel members are drawn exclusively from a linguistic, lexicographical and translation background, and does not therefore follow the ISO recommendation that standardization work should be undertaken by subject specialists, aided, if possible by an experienced terminologist (see ISO 15188:2001(E) 4.3.2). There are two specific problems with using linguists as terminology standardizers. The first is the difference in culture between traditional linguistic (including lexicography) research, which places its central emphasis on words, their different forms, behaviours and meanings, and the modern science of terminology, with its central emphasis on concepts, their definition and role as carriers of knowledge. The emphasis on the centrality of the concept highlights the need to engage with subject specialists and give them a central role in any standardization project. The second problem concerns attitudes towards linguistic purity and the role of linguists and lexicographers as educators and keepers of a linguistic standard. In this case they take it upon themselves to prescribe to the public what is acceptable and unacceptable use of language, even when public opinion takes a different view of the issues. This tension is not of course confined to Wales, but is unfortunate in the Welsh context, following as it does from a decade of consensus-based growth in the development of Welsh terminology.

## DISSEMINATION OF AUTHORITATIVE TERMINOLOGY

When discussing the quality of the terminology in question, the importance of dissemination methods and its accessibility should not be underestimated. Multiple methods of dissemination are therefore preferable, in order to achieve wide coverage. *Y Termiadur*, for example, is available in four different formats, as a traditional paper dictionary, as an attached CD ROM (this had previously been available separately), as a free interactive on-line dictionary, and as a free downloadable dictionary for mobile phones<sup>[15]</sup>. Almost all the standardized terminology dictionaries produced at the LTU at Bangor University are available in electronic format, as well as in traditional paper form, following the requirement laid down in the original School Curriculum project that the terminology data be held in a standard electronic database format. The technological advances of the last decade and a half, with the growth of computing, the internet and the world-wide web came at an opportune moment for Welsh terminology, and there is no doubt that electronic and web-based means have greatly helped the dissemination of terminology, cutting down on costs, and production time, and reaching the target users effectively. Anecdotal evidence suggests that far from damaging sales of traditional paper-based dictionaries, the availability of a terminology dictionary in multiple formats increases its popularity. A teacher for example might favour a CD ROM copy of *Y Termiadur* on her laptop when on the move, but might welcome the on-line version when she has access to the web. She might also still carry a paper copy in her briefcase, and might encourage her pupils to download the mobile phone version to their phones, given their enthusiasm for this medium. Translators in particular appreciate having access to current terminology, and on-line terminology dictionaries, such as *Y Termiadur*, the *National Database of Welsh Terminology*, and *TermCymru*, easily accessible from their workstation, are important resources for them.

Apart from terminology dictionaries and databases, users of technical terminology also need opportunities to share information on terms, discuss needs and requirements, and access training and help. In 1998 the Terminology Centre at Bangor University established *welsh-termau-cymraeg*, an e-mail discussion list for academics, translators and other professionals interested in Welsh terminology<sup>[16]</sup>. This has developed into a lively forum for debate, with over 230 members posting questions and replies to the list daily. The questions are usually in the nature of "what is the Welsh term for..." with other members providing replies, often from their experience of having used the Welsh term themselves, or having had to coin a neologism. As the members include translators from many of the public agencies in

Wales that operate bilingual policies, the answers are well-informed and helpful, and the list is often the first port of call for translators when faced with a terminological problem. The list is free and easy to use, and old discussions are archived for future reference. The list has been also been used as an informal medium of terminology training for its users. Participants have been taught to define the term under discussion, or to provide its context or some other means of identifying the concept, and to present clear arguments for or against a particular term. In this way, the understanding of terminology issues has been improved for an influential group of key players in the field. The discussion list is hosted by Jiscmail, a free service for discussion lists hosted by academic institutions in the UK<sup>[17]</sup>, and is an excellent example of how effective solutions for terminological needs do not have to be onerous or expensive to run.

## FURTHER NEEDS

As terminology science matures as a discipline in Wales, and immediate terminology needs are met, further issues are identified as requiring attention. Firstly, terminology training needs to be rationalized and improved, both for users and developers of terminology. Individual seminars and workshops on terminology have been organized for many years, mostly geared towards translators, and form part of the training programme of Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru (the Association of Welsh Translators)<sup>[18]</sup>, and terminology issues are studied part of the new Masters programme in Translation Studies at Bangor University. More attention needs to be paid to how terminologists, terminographers and others involved in the standardization process are trained, both in order to make best use of limited resources and to take advantage of international best practice in the field.

Another issue which has received scant attention in the past is the need to standardize terms simultaneously for both English and Welsh in Wales. Until now, the focus has been on the terminology needs of the Welsh language, which were urgent with the re-emergence of Welsh in the public and legal domains in Wales in recent decades. However, now that those needs are being addressed, it is noticeable that no comparable system for standardizing the English language equivalents exists in Wales. Sometimes it has been possible to take advantage of international standardization projects, where English was already included, for example the European Thesaurus for Health Promotion<sup>[19]</sup>, and the Silvaterm database of IUFRO, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations<sup>[20]</sup>. Disability Wales is so far unique in having commissioned a project to develop politically correct terms in the field of disability in both English and Welsh for use in Wales<sup>[21]</sup>, and this is a model that could be developed for other areas. As the

Welsh Assembly Government is given new legislative powers, and new Welsh institutions give rise to new, unique Welsh concepts, in both national languages, the need to address the terminology needs of both languages comes to the fore. This would ultimately save money and effort, and the law and the environment are two areas which would benefit immediately from a coordination of efforts.

Lastly, there is a need for further research to explore the relationship between technical terminology and other language registers. The emphasis on technical terminology and the success of the technical terminology dictionaries has led to an overemphasis on the more formal, technical register in the language. This has been condemned by some as 'jargon' and while the technical register is of course valid, and has an important place in any attempts at corpus planning, there is also a need for clear, simple communication in more colloquial and informal registers in other settings. One area where this is evident is that of medicine, where the medical profession needs standardized terminology for clarity of communication amongst professionals, but where there is a contrasting need to communicate with lay people in a language register that they understand and feel comfortable with. An attempt to bridge this divide was made in some of the bilingual Welsh/English health terminology dictionaries, where informal alternatives were sometimes introduced in Welsh, to help nurses and others who had to communicate with both doctors and patients. This problem is not a uniquely Welsh one, and is a dilemma for many language communities. The emergent study of socioterminology is beginning to address this at an international level, and studies on the appropriate use of technical terminology, with methodologies to explore other registers, their documentation and use would add greatly to the development of the science of terminology in Wales.

## **CONCLUSION**

Much has been achieved in the field of terminology in Wales since the early 1990s. To a certain extent, this was a small part of the wider resurgence of the Welsh language, the census of 2001 showing for the first time a reversal in the century long decline of the number of Welsh speakers in Wales<sup>[22]</sup>. There have been many happy coincidences along the way, such as the increased use of electronic media and the growth of the internet, at the exact time that terminology work in Wales could take full advantage of them. The establishment of the National Assembly for Wales in 1998 also ushered in an unprecedented expansion of government translation requirements just as the first flush of terminology standardization activities were reaching their climax. However, many of the positive outcomes of this

period can be traced back to a few good decisions taken in the early days. Foremost amongst these was the use of the international ISO standards as the basis for developing Welsh guidelines. The 'bottom up' approach to standardization and the involvement of all stakeholders in the process have also proved effective where these methods have been applied.

