



ZRC SAZU

Ad hoc Terminology Work: Lessons Learned and Challenges for the Future

International Seminar

April 15, 2024

ZRC SAZU, Four Seasons Hall, Novi trg 4, 1000 Ljubljana

Programme

9.00–9.30

Welcome address by Oto Luthar, Director of ZRC SAZU, Kozma Ahačič, Head of the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language, and Henrik Nilsson, EAFT President

9.30–9.50

Moderator: Mojca Žagar Karer

Elena Chiochetti (EURAC Research, Italy): “How do we say this in German here?” Terminology consultancy for German as a local-only minority language in Italy

9.50–10.10

Tanja Fajfar (ZRC SAZU, Slovenia): Terminology consulting or how to provide a fast response with credible solution to a terminological problem

10.10–10.20

Discussion

10.20–10.40

Úna Bhreathnach (Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, Dublin City University, Ireland): A comparison between Irish and Slovenian ad hoc terminology approaches and results

10.40–11.00

Sandra Cuadrado (TERMCAT, Catalonia): User communities & communications platforms: Catalan national termbank, thematic portals and the new podcast strategy

11.00–11.10

Discussion

11.10–11.30

Coffee break

11.30–11.50

Begoña Arrate (UZEI, Basque Country): Ad hoc terminology work in Basque: types of queries and problem solving strategies (online)

11.50–12.10

Niina Nissilä (School of Marketing and Communication, University of Vaasa, Finland): Processing of terms in the thesis process

12.10–12.30

Henrik Nilsson (C.A.G Next, Sweden): Short term contribution – long-term effect?

12.30–12.40

Discussion

12.40–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.30

Round table: Challenges of ad hoc terminology work

Moderator: Henrik Nilsson

Abstracts

Elena Chiocchetti

“How do we say this in German here?” Terminology consultancy for German as a local-only minority language in Italy

Terminology work is a relevant aspect of language planning in minority languages, as it enables the practical implementation of language rights. This contribution deals with German as a local-only minority language in South Tyrol, Italy. In South Tyrol, terminology needs and doubts are mainly linked to the legal domain, due to the system-boundness of legal language. The presentation focuses on recent efforts aimed at increasing the cooperation with terminology users through a dedicated consultancy service and termbase function in bistro (<https://bistro.eurac.edu/>). We start with an overview over some theoretical aspects related to terminology consultancy and present an existing typological classification. Then, we discuss the types of user questions that are most relevant for South Tyrol based on the analysis of about 80 requests received by the consultancy service. The results show that most doubts concern terms in the minority language, suggesting that further terminology work is needed to continue supporting an effective implementation of minority language rights.

Tanja Fajfar

Terminology consulting or how to provide a fast response with credible solution to a terminological problem

Terminology Section of the ZRC SAZU Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language has been offering a Terminology Consulting Service since 2013. Users who have a terminological problem submit their question via a web form. The answer to the question consists of the opinions of 5 terminologists and is usually delivered within 5 days. The main goal of the terminologists is to provide a credible answer that is useful for a terminology user with the problem in question and for a broad user community. To achieve this goal, terminologists use terminological principles, which help them select the most appropriate term and justify the answer. They choose among 4 basic terminological principles and 3 additional terminological principles. The first part of the presentation will introduce the 7-step process in which a terminological answer is developed, and the second part will analyse the application of terminological principles in selected answers.

Úna Bhreathnach

A comparison between Irish and Slovenian ad hoc terminology approaches and results

In this talk I will compare the Irish-language approach to ad hoc terminology work with the Slovenian approach as described in 'Terminological problems of terminology users : Analysis of questions in terminological counselling service on the Terminologišče website' (Žagar Karer & Fajfar 2023). I will describe the Irish approach to term requests and terminological gaps, and highlight interesting differences.

Sandra Cuadrado

User communities & communications platforms: Catalan national termbank, thematic portals and the new podcast strategy

Since its creation in 1985, TERMCAT has carried out a big effort to make terminology available to Catalan users and experts in their own language: more than one hundred online specialized dictionaries together with the national term bank, Cercaterm, which contains more than 350,000 terms is good proof of that. During all this time, the way users communicate has changed and from TERMCAT we have had to adapt our dissemination making our proposals available in the most effective way possible. For this reason, in the last few years TERMCAT has moved a step forward in promoting the collaboration with users and opened a new approach to make the terminology resources more visible and available to them by means of looking for and activating complicity with the most representative institutions and experts from all different fields of knowledge. The traditional stages in dictionary making are broadly similar to those of previous years, but the communication channels, the relationships with experts and users and the potential for detecting neologisms in real time on digital platforms have all been cause for significant changes in the methodology when creating terminology.

