Terminology for Translator Trainers

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Overview

Terminology

- in terminology courses

- in translation courses
  - **What are the key messages to convey?**

Terminologist perspective

Translator perspective

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)

(Arntz–Picht–Mayer 2004, Fischer 2018a, 2014, Muráth 2010, Wüster 1973, 1974)

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?...

European Commission - Press release

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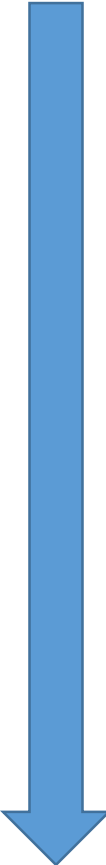
Differences between the positions of the European Parliament and the Council are addressed in the 'conciliation procedure'.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6381_en.htm

EU budget 2019 (in million euro):

APPROPRIATIONS BY HEADING	Budget (nominal change in % compared to 2018)	
	Commitments	Payments
1. Smart and inclusive growth:	80,5...	...4%)
2. Sustainable Growth: natural resources		
3. Security and Citizenship	3,...	...%)
4. Global Europe	11,319 (+12.4%)	9,358 (+5.1%)
5. Administration	9,943 (+2.9%)	9,945 (+2.9%)
Other special Instruments	577 (-17.5%)	412 (-25.2%)
Total appropriations	**165,795 (+3.2%)**	**148,199 (+2.4%)**

Translator's freedom restricted

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6381_en.htm

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 [...] [...]ting to worry about John Oates. Ever sin[...] [...] desk as a specialist, he hasn't been [...]

- Winston's team included nine sa[...] 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.

Text cohesion!
Careful with synonyms

- SOURCE: Donnellon–Gifford (2008:4) Campbell and Bailyn's Boston Office: Managing the Reorganization, Harvard Business Case Study https://www.allfreepapers.com/Business/Campbell-and-Bailyns-Boston-office-Managing-the-Reorganization/75818.html

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

TERMS
in a translation-oriented perspective

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3 Strategies: concept vs. term level

Equivalence

Concept(s)

Difficulties at both concept and term level

The two conceptual systems are different
Equivalence types:
    full
    partial: **solicitor**
    lack: **House of Commons**

Term(s)

The two languages are different
Equivalence problems:
    lack: **Plan D / flexicurity**
    part of speech: **heavy soil**
    .....

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

System of GERMAN courts

***Existing* system of French courts**

***Non-existing* French courts**

(GERMAN courts described in French)

SL Term	Functional equivalent	Translation equivalent
Amtsgericht	*tribunal d'instance*	*tribunal cantonal*
Landgericht	*tribunal de grande instance*	*tribunal régional*
Oberlandesgericht	*cour d'appel*	*tribunal régional supérieur*
Bundesgerichtshof	*cour de cassation*	*Cour fédéral de Justice*

Stressing similarity
domesticating

Stressing difference
Foreignising
Here: calque/ paraphrase

Based on: Arntz–Picht–Mayer (2004:176)

Describing
OR

the SL system

the TL system

SL concept

TL concept

SL *term*

TL *term*
*(translation
equivalent)*

TL *term*
*(functional
equivalent)*

Foreignising
calque /loan /
paraphrasing /
neologism?