Other challenges still remain, not least preserving the consensus-based approach to terminology development within Wales. With the enlargement of the European Union, there has been an increased understanding of the role of well-formed terminologies in assisting multilingual communication. Welsh however is still outside the magic circle of official languages in the European Union. This has a negative impact both on its perceived status, or rather, lack of status, in Europe, and also in terms of the allocation of necessary resources for corpus development. Wales does however see itself as part of the international community, and having benefited from the use of international terminology standards, wishes to play its part fully in the promotion and development of international standards, and cooperation between terminologists from different countries and different linguistic background.

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Delyth Prys worked as a lexicographer and freelance translator before being appointed as chief editor of the Centre for the Standardization of Welsh Terminology at the then University of Wales in 1993. In 2001 when the Centre became part of Canolfan Bedwyr at the University, she became team leader of the newly-formed Language Technologies Unit there. She leads a multidisciplinary team of eight where terminologists, software engineers and speech technologists work together in a closely integrated manner. She has edited over twenty terminology dictionaries and lectures widely in Europe and North America. She is a member of the BSI TS/001 Terminology and ISO/ TC 37 (Terminology and Other Language Resources) Committees. Her particular area of interest is on developing language tools for Welsh and other less-resourced languages, especially reusing lexical and terminological components to be used in different electronic environments.

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**MINORITY LANGUAGES, TERMINOLOGY  
AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES**



# Introduction - "Langues Minoritaires, Terminologie et Perspectives"

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Nous commençons donc la troisième - et dernière - session de ce séminaire ; mais cela ne veut pas dire qu'il s'agit forcément d'une clôture ; cette session peut aussi être considérée comme une ouverture:

- D'abord parce que nous allons essayer d'élargir le champ de cette réunion en observant ce qui se passe en dehors des pays européens : comme vous le savez déjà, la session est consacrée aux langues minoritaires autres qu'européennes.
- Ensuite, parce que ce que je viens de dire me permet d'enchaîner sur le prochain Sommet de terminologie qui ne se tiendra pas en Europe : le IV Sommet se déroulera au Canada, où notre Association a été invitée par les collègues canadiens du Bureau de la traduction qui vont organiser un mois entier de colloques, de séminaires et de discussions autour de la terminologie. Ceci nous permettra de développer davantage nos relations au niveau international et surtout de pratiquer des échanges – qu'on espère fructueux – avec des gens venant de pays différents pour assister à cette série d'événements terminologiques.

En ce moment, le développement de politiques terminologiques concernant les langues minoritaires occupe une place importante aussi bien dans la recherche que dans les différents domaines de l'industrie. On peut même soutenir que la terminologie est en train de devenir un élément indispensable de toute politique linguistique.

Cette évolution, qui est d'ailleurs toujours en cours, est liée au fait que le plurilinguisme est une situation pratiquement universelle ; en réalité c'est le monolinguisme, situation idéalisée lors de la création des États nationaux en Europe, qui fait exception – tandis que la coexistence de plusieurs

langues sur un même territoire est plutôt la règle dans la plus grande partie des pays du monde.

Bien entendu, la façon dont les différentes situations peuvent se présenter est loin d'être uniforme – c'est pourquoi d'ailleurs il n'existe pas de solution miracle qui servirait de guide à chaque fois qu'on doit traiter un cas particulier.

Autrement dit, au niveau régional et même au niveau national - on a vu des exemples ce matin - la formulation et l'application d'une politique terminologique dépend de toute une série de facteurs culturels, linguistiques, sociaux et même psychologiques – sans mentionner l'aspect politique lié à toute question touchant à la langue.

Même l'objectif principal d'une telle politique n'est pas forcément commun dans tous les cas

- Le but peut être le renforcement d'une identité linguistique et culturelle, voire ethnique.
- Mais ça peut être aussi la communication dans le cadre d'une collaboration avec des partenaires internationaux.

Il existe pourtant des besoins - ou plutôt des types de besoins - qui apparaissent systématiquement même si leur articulation peut varier selon le développement des langues particulières. Tel est par exemple le besoin de collecte et de description des termes liés à la formation d'un discours portant sur un domaine précis, les besoins d'harmonisation et de standardisation concernant aussi bien la communication que la transmission du savoir, le besoin de diffusion des connaissances par le moyen d'une terminologie adéquate...

Mais je ne vais pas m'attarder sur cette problématique, puisque nous avons parmi nous trois spécialistes qui vont aborder toutes ces questions - et bien d'autres - selon trois points de vue différents

- La recherche qui se fait autour de la définition et de la mise en œuvre des politiques terminologiques au niveau du comité ISO TC 37, notamment la recherche centrée sur la problématique de la standardisation des principes et des méthodes appliquées.

- Le développement de la terminologie dans un pays comme l'Afrique du Sud où la coexistence entre différents groupes ethniques et culturels a toujours été source de conflit – un pays où le terminologue devient presque un activiste luttant contre les barrières linguistiques posées par l'existence de 11 langues officielles.
- L'aménagement linguistique et terminologique d'une langue minoritaire parlée au Maroc dans le cadre de l'Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe qui propose des mesures et les pratiques adoptées à ce cas particulier.



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# **L'aménagement terminologique de l'amazighe (berbère) au Maroc: une question de priorité**

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**Cette contribution rend compte des travaux entrepris au sein du Centre de l'Aménagement Linguistique (CAL) de l'Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe au Maroc et plus particulièrement des actions qui ont trait à la terminologie amazighe. Après une brève présentation de l'IRCAM, l'accent sera mis sur la méthodologie adoptée en matière d'aménagement terminologique. Celle-ci est suivie par une description des actions réalisées à ce jour et des instruments utilisés pour leur élaboration. On terminera par une évaluation des travaux entrepris.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

La terminologie est au coeur de la stratégie d'aménagement linguistique de la langue amazighe (berbère) au Maroc. Le travail sur la langue en vue d'un faire un moyen de communication efficace dans toutes les sphères d'activités est, en effet, d'une importance cruciale: l'ouverture de la langue (et par là de la culture amazighe) sur la modernité en dépend. Le défi à relever est de taille et l'on peut se demander quelle stratégie le Centre de l'Aménagement Linguistique (CAL) de l'Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe (IRCAM) a mis en oeuvre pour atteindre cet objectif majeur. Après une présentation succincte de l'IRCAM et plus spécifiquement du CAL, une description du travail terminologique accompli à ce jour permet de mieux en apprécier la portée sur le plan national et même au-delà.

