Terminology for Translator Trainers

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Overview

Terminology
• in terminology courses
• in translation courses
  • What are the key messages to convey?

1 Term: narrow vs. broad approach
2 Equivalence: concept vs. term level
3 Strategies: concept vs. term level
The notion of term

‘..in legal texts, it is easier to decide .... since it is defined. In economic texts, however, I am not sure I can do it...’ (Fischer 2010, interviews)

‘May a TERM have synonyms AT ALL?... (Fischer 2010, interviews)

‘.....based on its external characteristics, you can not decide what a term is and what is not....’ (Fischer 2010, interviews)

‘I would’nt really say it’s a term but in the context of this specific legal act, it has to be translated like that..’ (Fischer 2010 – interviews)

‘... from a practical point of view, a TERM may be everything that causes a problem for translators’ (Fischer 2010, interviews)

Definition (?) / Synonymy (?) / Polysemy (?)
too many TERMS vs. too few TERMS
The notion of TERM
Narrow approach

Wüster’s Terminologielehre – historical antecedents

• Focus on CONCEPTs that
  • are distinguished by a precise definition
  • fit into a conceptual system and
  • to which designations (terms) can be attached

• 'Eindeutigkeit': Ø polysemy

• ‘Eineindeutigkeit’: Ø polysemy and Ø synonymy

TERM: 'final product’ of a prescriptive process
(how terms SHOULD be)

The notion of TERM
Broad approach

• Experiences in translator training in the 70’s-80’s
  • Synonymy, polysemy – still a TERM
  • Lack of definitions – still a TERM

• Research results
  • Definition: not always possible
  • Synonymy: part of professional communication
  • Polysemy: necessary

TERM: Depending on the purpose  (L’Homme 2005:1130)
The notion of TERM
Purpose: translation

What is a term?

More important:

Why is it relevant to know?...
The EU Budget for 2019

Brussels, 5 December 2018

On Tuesday 4 December, the European Parliament and the Council, with the support of the Commission, reached a provisional agreement on the 2019 EU budget during a decisive trilogue.

This agreement is to be confirmed next week during the last plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. ... In line with the Commission's proposals..., the effective management of irregular migration will also remain a priority in the 2019 budget.

The 2019 EU budget is set at €165.8 billion in commitments (money that can be agreed in contracts in a given year) and €148.2 billion in payment credits (money that will be paid out). Some key features include:

Differences between the positions of the European Parliament and the Council are addressed in the 'conciliation procedure'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROPRIATIONS BY HEADING</th>
<th>Budget 2019 (nominal change in % compared to 2018)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commitments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Smart and inclusive growth:</td>
<td>80,527 (+3.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sustainable Growth: natural resources</td>
<td>59,642 (+0.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Security and Citizenship</td>
<td>3,787 (+8.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Global Europe</td>
<td>11,319 (+12.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Administration</td>
<td>9,943 (+2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other special Instruments</td>
<td>577 (-17.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total appropriations</td>
<td>165,795 (+3.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recognition

• Terms
  • See: payment credits / commitments

• **Words** that act as terms in **different contexts**
  • See: heading / administration / irregular migration

• **Words** that act as terms **in a specific text**
  • See: generalist / specialist
• ... „Jim Harrington’s point”. Callahan continued, „was that when it comes to bigger trades, having to work with all these **specialists** here gets complicated.

• „Yes, I know …”, began Winston.

• „And another thing”, Callahan interjected … „I am starting to worry about John Oates. Ever since we put him on a corporate desk as a **specialist**, he hasn’t been …

• Winston’s team included nine salespeople in total: five **generalists** and four **specialists**. Usually, **generalists** had large expense accounts to nurture relationships. **Specialists** managed smaller accounts. Winston wanted to change the **generalist team** because it lost business to their competitors... The **generalists** were like managers of small independent businesses within the office. ... The four **taxable bond specialists** shared a common group of about 120 small customers.

Methods

• Theoretical background: two approaches!
• Too few OR too many terms

• Starting from too few:
  • Underline terms that would fit into a TD
  • Revise it
  • **Include terms** where your **freedom** is restricted (like *generalist/specialist/administration*)

• Starting from too many:
  • Underline terms (you think are terms)
  • Revise it
  • **Exclude words** where you are **free** to use a TL equivalent (like *agreement / trilogue*)

See also: eTrasnFair e-modules: [https://etransfair.eu/about/intellectual-outputs/io3-e-modules](https://etransfair.eu/about/intellectual-outputs/io3-e-modules)
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3 Strategies: concept vs. term level
The two conceptual systems are different

**Equivalence types:**
- full
- partial: *solicitor*
- lack: *House of Commons*

The two languages are different

**Equivalence problems:**
- lack: *Plan D / flexicurity*
- part of speech: *heavy soil*

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Drößiger, H.-H. 2007, Fischer 2018b
Strategies

solicitor
  = Rechtsanwalt

= Rechtsanwalt (nicht bei Gericht)
= solicitor (Rechtsanwalt des durch das common law geprägten Rechtssystems...)
= solicitor

Domesticating *functional equivalent*

Foreignising *translation equivalent* by calque / loan paraphrasing neologism / combination
**Example: strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System of GERMAN courts</th>
<th>Existing system of French courts</th>
<th>Non-existing French courts (GERMAN courts described in French)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SL Term</strong></td>
<td><strong>Functional equivalent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Translation equivalent</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amtsggericht</td>
<td>tribunal d’instance</td>
<td>tribunal cantonal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landgericht</td>
<td>tribunal de grande instance</td>
<td>tribunal régional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberlandesgericht</td>
<td>cour d’appel</td>
<td>tribunal régional supérieur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundesgerichtshof</td>
<td>cour de cassation</td>
<td>Cour fédéral de Justice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Stressing similarity**

**domesticating**

**Stressing difference**

**Foreignising**

Here: calque/paraphrase
Describing the SL system OR the TL system

- SL concept
  - SL term
  - TL term (translation equivalent)
- TL concept
  - TL term (functional equivalent)

Foreignising calque / loan / paraphrasing / neologism?

Domesticating

Fischer 2018b
To conclude...

Message 1: Term
- Notion of term: relative
- For translation purposes: broad approach (translator’s freedom)

Message 2: Term
- Broad (translation-oriented) approach: any lexical unit (at text level)
- Synonyms: be careful!

Message 3: Equivalence
- Difficulties: both at concept and term level
- Translator: both expert AND linguist (+terminologist)
  - Separate terminology competence (Thelen 2007, Fischer 2018b)

Message 4: Strategies
- Step 1: foreignising vs. domesticating
- Step 2: calque/loan / paraphrasing / neologism
- Tools: false synonyms!

Translation-oriented terminology work/theory
References


References