Domesticating
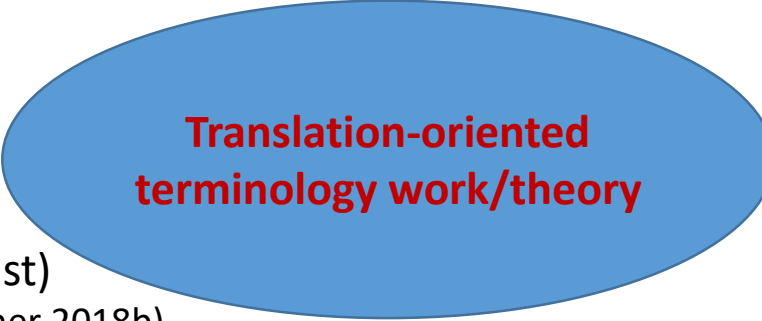
Fischer 2018b
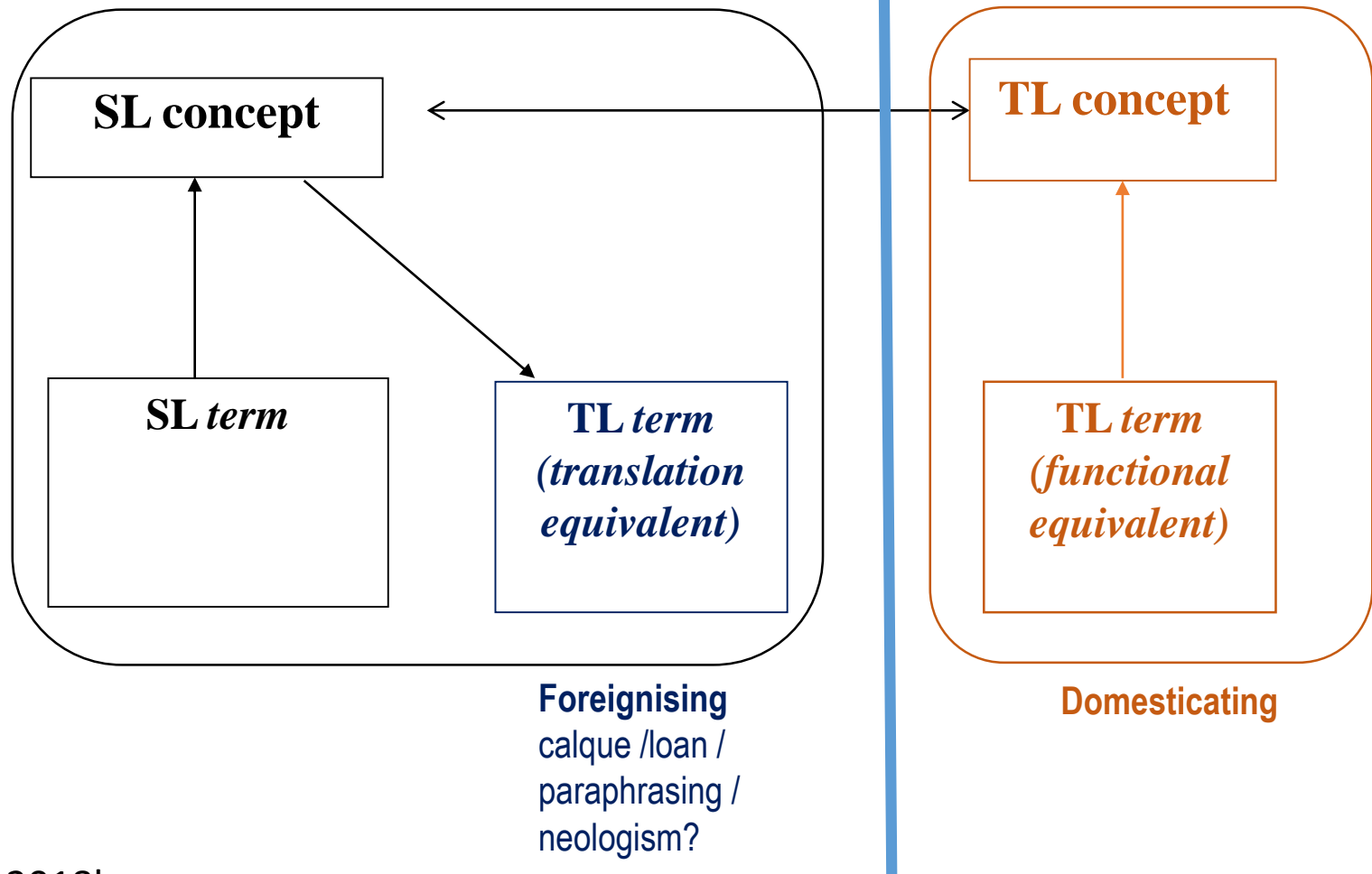
To conclude…

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)

Translation-oriented terminology work/theory

Message 4: Strategies

- Step1: foreginising vs. domesticating
- Step2: calque/loan / paraphrasing /neologism
- Tools: false synonyms!

Fischer 2018a

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