## **L'IRCAM: L'AVENIR D'UNE CULTURE EN DEVENIR**

### **1. Présentation de l'Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe (IRCAM)**

L'IRCAM a été institué le 17 octobre 2001 par Dahir (décision royale) lors du Discours Royal d'Ajdir. Il a, selon les articles 2 et 3 pour principales missions la promotion, la préservation et la diffusion de la langue et de la culture amazighes au Maroc sous tous ses aspects. Sept centres de recherche ont pour tâche de veiller à la réalisation des missions assignées à l'IRCAM:

1. le Centre des Etudes Historiques et Environnementales (CEHE),
2. le Centre de Recherche Didactique et des Programmes Pédagogiques (CRDPP),
3. le Centre des Etudes Sociologiques et Anthropologiques (CEAS),
4. le Centre des Etudes Artistiques, Littéraires et de la Production audiovisuelle (CEALPA)
5. Centre des Etudes Informatiques, des Systèmes de l'Information et de Communication (CEISIC)
6. le Centre de la Traduction, de la Documentation, de l'Édition et de la Communication (CTDEC)
7. le Centre de l'Aménagement Linguistique (CAL)

## **2. Présentation du Centre de l'Aménagement Linguistique (CAL)**

Le CAL a, comme son nom l'indique, la principale mission de procéder à l'aménagement de la langue amazighe en vue de sa standardisation progressive; de même qu'il a en charge de contribuer, avec le CRDPP à l'insertion de la langue amazighe dans le système éducatif marocain qui a intégré officiellement l'enseignement de la langue amazighe dans les curricula en septembre 2003. La langue amazighe étant la langue de tous les Marocains, elle est amenée à être introduite d'une manière générale dans la sphère publique au Maroc (médias, administration, ...). Pour ce faire, des sessions de formation en langue amazighe sont organisées au profit des principaux acteurs (enseignants, journalistes, animateurs associatifs entre autres). La stratégie adoptée pour l'intégration de la langue amazighe dans l'école marocaine est une intégration progressive dans tous les établissements scolaires, dans toutes les régions (intégration dite "horizontale") et à tous les niveaux ou cycles d'enseignement (intégration "verticale"). Il est évident que l'IRCAM, dont les ressources humaines sont limitées, ne peut mener à bien les tâches qui lui sont dévolues, sur le plan national, sans l'aide et la contribution de chercheurs externes. Ces derniers sont appelés à contribuer, par voie contractuelle, à la réalisation d'actions ponctuelles supervisées par les chercheurs de l'IRCAM (notamment la collecte de corpus linguistiques dans les différentes variantes régionales de l'amazighe).

Après l'élaboration de l'alphabet tifinaghe, graphie officielle pour écrire la langue amazighe depuis le 11 février 2003, le CAL a eu en charge l'élaboration d'une grammaire de base et d'un lexique fondamental devant accompagner l'insertion de la langue dans le système éducatif. Deux Unités d'Étude et de Recherche (UER) ont ainsi vu le jour en mai 2003: l'UER-Grammaire chargée d'étudier les structures grammaticales de la langue d'une part et d'autre part l'UER-Lexique dont la tâche principale à ce jour

consiste à apporter des éléments de réponse à des demandes terminologiques variées. Ces deux unités ne sont cependant pas étanches et travaillent en étroite collaboration.

## **L'AMÉNAGEMENT TERMINOLOGIQUE DE L'AMAZIGHE AU SEIN DU CAL**

L'insertion de la langue amazighe dans la vie publique au Maroc a eu pour conséquence l'extension de ses domaines d'usage ce qui a suscité des besoins sur le plan terminologique afin de pouvoir dénommer des réalités nouvelles. Seulement, les besoins sont variés et les demandes pressantes voire urgentes. La gestion de ce flux sans cesse grandissant de requêtes terminologiques a nécessité leur hiérarchisation. L'action primordiale de l'IRCAM étant d'assurer l'intégration de la langue amazighe dans le système éducatif, la primauté a été donnée, dans un premier temps, au vocabulaire de l'éducation; à présent l'intérêt est porté sur le lexique des médias.

### 1. Méthodologie

#### 1.1. Principes

La démarche globale du CAL s'appuie sur un certain nombre de principes et critères hiérarchisés et suit les principales étapes de tout travail terminologique

Ainsi, trois principes fondamentaux ont dicté la démarche à adopter lors du travail terminologie: pertinence, respect de la morphologie et de la syntaxe de l'amazighe et motivation.

##### a) Pertinence

Le principe de pertinence renvoie à l'adéquation entre les concepts/ notions retenues et leur actualisation dans les pratiques langagières. En d'autres termes, toute notion doit être illustrée par des faits qui permettent d'en délimiter les contours et ce avec un maximum de précision. Le transfert systématique de la terminologie d'une langue tierce (arabe ou français généralement) est évité: ne sont validées que les mises en correspondance exacte entre les données relatives aux termes des langues.

##### b) Régularité morphologique et respect de la syntaxe

Le second principe concerne le respect des structures morpho-syntaxiques de l'amazighe. En effet, pour pouvoir être validé, tout terme doit

impérativement être conforme aux règles de bonne formation morphologique et syntaxique de l'amazighe.

### c) Motivation

Le troisième principe a trait à la transparence des propositions dans la mesure où seul un haut degré de lisibilité garantit un haut degré d'appropriation des termes. On peut avancer que les termes "non parlants", opaques, difficilement ou pas du tout interprétables (et par voie de conséquence difficilement assimilables) seront exposés au phénomène de résistance voire de rejet par les usagers de la langue. Les termes retenus doivent donc également être facilement décriptables.

## 1.2. Critères

Deux critères de sélection ont été essentiellement mis à contribution lors de la sélection de propositions terminologiques concurrentes: pan-amazighité et acceptabilité.

### d) Pan-amazighité

Ce critère réfère au fond lexical commun amazighe: un terme ou une racine partagée par toute la communauté linguistique aura l'avantage sur un terme localisé.

### e) Acceptabilité

L'acceptabilité est un critère d'ordre sociolinguistique puisqu'il a trait au rapport qu'entretient une communauté avec des faits de langue. Ainsi, si un terme est tabou dans un dialecte donné, celui-ci ne sera pas retenu.

## 1.3. Etapes du travail

Les étapes du travail terminologique proprement dit, compte tenu des principes et critères qui viennent d'être énoncés, peuvent être résumées comme suit:

- Etablissement de la nomenclature: élaboration de la liste des notions pour lesquelles il y a lieu de trouver un équivalent en langue amazighe
- Travail définitoire: analyse de la notion afin de s'assurer que tous les membres du CAL s'accordent sur le sens à donner à la notion en question
- Recensement des termes existants et dépouillement des dictionnaires

- Evaluation des termes recensés selon les principes et critères
- Processus de création néologique dans le cas de vacances terminologiques: la création néologique reste le dernier recours i.e. quand toutes les ressources de la langue ont été épuisées
- Contextualisation du terme: mise en contexte du terme afin de mieux apprécier le terme retenu lorsqu'il est utilisé dans une construction syntaxique (i.e. phraséologie)
- Evaluation externe: appréciation des termes élus par des personnes externes à CAL
- Validation finale effectuée sur le mode consensuel par l'équipe du CAL.
- Publication des travaux sous forme de vocabulaires spécialisés

On peut finalement constater que la démarche globale adoptée respecte, dans son ensemble, la procédure généralement en usage dans tout travail terminologique indépendamment de la langue traitée<sup>1</sup>.

## **ACTIONS RÉALISÉES**

Plus que de simples listes terminologiques mais pas encore des dictionnaires en bonne et due forme, les ouvrages proposés (majoritairement constitué de noms et dans une moindre mesure de verbes) se rapportent essentiellement aux domaines de l'éducation et des médias, domaines stratégiques pour assurer l'implantation et le maintien de la langue amazighe.

