

ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION

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LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TERMINOLOGY ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE

Among the reasons why terminology activities are vital for the development of Ukraine is the need to facilitate Ukraine's integration into international community through rapid and smooth communication between specialists by compiling mono- and multilingual specialized vocabularies (terminologies) and making them available for the widest possible circle of users via the data communications networks.

Due to constant growth of Internet penetration, centralization of access to multilingual terminological resources becomes crucial. The major terminology developers include public institutions, universities, technical societies as well as representatives of the private sector. Despite the existence of a significant number of such institutions, resources that are exchangeable and/or marketable are not so numerous. In many countries there is a lack of coordination between institutions engaged in terminological activities. This often leads to useless efforts or duplicate results. Terminologists and subject specialists have little contact with their colleagues working on similar subject areas. Across subject fields and in different sectors potential users of terminology are often not even aware what resources are available.

Terminology work is carried out differently in different countries and settings. How the work is performed depends on the institutions, organizations or bodies involved in the process as each of these sets individual goals and objectives. Within The EuroTerm Bank project research [1] three categories of scenarios are identified based on the distinction between international, national and local terminology settings. In this context, a terminology scenario means a schematic framework of terminology work that is based on a certain set of conditions and goals. The international scenario (or level) is concerned with coordination and management of multilingual terminology work in a well-organized infrastructure and primarily deals with approval or dismissal and harmonization of terms that are coined at the national and local levels. The main activities in the national scenario (or level) are similar to those of an international scenario. The main distinctive element is that terminology work at the national level is usually mono- or bilingual. Another difference is that organizations belonging to the national framework may have national regulatory obligations. The local scenario (or level) covers organizations that do not belong in an international or national framework and concerns terminology work that originates from translation and creation of documents. This type of terminology work involves identification of national language

terms in relevant documents, terminology glossaries, available terminology bases, and possibly in relevant literature of the domain. When a national language term cannot be identified, new terms are coined. Characteristic features of a local framework are that terminology work is usually limited to one or a few closely related domains, harmonization does not often play a significant role, and restricted budgets and tight time frames are more likely than in national or international frameworks.

In Ukraine there exists a framework for terminology activities at the national level. They are conducted in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine (chapters 10, 11), and «Conception of the State Program of the Development of the National dictionary database for 2009-2015» [3].

The main centers authorized by the government to carry out terminology activities are the Ukrainian Language Institute of the National Academy of science of Ukraine (the Department of Scientific Terminology), Ukrainian Lingua-Information Fund set up by the Institute, and the Technical Committee for Scientific and Technical Terminology Standardization (TC STTS) established by the joint order of the State Committee of Ukraine for Standardization, Metrology and Certification and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. There are also the following subcommittees based in Lviv Polytechnic: Oil Products; Machines, Equipment and Instruments; Electrical Engineering; Chemistry, Health Protection; Agriculture and Forestry; Measurements, Automatics and Informatics.

The following duties are imposed on TC STTS: to work out conceptual principles and practical recommendations for Ukrainian scientific and technical terminology normalization; to organize and coordinate working out, investigating and establishing Ukrainian terminology standards; to create the software and to form the standardized Ukrainian scientific and technical terminology data bank; to promote an international cooperation and experience exchange in the field of scientific and technical terminology standardization, to participate in corresponding ISO and IEC committees; to organize experience exchange and development of specialists' skills in Ukrainian scientific and technical terminology standardization.

The TC STTS has worked out nearly 600 terminology standards. It has improved methods and quality of investigation on terminology standards projects. The investigation deals with the following issues: requirements for directive normative documents, logical and semantic investigation of concept systems, and of the Ukrainian language rules. Principles and tendencies of the development of Ukrainian scientific and technical terminology standards have become separate spheres of TC STTS activities.

Another center of terminology activities in Ukraine is the Department of Scientific Terminology at the the Ukrainian Language Institute of the National Academy of science of Ukraine . The history of the Department began when the Committee of Scientific Terminology was established by the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences at the end of 1977. The Sector of Scientific Terminology at the Institute of Linguistics named after O. O. Potebnia worked during 1989-1992. In 1991, when the Ukrainian Language Institue was founded, the Committee and the Sector of Scientific

Terminology were brought under its jurisdiction, and from 1993 to 1995 they together were reorganized into the Department of Scientific Terminology.

