

Major problems for minor languages

Delyth Prys & Gruffudd Prys
Termcelt

TermCelt

Do terminological user-needs differ in the case of minor languages?

Minor languages often live in the shadow of a 'big' language

- Need for bilingual terminology dictionaries and mapping of concepts between the two languages
- Speakers of minor languages usually have to be fluent in the major language also
 - They can recognise bad terminology when they see it
 - Terminology in a minor language has to be really good (or users will complain!)

Are there different terminological user groups in different languages?

The weightings and the priorities may be different:

- There may be little demand for terminology for the private sector e.g. car components for car manuals

BUT

- Another sector such as education might have the highest priority

User groups change with circumstances

- e.g. devolution in the UK in 1998 created new user groups for legal terminology in Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish

Are different approaches needed in different circumstances?

COMMONALITIES:

- Need to use common standards
- ISOs and CEN etc are also important (more important?) for minor languages
- Terminology work in minor languages needs to be mainstreamed

DIFFERENCES:

- There may be a greater need for neologisms and for dissemination

Neologisms

- Some minor languages have a need for new vocabulary as new concepts are invented

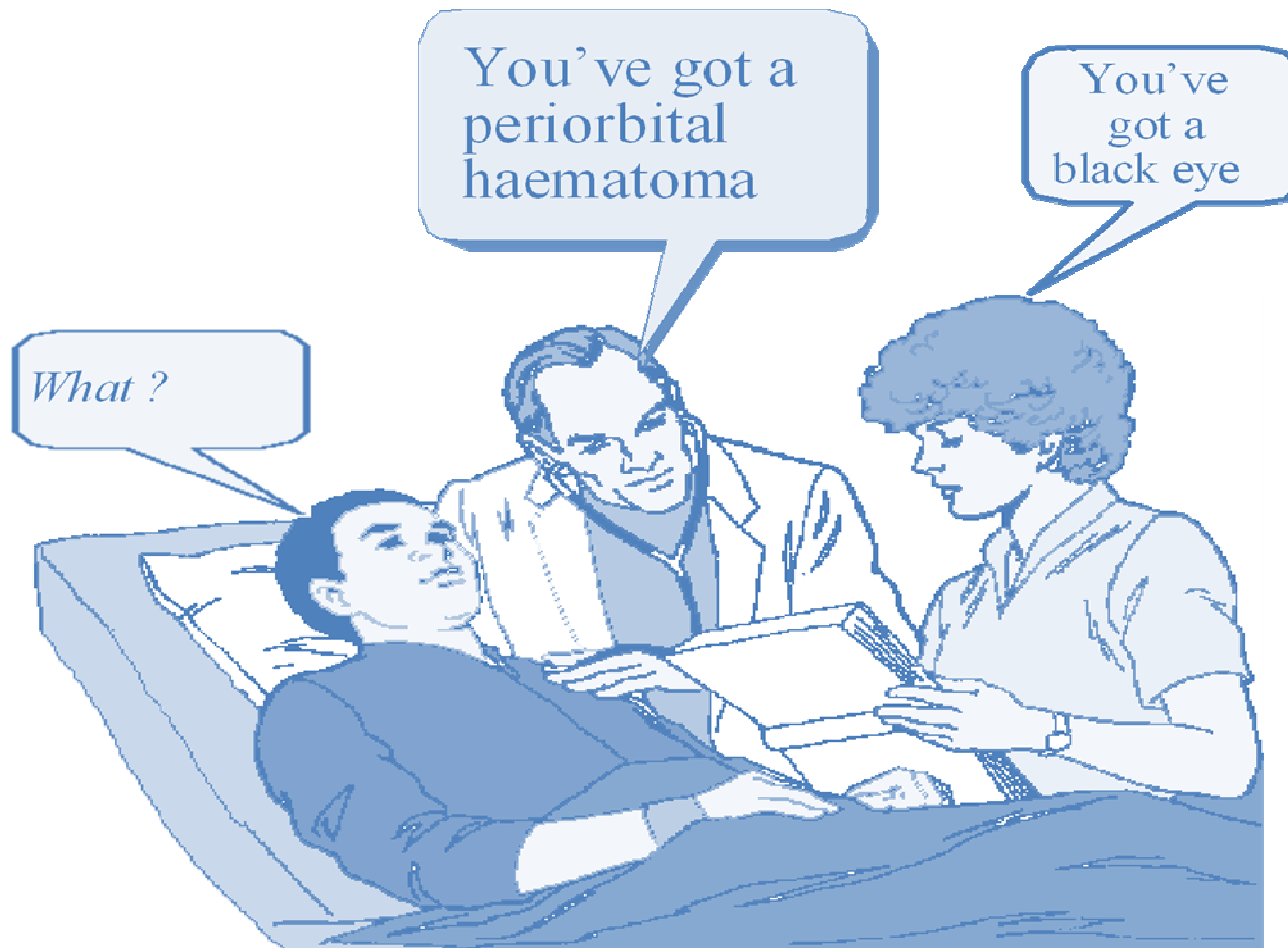
But is this terminology work?