### *Vocabulaire de la langue amazighe 1 (vocabulaire de base de l'éducation)*

Il s'agit du premier travail terminologique du CAL dont l'objectif est de doter le grand public et plus spécifiquement les enseignants de la langue amazighe d'un outil d'accompagnement pour l'insertion de la langue amazighe à l'école. La nomenclature (élaborée à partir de listes diverses et constituée à l'origine de 1300 termes) est composée au final, compte tenu de l'urgence des délais et des priorités formulées par les pédagogues, de 850 termes en français<sup>1</sup>.dont l'équivalent en amazighe et des indications morphologiques élémentaires ont été fournis (thèmes pour les verbes et morphologie nominale (état libre, état construit et pluriel). Le lexique proposé réfère à l'école et concerne l'élève et son environnement immédiat ainsi que certaines notions relevant du domaine de la pédagogie.

### *Vocabulaire grammatical*

Motivé par les mêmes préoccupations que le Vocabulaire 1, le projet intitulé TERMGRAM a en outre l'avantage d'être le premier travail terminologique international entrepris dans le cadre d'une Convention de partenariat dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique sur la langue amazighe entre l'INALCO<sup>1</sup> (Paris) et l'IRCAM (Rabat)<sup>2</sup>.

Cet ouvrage complète le Vocabulaire 1 en ce sens qu'il a trait au métalangage grammatical nécessaire à l'enseignement de la langue amazighe en langue amazighe. Ce champ thématique permet également d'orienter le travail terminologique vers l'élaboration d'un vocabulaire commun pan-amazighe puisque la néologie est l'un des champs les plus propices pour l'élaboration d'une terminologie de type "international" (i.e. dépassant les frontières nationales du Maroc).

Le lectorat visé est le corps enseignant mais également les étudiants de filières ou de départements d'études amazighes nouvellement accréditées par le Ministère de l'Education Nationale au Maroc.

### *Lexique des médias*

L'action la plus récemment réalisée est le Lexique des Médias destiné prioritairement aux journalistes de la presse écrite et audio-visuelle afin de permettre la diffusion des informations les plus courantes. Malgré l'objectif de l'ouvrage qui fait référence à un domaine bien précis de la langue, les données qui y sont livrées sont d'intérêt général en ce sens qu'elles proposent l'équivalent, en amazighe, de près de 800 termes fréquemment utilisés (en arabe ou en français) dans l'actualité au Maroc. Il n'est, de ce fait, pas destiné exclusivement aux journalistes, le grand public y trouvera également des mots relevant de la langue usuelle dans la mesure où les médias et plus particulièrement les actualités couvrent, par essence, une grande variété de sujets.

## **OUTILS DE TRAVAIL**

### *Références et sources documentaires*

Les outils de travail dont disposent les chercheurs sont essentiellement constitués de leur compétence personnelle dans la langue amazighe, des publications (ouvrages lexicographiques) disponibles à ce jour dans les différentes variantes de l'amazighe, des travaux scientifiques réalisés dans le cadre d'un travail académique par des chercheurs amazighophones (qui parlent une variante au moins de la langue amazighe (berbère)). La majorité pour ne pas dire tous ces travaux se présentent

essentiellement sous format "papier".

### *Outil informatique*

Le CAL ne dispose pas de logiciel spécialement destiné au travail terminologique, les données sont enregistrées dans un fichier EXCEL et font l'objet d'une conversion sous format Word pour la publication. Faute de temps, la fiche terminologique telle qu'elle devrait être élaborée pour chaque terme n'a pas encore vu le jour. Par conséquent, la conception d'une base de données terminologiques amazighes reste à élaborer.

## **EVALUATION DU TRAVAIL TERMINOLOGIQUE**

### *Acquis*

Les premiers opuscules terminologiques réalisés par le CAL depuis mai 2003 à juillet 2007 représentent à peu près 2.000 termes. Si, sur le plan quantitatif, les résultats semblent plutôt mitigés, ils constituent pourtant un saut qualitatif appréciable en matière de terminologie amazighe. En effet, tout d'abord chaque terme est traité au cas par cas et fait l'objet d'une réflexion approfondie au sein d'une équipe pluridisciplinaire où les trois variantes régionales de l'amazighe du Maroc sont représentées (amazighe du Nord (tarifite), du Centre (tamazighte) et du Sud (tachelhite). De plus, les décisions prises au consensus privilégient les convergences et ce dans la perspective du projet global à long terme de l'élaboration d'un amazighe standard marocain et ce tout en ménageant un espace à la collaboration inter-institutionnelle (INALCO et IRCAM) qui a permis d'initier une néologie commune pan-amazighe (*i.e. le Vocabulaire grammatical*).

### *Limites*

Les actions réalisées restent cependant principalement tributaires de deux facteurs: la nature des corpus et matériels utilisés d'une part et le facteur "temps" d'autre part. Ainsi, le travail terminologique est essentiellement de type "artisanal" puisqu'il s'appuie sur des documents "papier" ce qui rend la consultation difficile et laborieuse. En second lieu, le temps consacré à la terminologie (en moyenne 6 à 8 heures de travail par semaine en équipe) ne permet pas le traitement de toutes les demandes formulées par la société marocaine (institutions publiques et privées, associations non gouvernementales, ...). La combinaison de ces deux paramètres impose des choix hiérarchisés en fonction des actions prioritaires de l'IRCAM qui sont l'insertion de la langue amazighe dans le système éducatif et les médias. Ces faits ont donc imposé le choix des

premières publications terminologiques du CAL.

## CONCLUSION

Si des avancées ont été enregistrées en matière de terminologie amazighe, beaucoup reste encore à faire et à entreprendre pour véritablement doter la langue amazighe d'une terminologie qui soit performante et exploitable dans tous les domaines de la sphère publique. A la question de savoir s'il y a une "politique terminologique de l'amazighe au Maroc", on peut avancer que s'il n'existe pas une politique "explicite" en matière d'aménagement terminologique, elle est cependant présente, en filigrane, par la mise en place progressive de principes, critères et priorités. Elle est, à l'instar du processus de standardisation de la langue, "en construction". Il semble également que l'élaboration d'un "standard" sur le plan méthodologique soit possible dans la mesure où l'amazighe, comme toute autre langue, se plie aux mêmes exigences relatives, entre autres, aux principes et critères pris en compte dans le traitement des données.

En définitive, il ressort globalement qu'après quatre années d'une intense activité terminologique amazighe au Maroc, le travail accompli est essentiellement caractérisé par la "gestion de priorités" multiples. En effet, le travail terminologique est réalisé dans l'urgence en fonction de priorités à différents niveaux: priorité des champs terminologiques étudiés compte tenu de la faisabilité de l'action (délais, moyens humains et matériels essentiellement), priorité dans le choix des notions recensées dans la nomenclature, priorité, dans les éléments à intégrer dans le développement des entrées (développement limité à ce jour aux indications morphologiques de base), priorité dans la présentation de l'ouvrage en fonction du public-cible immédiatement visé. Cependant, malgré les attentes et les contraintes de diverses natures liées essentiellement à la faisabilité des projets dans un délai restreint avec des ressources (humaines, documentaires et matérielles) tout aussi limitées, une nouvelle voie a été ouverte pour la langue amazighe au Maroc: celle du changement linguistique dans le cadre du développement, de la promotion, de la valorisation et de la reconnaissance de la culture marocaine dans toute sa diversité.

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1 Les communications présentées à Dublin les 27 et 28 juillet 2007 ont permis de mettre en évidence les similitudes dans le traitement terminologique quelle que soit la langue concernée. Nous sommes à ce titre redevable à tous les participants (intervenants et auditeurs) pour la qualité des contributions et des discussions qu'elles ont suscitées.