The work of the Department falls into theoretical and practical areas. Theoretical area implies writing scientific articles, monographs on modern terminology problems, in particular, semantic structure, nature and genesis of terms, cognitive principles of term creation and new concepts formation, ways of terminological systems replenishment, scientific terminology systematization, regulation and standardization. In view of the aforesaid the analysis of the main stages of terminological cognitive sphere development takes on special significance since it enables to identify the time when different areas of knowledge appeared, trace the development of various terminological systems, specialist notions nomination, describe lexico-semantic and structurally-grammatical peculiarities of terms.

The Department pays attention to the terminology related to the following areas: art studies, biology, geology, military, linguistics, jurisprudence (namely, the terminology of criminal law), aviation; the problems of term formation and terminographical processing of specialist lexemes.

Practical area of the department activities includes compiling and editing terminological dictionaries dealing with different subject areas: building, sugar industry, power engineering, medicine, medical jurisprudence, welding, information systems and technologies.

A third center of terminological activities is the Ukrainian Lingua-Information Fund, the unique institution that specializes in applied, mathematical, and computer linguistics. It develops and applies modern scientific methods to linguistic research and supports the Ukrainian language functioning in the systems of computer communications. A theory of the computer lexicographical systems (L-systems) has been developed and a series of such systems fundamental for the Ukrainian lexicography concerning their status, functionalities and exhaustiveness of the language material involved have been created. These L-systems, according to the nature of systems engineering, are instrumental, i.e. they are oriented to the support of the compiling of new lexicographical works. Among these L-systems are the grammatical system of Ukrainian and Russian languages, the system for the composition of intelligent, etymological, synonymous, phraseological dictionaries. The L-systems mentioned above were created through investigating the structures of the fundamental traditional dictionaries, first of all, Ukrainian ones, on the basis of the information theory of lexicographical systems the researchers had developed [2]. The application of this theory to the study of the structures of traditional lexicographical objects resulted not only in finding new types of regularities in the Ukrainian language system, but also in creation of an effective computer technology aimed at the development of large lexicographical projects. This application made it possible, in particular, to compile a 20-volume explanatory dictionary of the Ukrainian language. In this case the most effective modes of use of this technology were experimentally determined. Particularly, the lexicographers work immediately with the computer system to use all the advantages of the new information

lexicographical resources (among them the resources of the Ukrainian lingual-information fund – a corpus which amounts to more than 58 million word usages and numerous computer dictionaries) as well as the lingual resources of the Internet. The characteristic feature of systems engineering in this technology is its orientation to the functioning in the network mode which in principle permits for the dictionary compilers – linguists from different institutions or even countries – to work simultaneously at the development of common lexicographical projects. This technology was named the «Virtual Lexicographical Laboratory» [4]. At present, besides the already mentioned L-system of the Dictionary of Ukrainian Language, there exist the following L-systems ready to operate in the mode of the Virtual Lexicographical Laboratory (VLL): grammatical dictionaries for a number of languages (Ukrainian, Russian, English, German, French, Spanish, Turkish and, partially, Polish), explanatory dictionaries (Russian and Turkish languages), dictionaries of synonyms (Ukrainian and Russian languages), the etymological dictionary of Ukrainian language. Furthermore, a technology of the computer-aided transfer of hard-copy lexicographical works into computer L-systems with their subsequent integration into the VLL-structures is being worked out.

Terminological work at the local level is mainly determined by the user's needs (e.g. translation or localization of documents, etc.) and their working conditions (e.g. the framework of research projects). Speed is a basic requirement in terminology management and development tasks (e.g. the translation bureaus have to observe the deadlines).

The types of terminology sources and tools used by the terminology developers are of great importance. In Ukraine there is relatively a large number of printed terminology dictionaries in different domains, however very few electronic terminology dictionaries are available. The international terminology banks and internet-based databases often are not accessible for terminology developers at the local level, while a similar problem is not faced in the national scenario.

As to the staff employed, terminologists are only rarely involved at the local level, thus the translators' professional competence, in particular knowledge of the native language and main principles of terminology, is essential. The terminology developed at the local level is, as a rule, not approved and endorsed by any competent national organization, while such practice is common to the national level. One should be aware of how important it is to carry out terminology management and development tasks at the local level effectively, making sure that terminology is reliable and of high-quality. The involvement of skillful and experienced translators as well as different specialists with thorough knowledge of both the language and the key principles of terminology work is desirable. The staff should have access to reliable terminology sources. In addition, the work quality considerably improves if terminologists are included in the staff or they are being constantly consulted. Only a few institutions on the organizational level apply such practice, though. In the best possible scenario newly coined terms are to be submitted to a relevant national body for approval.

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