! The distinction between technical terminology work (creating LSP) and coining new words for non-technical language

- Need to address socioterminology issues

Appropriate language registers for different environments (technical, formal general, informal general, dialects etc)

Socioterminology



Dissemination

Minor languages may have:

- No daily newspapers
- Very little radio / television provision
- Very little education through the medium of the language, especially at higher levels
- Very little technical writing in the language

Therefore they need innovative methods of dissemination (specific publications, websites etc)

Do terminologists need different skills and training for minor languages?

- They need the same basic terminology training as other terminologists (important for mainstreaming and sharing of common standards)
- They need additional skills /training in socioterminology (understanding different language registers), coining neologisms, dissemination activities

But maybe all terminologies need these?

Have some strategies been developed which could be applied to widely-used languages?

- Good ideas can come from all language situations (do not underestimate the contribution of minor languages)
- In particular, lack of resources have meant that we have had to be lean and fit
 - Recycle existing resources
 - Integrate different technologies
 - Adopt low tech solutions

A low tech solution: terminology discussion lists

Termcelt

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/TERMCELT.html>

Briathrachas

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/BRIATHRACHAS.html>

Welsh-termau-cymraeg

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/welsh-termau-cymraeg.html>

TermCelt

Creating Minority Language Terminology Dictionaries - Needs

- Low-cost method for developing terminology dictionaries
- Ensure compatibility with international terminology standards
- Enable a dispersed team of experts and subject specialists to collaborate
- Enable those with only a little computer literacy to contribute
- Ensure that a record of all decisions is kept

Creating Minority Language Terminology Dictionaries - Solutions

- Create software platform for developing terminology dictionaries to be published in book, CD or website form
- Adhere to ISO terminology standards
- Allow web access to the development software and include collaborative features such as:
 - Comment fields
 - Term suggestion
 - Varying editorial rights (edit, suggest, comment, read-only etc.)
- Create simple streamlined interface for complex tasks
- Integrate the recording of decisions into work-flow
- Streamline terminological tasks

The Electoral Commission **TERMS**

[example]

You are logged on as: Gruff
[logout](#)

[Browse and Edit Terms](#) [Suggest a New Term](#)

Search in the field for terms vote

Show records on screen

ID	English Term	Part of Speech (E)	Welsh Term	Part of Speech (C)	English Definition	Welsh Definition	Notes																		
1	vote of censure	n	pleidlais gerydd	eb	(H) Pleidlais o ddiffyg...	(H) A motion of...	(H) Term enghreifftiol...																		
2	casting vote	n	pleidlais fantol	eb																					
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UN</th> <th>Welsh Suggestion</th> <th>Source</th> <th>Action</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>pleidlais fwrw</td> <td>Geiriadur A</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>pleidlais fantol</td> <td>Geiriadur B</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		UN	Welsh Suggestion	Source	Action	1	pleidlais fwrw	Geiriadur A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	2	pleidlais fantol	Geiriadur B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Welsh Definition:</td> <td>Y bleidlais benderfynu sydd gan y llywydd er mwyn pennu pwy sy'n fudd...</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English Definition:</td> <td>The deciding vote cast by the presiding officer to resolve a tie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Notes:</td> <td>pleidlais fwrw sydd yn gywir (a dyna sydd yn y Termiadur Ysgol hefyd) -</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Welsh Definition:	Y bleidlais benderfynu sydd gan y llywydd er mwyn pennu pwy sy'n fudd...	English Definition:	The deciding vote cast by the presiding officer to resolve a tie	Notes:	pleidlais fwrw sydd yn gywir (a dyna sydd yn y Termiadur Ysgol hefyd) -		
UN	Welsh Suggestion	Source	Action																						
1	pleidlais fwrw	Geiriadur A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>																						
2	pleidlais fantol	Geiriadur B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>																						
Welsh Definition:	Y bleidlais benderfynu sydd gan y llywydd er mwyn pennu pwy sy'n fudd...																								
English Definition:	The deciding vote cast by the presiding officer to resolve a tie																								
Notes:	pleidlais fwrw sydd yn gywir (a dyna sydd yn y Termiadur Ysgol hefyd) -																								
Suggest a new Welsh Term for this English Term																									
3	vote	v	pleidleisio	be	(H) Y weithred o...	(H) Y weithred o...	(H) Mae'r term Saesneg...																		
4	vote	"	"	"	(H) A body of voters	(H) Corff o bleidleisw...	(H) Cysyniad gwahanol?																		
5	vote	"	"	"	(H) Mynegiad unigol...	(H) Mynegiad unigol...	(H) Mae'r term Saesneg...																		
6	voter	"	"	"	(H) An individual poss...	(H) Unigolyn sy'n...	(H) Angen ei gynnwys?																		

Key

- Accept Suggestion as the Welsh Term for the concept
- Note the Suggestion as a Synonym
- Note the Suggestion as a Depricated Term