2 La version en arabe-amazighe est sous presse.

3 INALCO: Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales

4 Les institutions sont données dans l'ordre alphabétique.



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## **Case Study. International Best Practice: Republic of South Africa (RSA)**

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**In this contribution, the role of terminology in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) is discussed with respect to legal, social and political frameworks and policies. Good practice is shown in the form of initiatives, projects and training at regional and international level.**

### **INTRODUCTION: THE ROLE OF TERMINOLOGY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The Minister of Arts and Culture of the Republic of South Africa, Dr. Zweledinga Pallo Jordan, once stated that *“South Africa has eleven official languages. The challenge is to translate this constitutional provision into living reality”*.

To my mind, this statement precisely describes the role and function of terminology in South Africa: *to empower language practitioners and information professionals to translate human rights into reality*, e.g. by enabling access to legal and other public information in people's mother tongues.

The language we use – and need to understand – in public and business life is less “general language” than “specialized language” characterized by the terms of the respective subject fields, such as legal texts, parliamentary speeches, court terminology, the concepts of science and technology, etc.

The ability to understand and create terminology in terms of specialized language and specialized knowledge is a key qualification of information professionals and language practitioners. There is no information literacy without terminology literacy, and there is no knowledge without terminology.

This applies to all levels of information and knowledge creation, storing and processing, ranging from basic terminology teaching and training in primary and secondary schools to applied terminology in multilingual data modelling and content management for sophisticated Information and

Communication Technology (ICT) industries, Human Language Technologies (HLT), the language industries, as well as the so-called e-Government, e-Business or e-Health technologies and applications.

Thus, the most important part of the translation of a “constitutional provision into living reality” is to develop and further develop terminology in the indigenous languages of African-language communities.

## **POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS IN RSA**

The document, “Guidelines for Terminology Policies”, prepared by Infoterm for UNESCO in 2005, underlines the connection between the use of mother tongue, terminology development and equal rights: *“People whose mother-tongue is not (or not sufficiently) developed from the point of view of terminology and special purpose languages (SPL) or who are denied the use of their mother-tongue in education and training, for accessing information, or interacting in their work places, tend to be disadvantaged.”*(...) *“The digital divide almost invariably co-occurs with inequality of access to information and knowledge, which is in turn associated with inequality in linguistic access. Inadequate terminology is one key factor in the inequality of linguistic access, and it results in “functional illiteracy” in the contexts of accessing information and using computers.”* (“Guidelines for Terminology Policies”, Preface, V).

Language and terminology issues are mainly treated within the South African Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). This department provides a detailed overview on the legislation and policies related to its mission and mandate, including lists and downloads of relevant acts, bills and the white paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage (<http://www.dac.gov.za/legislation.htm>).

In the following, the *South African Languages Bill* shall serve as example to illustrate the main frameworks and core policies where terminology is embedded in the RSA.

The *principle of multilingualism* is recognised by the Constitution of the RSA (1996, section 6) *“by providing for eleven official languages of South Africa and for all official languages to enjoy parity of esteem and to be treated equitably”*. As indicated in the preamble, the objectives of the South African Languages Bill are:

- (a) to give effect to the letter and spirit of section 6 of the Constitution;*
- (b) to promote the equitable use of the official languages of South Africa;*
- (c) to enable all South Africans to use the official languages of their choice*

*as a matter of right within the range of contexts specified in this Act with a view to ensuring equal access to government services and programmes, and to knowledge and information;*

*(d) to provide for a regulatory framework to facilitate the effective implementation of the constitutional obligations concerning multilingualism.*

The underlying language policy categorises the 11 official languages in the RSA as follows:

*(a) the Nguni group (isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu and siSwati);*

*(b) the Sotho group (Sepedi, Sesotho and Setswana);*

*(c) Tshivenda/Xitsonga;*

*(d) Afrikaans/English;*

and determines that the national government must use not less than four languages for any intra- and inter-departmental oral and written communication in all spheres of government, for oral and written communication with the public and for international communication where applicable – *“provided that these languages shall be selected by each organ of state from each of the four categories of official languages in subsection (3) on a rotational basis, except when it is reasonably necessary to follow an alternative policy in the interest of effective governance or communication.”*

In 2003, when TermNet organised its 7<sup>th</sup> International Terminology Conference TAMA: Terminology in Advanced Management Application in RSA, in close co-operation with and generously funded by the South African Government, this policy was applied: only the main language groups were provided with simultaneous interpreting. This practice showed us how sensitive the language issue was at that time in the RSA, when representatives of the “smaller” language communities protested against their linguistic discrimination due to the chosen *“alternative policy in the interest of effective governance or communication”*. TAMA Terminology Conference in RSA: see <http://www.tama-sa.gov.za/>.

According to the Bill, a language unit had to be established for each department of the national government and for each province. These language units shall

- take effective and positive measures for the implementation of the national language policy and the regulations of the Bill;
- conduct language surveys and audits with a view to assessing the appropriateness of an existing language policy and practice;

- make recommendations for the improvement of the policy and practice;
- inform the public of the content and implementation of the language policy.

Article 8 of the Bill represents a milestone for the equal treatment, fostering and management of linguistic and cultural diversity in the RSA and in the “Southern African region”: The article determines that “*the Minister shall take practical and positive measures for the development of the indigenous languages and South African Sign Language/s, in particular to*

- identify priority areas for the development of these languages;*
- support existing structures involved in the development of these languages;*
- establish new structures and programmes for the development of these languages, and*
- support cross-border projects for the development of these languages in the Southern African region.”*

The *Pan South African Language Board Act* with its Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB) also contributes considerably to the recognition, implementation and fostering of multilingualism in the RSA and to the development of previously marginalised languages.

*Meeting the constitutional obligations on multilingualism by managing language diversity through language planning, human language technologies and terminology projects including the provision of a translation and editing service in the official and foreign languages* - this is the broad remit of the National Language Service (NLS) - a Chief Directorate within the Department of Arts and Culture.

## **PRACTICE, PROJECTS AND TRAINING**

The following outline of a multilingual terminology process in the RSA is based on a presentation given by our colleague, Ms. Mapula Gaffane, a distinguished terminologist from the National Language Service (NLS) of the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), on the occasion of a joint terminology training in Pretoria in March 2006.

Figure 1. The Department of Arts and Culture



**arts and culture**

Department:  
Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Between the 11 official languages, English is a very powerful language which is also rich in terminology. The status of the other official languages has to be elevated and the terminologies have to be developed. In RSA, terminology development takes place within the context of the subject field. The multilingual terminology collections for developed languages match existing equivalents. Developing terminology for developing languages requires interactive collaboration between linguists and subject specialists to find suitable equivalents.

Developed language with well established terms in a subject field is used as source language. In situations of language disparity, the most prominent need is to have translation equivalents.

Secondary term creation represents an interactive consultative process of linguists, terminologists and subject specialists working together and, of course, facing many challenges which have to be successfully managed in terms of language and human resources.

Term recognition forms part of the overall picture of processing terminological data.

A. The different steps in developing terminology are described by Mapula Gaffane as a process which entails two major phases:

- Ground or source-text production characterized by:
- Planning the project (target users, demarcation of subject field, needs of the target users, typology, identification of source material);
- Process of term harvesting;
- Documentation of terminological data;
- Explanations/definitions (why?);
- Consulting available sources;
- Ordering data into workable formats;
- Collaborating with subject specialists in source-text committees;
- Editing and proofreading;
- Work lists.