How do we achieve these new challenges in terminology? On the one hand, by means of a cocreation terminology process with our users which includes a continuous adaptation to the new flows of communication and user assistance with a multidirectional exchange and boosting actions on new digital platforms such as the new series of podcasts and the thematic portals. On the other hand, through enriched and interactive tools that allow our users and experts to validate their own terminology works when necessary. Many organizations get stressed when they lose communication control over their production and do not understand that appropriation and contents cocreation with their targets not only are an inevitable issue but also a desirable one. To communicate and to cocreate has to do with listening and learning. To illustrate this new flow approach we will focus on the cocreation process of terminology we have followed to develop some of our ongoing projects as la Consulteca and the new podcast, Paraules habitables.

We wish that this new line of our terminology work will allow to increase the dissemination as well as the implantation of the neologisms in every domain as a result of this new approach with our users community.

Begoña Arrate

Ad hoc terminology work in Basque: types of queries and problem-solving strategies

UZEI, the Basque Centre for Terminology and Lexicography, has carried out, since it was created in 1978, both systematic and ad hoc terminology work in Basque with the aim of standardization of this minority language. The consultation service offered by Euskalterm, the Basque Public Term Bank of the Basque Government which was created in 1986 by UZEI, is at the core of the ad hoc terminology work carried out by UZEI since that date. As Euskalterm is a resource used by the Basque society in general, the variety of the queries sent through this channel by the heterogeneous group of users is ample.

UZEI also carries out ad hoc terminology work for giving response to the terminological queries received from the authority in the field of Basque general lexicon, the Royal Academy of the Basque Language Euskaltzaindia.

This presentation will provide examples of the main types of terminological queries received by UZEI, the problems they pose both at the conceptual and at the terminological levels and both the approaches and the problem-solving strategies used to give a response to them.

Niina Nissilä

Processing of terms in the thesis process

My presentation is about ad hoc terminology connected with thesis-writing in academic studies. Terms play a central role in reading comprehension and producing new text, and especially for the speakers of smaller languages (like Finnish), production of the texts often means processing of contents in multiple languages. Thesis writing requires condensing and structuring thinking, because the text should concretize scientific thinking and raise it for review. In texts, the choices of terms highlight connections to sources, previous research and scientific discussion and bring the text into the community's textual world. Thus, the text production process involves identifying the terms and their underlying concepts from the read sources, the ones suitable for your own text. The choice of concepts and terms binds the theme of the thesis to a specific research tradition and embodies it for the reader. For these reasons, the choices of terms and concepts should be made visible in the text. In my presentation, I will discuss the thesis-writing process from a term perspective, analyze some of the challenges and propose some solutions for terminology challenges especially in multilingual writing.

Henrik Nilsson

Short term contribution – long-term effect?

Even if a common interpretation of ad hoc terminology work would be something involving possibly non-systematic work, involving few unrelated terms or perhaps providing terminology services to singular terminology questions, with or without relevant context, it could perhaps also be used about contexts where a terminologist is invited only at the beginning of a project, not primarily terminological in nature. Often, public agencies are asked for investigations and inquiries centered around a single, main concept and an early task is to analyze that concept and perhaps change the term used to denote it. In that phase, a terminologist is sometimes invited to organize one or a few workshops on concept analysis, definition writing and term choice. Sometimes the terminologist stays on throughout the whole project until the investigation is described in a final report (typically containing a list of terms and definitions). But in the current era of consultancy – also in terminology work – the terminologist might only have one or a few seminars to get the point across and hopefully affect the work in a positive manner for a successful investigation. What are the challenges of this kind of ad hoc terminology work and how do you organize a short workshop on terminology for various people who never heard of concept analysis whilst achieving understanding of its necessity and some long-term terminological effects? Those questions and the role of the terminologist will be touched upon in this paper.