B. Target-text production characterized by:

- Collaboration with subject specialists and linguists (speakers of the target language);
- Establishing terminology committees;

- The process of providing equivalents for the target language - discussing terms at regular meetings of the terminology committee;
- Detailed record (minutes) reflecting decisions about terms at terminology meetings;
- Updating the database;
- Proofreading & editing;
- Printing & publication of end product.

An encouraging example of applied terminology is NLS's TISSA project: TISSA stands for "Telephone Interpreting Service for South Africa", being an initiative of the NLS and jointly funded by the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB).

TISSA intends to make it possible for each individual to communicate with the authorities in his or her own language, for example, in places such as hospitals, police stations and government offices. TISSA enables citizens of South Africa, especially African-language speakers, to overcome language and terminology barriers and to have equal access to government services.

How does TISSA work? If you and a doctor or a lawyer, for example, cannot understand each other's languages, you can phone a single toll-free number that will link you to a call centre where an operator will connect you to an interpreter who can speak your language and the language of the doctor / the lawyer. He/she needs to have a telephone with a speaker, or two telephones plugged into the same socket, so that both people can listen to the interpreter (see [http://www.dac.gov.za/projects/language\\_service.htm](http://www.dac.gov.za/projects/language_service.htm)).

Terminology and terminology development play a crucial role indeed in services such as TISSA. Without terminology training and terminological methods and tools, the interpreter would not be able to do his or her challenging and most important job.

Automated telephone-based information systems are also good and promising examples for HLT Applications in the areas of:

- Tourism & Travel: Hotel booking systems (AST project of RSA); train, air, bus schedules;
- Health services: First level medical help lines, AIDS hotlines, TB hotlines;
- Public services: Applications for pensions, travel documents, car registrations; telephone accounts, telephone number enquiries.

The following slide was provided and discussed by Professor Justus Roux during a joint terminology training in March 2006.

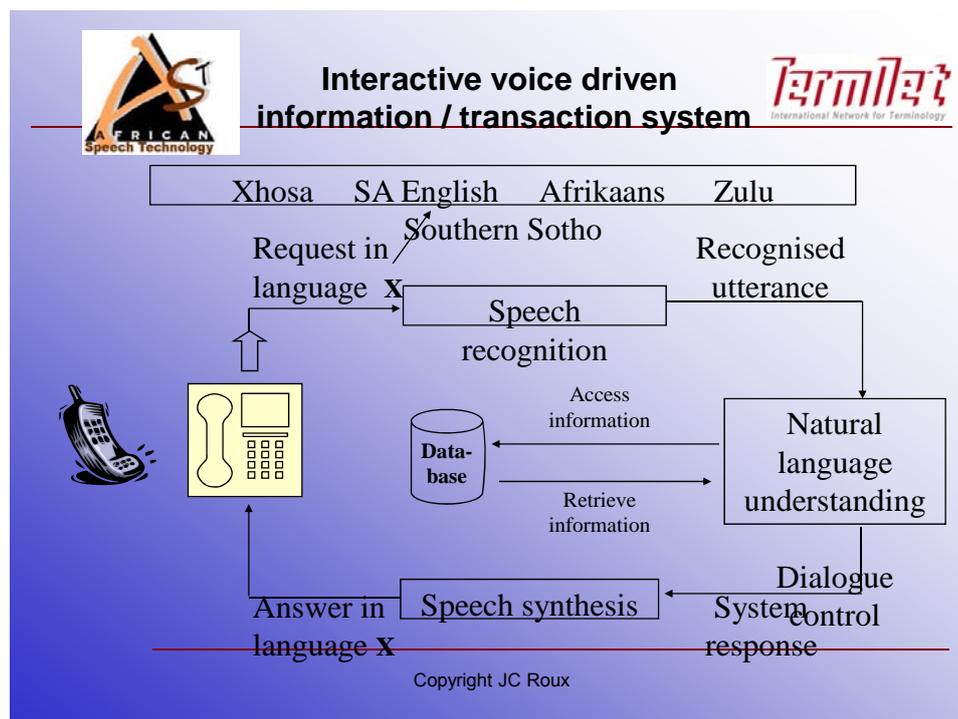


Figure 2. Interactive information / transaction system shown by Prof. Roux

An ambitious terminology-development project is being undertaken by the Unit for isiXhosa in Stellenbosch University's Language Centre: "The idea of the project is to develop isiXhosa as an academic language, but in an integrated way - the terminologies are developed in close collaboration with the different academic departments and faculties to ensure that the terminology of the day in each of these institutions are accommodated. These lists, for students who have isiXhosa as their mother tongue, provide an academic "scaffolding" that helps with the acquisition of important academic concepts." (kampusnuus 10 Februarie 2005: 5).

An electronic database has been created for managing the developed terminologies and the first two terminology lists, "Generic Academic Terminology" and "Generic Administrative Terminology" – both trilingual (Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa) - have been launched . A third list, "Faculties, Departments and Academic Divisions", has been published electronically (available on Language Centre's web site at <http://www.sun.ac.za/taalsentrum>). Other terminology lists are in development, such as, for example, in psychology, law, social work and sociology.

Another good news story and encouraging development in the field of

ICT and HLT is that The Centre for Text Technology at the North West University in South Africa managed to successfully negotiate with Microsoft and has released four new spellcheckers in indigenous languages – Setswana, isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sesotho sa Leboa.

An Afrikaans spellchecker was released last year. The centre says the software development is *"not only sustaining human language technology (HLT) in South Africa, but also fighting the battle to ensure that every citizen's language rights are upheld."* (for further information please refer to [http://www.puk.ac.za/opencms/export/PUK/html/nuus/nuus169\\_e.html](http://www.puk.ac.za/opencms/export/PUK/html/nuus/nuus169_e.html)).

Last but not least, TermNet's pilot project TermTrain is another piece of the puzzle of terminology activities in RSA.

What is TermTrain?

- TermTrain is a pilot project for capacity-building in African countries;
- Full project name: "Design and implementation of practice-oriented terminology training for two groups of information professionals: 1) ICT trainers and 2) language trainers in language communities of Africa (TermTrain)";
- Overall goal: to perform a "train-the-trainer" pilot project for capacity-building in the field of specialized language and specialized knowledge for language communities in Africa;
- Target groups: subject advisors and curriculum facilitators on behalf of Governmental departments;
- Co-financed by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Programme Information for All (IFAP) and project partners;
- Initiated and managed by TermNet;
- Further information:  
<http://www.termnet.org/english/projects/TermTrain.php>

*Figure 3. Participants of the TermTrain Trainings in March 2006, Pretoria*



## In loving memory of **Xolile Mfafa**

- Director of Language Planning and Terminology Coordination at the National Language Services of the South African Department of Arts and Culture
- Distinguished expert and colleague
- Close friend and brother
- Who met his untimely death on 1st May 2007 together with Nomhi, his wife, and their children Oyisa and Umuhle



**LALANI NGOXOLO LUSAPHO  
LWAKWANTLANE!**

**This contribution is dedicated to my late friend Xolile Mfafa  
LALANI NGOXOLO LUSAPHO LWAKWANTLANE!**

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## **Gabriele Sauberer**

After pursuing an interdisciplinary combination of studies with focus on Eastern European Languages and many years of scientific project management at the University of Vienna, Gabriele Sauberer finished a postgraduate course entitled “European Project Management (EUPROMA)”. A pioneer in the field of professional preparation and management of EU funded projects, she has been successfully managing the International Network for Terminology since 2002. For the European Commission she acted as consultant to European eContent and 6th Framework Programmes, and for the Austrian Standards Institute she is active in several committees as expert in terminology, translation and diversity management. Gabriele designed and performed many projects at European, regional, national and international level and developed training sessions and seminars with focus on European and International topics. Since 2007, she has been teaching project management, intercultural communication and diversity management at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Vienna.

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# Terminology Policies and Minority Language Planning

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**Terminology policies have been recognized as an important element (either separate and explicit or embedded in other policies) of**

- 1. language planning: As argument for status planning, integral part of corpus planning, and acquisition planning**
- 2. corporate strategies:**
  - for non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations (NGOs/IGOs) to facilitate multilingual communication, outreach activities, etc.
  - for companies to improve their overall communication performance (through localization, translation, technical documentation, corporate language, quality assurance, etc.)

**Two recent activities of international scale, chaired by INFOTERM, have attracted worldwide and cross-sector attention: The UNESCO Guidelines for Terminology Policies and the ISO standard in preparation “Terminology Policies – Development and Implementation” (ISO 29383).**

## INTRODUCTION

For most terminologists, no matter if they are employed on a public assignment, in academia, in companies or non-profit organizations, the matter is obvious: There is a requirement for consistent, effective terminology policy in a certain environment to ensure effective, reliable communication and the efficient distribution of budget on this largely cost-intensive, yet essential matter. And the necessity is likely to grow, the more globalization plays a role in economy and society.

## TERMINOLOGY AND LANGUAGE PLANNING POLICIES = APPLES AND PEARS?

Few experts will claim that they have a clear idea of what the general concept of a terminology policy actually means. Fewer still that they have

ever come across a good example of such a policy. Therefore it is important that we get an idea what it is we should be looking for and where we are likely to find it – and we will surely find them! At least we will be able to spot very promising attempts in that direction.

The understanding of what a terminology policy entails usually differs depending on your point of departure. By far the most common understanding of the term originates in the field of sociolinguistics and of language planning.

### *A. Language planning*

Language planners or those with a sociolinguistic background view the world through a language developing lens. Usually they are concerned with the promotion and elaboration of a particular language. Quite often this concerns minority languages, i.e. a linguistic minority (in comparison of dominating and - usually perceived as threatening - other linguistic groups). As such their concern probably is to equip the speakers with a medium that is not only fit for use in all kinds of public and private function, but also to raise its status simultaneously.

From its early beginnings as an independent discipline language planning has laid special emphasis on lexical development and standardization as crucial part to make a language functional in the various domains of public and private communication. Lexical expansion as part of corpus planning is influenced by the status a language enjoys, and has at the same time some positive impact in return.

The problem has not changed much since then; the problems are as current and pressing as ever. This is especially true with the growing hegemony of the English language in many scientific-technical domains due to globalization. The dilemma most language planners face is when the speakers of “their” language react differently than expected.

### *B. More than language planning*

If we talk about terminology planning we must bear in mind the principle of terminology: concept orientation and the general principle of language independence. Terminology is often created, owned, processed and/or used by professionals in particular subject fields and domains. They decide if they will use a term or if they will simply ignore it. Terminology creation and use therefore meet perceived communication needs of the domain rather than follow any language planning ideal. And the planning will take place according to the systematic of the subject field and not the language. Doing so, due to limited term formation possibilities any language

has in store, as well as a lack of linguistic awareness or even interest, the same subject specialists regularly create linguistic problems like homonymy, synonymy, quasi-synonymy, etc. which in turn might become communication problems. Terminologists in all sectors have been preaching the benefits of terminology planning from the start. Their advice often goes unheard. Also the un-reflected borrowing from other languages or the all-too purist approach or abstraction levels may cause such barriers – a typical language planner's dilemma, which only becomes a terminologist's problem if it makes communication impossible, all aesthetics aside.

Therefore we must keep in mind that the real communication needs of the users and creators of terminology are the single most crucial factor. The ultimate aim of terminology planning may be completely independent from the strategy of an existing language policy. Terminology planning must be regarded as supportive of scientific, technological and economic development planning of a nation or an organization. And this in turn can have a positive effect on the status of and the attitude towards a minority language. The stronger the economic background connected to a linguistic group the more value will be attributed to the medium of communication. Vice versa, a well enriched and living terminology will have positive impact on the economic future of their speakers.

Language planning usually considers a language in their general use and does not always differentiate according to pragmatic factors, such as dominance of communication preferences in a certain domain and context. However, exactly such a separation can be the golden solution to ensure its implementability. In other words, terminology planning as cross-sector or horizontal activity, connected to language planning and other urgent planning needs in minority or developing societies, like economic planning.

This becomes evident in the example of South Africa (also see the article by Sauberer in this publication). The South African Constitution of 1996 recognizes no less than 11 official languages. Among these there are two of European origin (English and Afrikaans) which were the sole official languages over the long history of apartheid in the country. New is the recognition of 9 languages of the Bantu family of languages, also known as previously marginalized or historically disadvantaged languages. Their rather new uplifted status, beyond use at home or for traditional or religious purposes has been accompanied by budget allocation in the first years, resulting in a great number of language planning activities to promote them, especially in competition to the towering dominance of English, which in Southern Africa seems to be even stronger than elsewhere in its former colonies.

Roughly ten years later language planners observe a growing positive attitude towards English among the leaders and the new black elite. Some language planners already lament the failure of the language policy and look for reasons for the failure and remedies to promote further the use of the Bantu languages while others look a bit more optimistic and benevolently into the future and the already achieved.

Seen from a terminologist's perspective we still we recognize the growing importance of English in domains like the central economy and education. But we are perhaps more likely to see that there are so many domains in which English still just plays a marginal role and which are dominated by one or the other African language. Furthermore we will recognize that it is exactly here where effective terminology policies are needed. Certainly, central terminology planning in core domains like health care and administration is needed and has to be according to the national language policy. These measures are a very important catalyst and symbol for the whole nation. What, in addition, is needed to really assist language policies to kick off in the long run and beyond administration is a (separate) policy that equips and guides terminology development, documentation and use in the different sectors in a de-centralized, federated way according to sound and tested principles and methods. International standardization has a tremendous impact here to ensure multilingual, multimodal and multimedia usability across domains, organizations and departments; in short, to make them sustainable and affordable. Terminology policies are clearly responding to real communication and knowledge management needs within domains and subject fields.

These are not necessarily conform with the national language policy. A company may have very different needs for terminology use than a national language policy dictates. The latter may exclude English as official medium. A company such as a national airline (even though state-owned) can be completely in contradiction to this policy. In the aircraft and space sector another, internationally standardized language policy applies - the language of its market – *Simplified English*, a restricted language. This is why we need to separate the two concepts.

Terminology goes beyond language. The by far greatest part of terminology is lexical. And language is also needed to acquire and transfer terminology. But if we are aware of the function of terminology as knowledge item representations within a certain domain, we cannot but acknowledge that such a representation can take all sorts of form: It can be a formula, a graph, a symbol, a drawing, a sign, an alphanumeric or an audio-visual code. Different forms, of course, dominate in different domains (subject fields and application), some being primarily "linguistic" while others, like natural

sciences, may use other forms much more frequently for efficient and effective communication.

Terminology policies therefore can either be regarded as part and parcel of language planning as they can be as an activity that has nothing to do with classical language planning. It all depends on the perspective and situation where it takes place.

As a consequence of all this, and of the recognition that terminology plays a role whenever domain-specific knowledge and information is generated, used, recorded and processed, passed on or translated, terminology planning, even on a national level, must be regarded in a much wider perspective than it often is today. Again it must be stressed, that terminology planning should therefore be regarded as part of innovation, information, knowledge and e-content strategies in addition to the traditional view of it as cultural-linguistic good. It is, as I have argued elsewhere, just as much a resource for scientific-technical and economical development as it is a linguistic resource or part of the management and preservation of biodiversity.

### *C. In support of domain communication and development*

If we follow the above argumentation a bit further, we will soon come to a next question: Who designs such policies? Since terminology is so much a problem of organizations, are not they the major interest group rather than the central government?

Indeed they are, ideally in coordination and cooperation with the latter. National terminology policies are virtually non-existent to date, with a few exceptions like in the case of Wales or Canada, no explicit strategy on terminology is devised.

Sometimes this lack of strategy results in duplication of efforts, large budget requirements and terminology databases that are full of duplicates, bad definitions, contradictions, disharmonized entries. They may even be incompatible and the content not interoperable. And the implementation strategies are isolated issues that are counterproductive to any good intention.

But not only language groups have sometimes a need for terminology policies. Since terminology planning is also important in many corporate environments and organizations, these are the other major interest group for policies.

In the case of commercial enterprises the case is quite obvious. Bluntly speaking, you have to speak the language of your market if you want to survive and even succeed there. In this respect globalization can also have some positive impact on linguistic diversity. Surely, English dominates in global communication scenarios, but at the same time there is a real necessity to invest in other languages, too. And technologies as well as the proliferation of International Standards make it possible and affordable for all to jump on this train if they want to.

The immense force of market demands can be demonstrated in two brief examples. One is the situation in which a political party urgently wants to get a certain message across to the people at the very grassroots using the mass media. And usually such initiatives work fine – even in the so often lamented context of the African continent’s Tower of Babel (a concept which is contested by experts today). Where ever there is a scenario of political or ethnical unrest on the continent one of the first activities of the peacekeepers is to shut down local language broadcasting because of its huge – and sadly, often destructive – power in mobilizing the masses through political campaigns. Another example comes from the private sector: Insurance companies and related services have an imminent need to function well in a language their clientele (as sovereign) speaks, despite what their company’s major language policy or their home country’s language policy says. If they want to have any success in their business they will do well to speak all the languages their potential customers do and for which terminology planning is essential. The situation is similar for most service providers.

Despite this common knowledge and best practice examples from a number of global players like Microsoft, IBM, SAP, etc., the majority is slow to awake. This is so partly because of ignorance of which possibilities exist (in challenges and support); partly because they quite simply belong to the category of late adopters. There may be as many reasons as there are companies on the market. But whatever the reason, there is a perceivable trend towards a recognition of local languages out of a profit-oriented interest. And this trend has a share in the status and attitude a language receives among its speakers. The message it carries is simple: If a company like XYZ markets its products and services in my language it can’t be that irrelevant, and certainly it means the opportunity of a career.

Non-governmental and non-profit organizations (NGO, NPO) or the International Organizations (IGO) face similar demands. They usually represent a certain domain without having the benefits of a market. Instead they often have a clear mandate which positions them between public and private sector, grass root level and science, limited resources and a highly diverse clientele (diverse in its broad sense, including age, gender, physical

ability, education, geographic-infrastructure requirements and so on).

#### *D. Different types of policies for different needs*

Obviously a company like Microsoft has a terminology policy. So probably has an NGO like Amnesty International or the World Health Organization. However, the shape and quality, and even the awareness of these policies can be quite different. Contrary to popular believe a policy does not always come in the disguise of a legal document. A policy can have the form of a guideline, a common practice, a recorded statement of the management of an organization. Any official strategic guide can potentially be regarded a policy. It can even be a policy to have no policy.

A terminology policy can address many different aspects which depend on the very specific situation and environment. It would be impossible and foolish at the same time to attempt a one-size-fits-all solution that can serve as a model and be transferred from one case to the next. Typical problems that require systematic governance may concern the coordination of efforts and cooperation between existing systems, policy frameworks, stakeholders and actors. A terminology policy might ensure that the critical role of terminology is recognized for the overall operation of the organisation or nation-state/language community as well as their economic value. It can give guidance for capacity building to ensure sustainability and quality-based operation or for the creating and coordinating infrastructure as well as governance mechanisms for terminology work (databases, departments, processes, etc.). It can furthermore regulate access to, rules for the management, workflow cycles, standardization and use of terminology, intellectual property questions and copyright, sharing of terminology resources. And it should provide the framework to persuade decision makers in view of future policy making, allocation of resources and strategic planning.

It is evident that policy making is a highly strategic undertaking and includes the negotiating of different, sometimes contradicting agendas and interests. I have argued elsewhere, and it is common knowledge for all policies that it is highly critical to make sure, as many stakeholders as possible are involved to ensure maximum ownership and acceptability of the final terminology policy.

#### *E. Global assistance for a quality-based terminology policy-making*

An International Standard is currently being developed to assist those who want to begin with strategic planning of terminology. Often such persons are experts with little experience on the particularities and traps of policy processes. The standards will guide policy-makers to establish the situation

and needs, to get prepared for lobbying and advocacy work, it will help them to be inclusive and participatory in their consultation approach and to assess the many traps and pitfalls they might come across along their way. Eventually they will be able to design and get official support for a fully fledged, evidence-based, sound strategy on the basis for their particular needs as an organization or a language community.

The standard in preparation is created by the experts involved in the technical committee 37 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 37), aptly titled “Terminology and other language and content resources”. Besides developing standards concerning methodologies and principles of terminology science and management as well as human language technologies it increasingly focuses on so-called service standards, like in our case.

ISO 29383 *Terminology policies – Development and Implementations* as it will be known after completion in early 2010 will be published in two or even more parts, each tailored for a specific user group. Part one will assist language planners and those involved in minority language promotion while part two will equip companies in their specific endeavours in planning their terminology strategically and profitably.

ISO 29383 is based on a UNESCO document titled *Guidelines for Terminology Policies* and published in 2005. These guidelines in turn are informed by the expertise of the global network of excellence that is cooperation under the auspices of the International Information Centre for Terminology (INFOTERM).

INFOTERM was among the pioneers in the field of terminology planning. To inform the public about new trends and developments the NGO hosts an information platform on the issue on its Website: [http://www.infoterm.info/activities/terminology\\_policies.php](http://www.infoterm.info/activities/terminology_policies.php), which includes case studies and links to official documents.

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## **Anja Drame**

Anja Drame has a background in sociolinguistics and African sociology and linguistics. She is convinced that the application of knowledge and methodology from terminology has much to offer to language planners in terms of feasibility of many of their projects. Anja has been part of the project team compiling the UNESCO Guidelines for Terminology Policies and is now project leader of the ISO standard 29383 this article is talking about. In her Ph.D. thesis she examines the mutual ways the mass media have an impact on terminology planning.

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