

Infoterm Newsletter



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IMPRESSUM

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Hellenic Society
For Terminology
(ELETO)

(Infoterm Member)

The «Analogue Rule» - a useful terminological tool in interlingual transfer of knowledge

By Kostas Valeontis

Summary

The basic data (object(s), characteristics, concept, definition, and designation) concerning a **new concept** are considered and their «transfer» from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL) is examined. The SL namer has conceived the new concept, formulated its definition and formed its **designation X** (name, term or symbol), by applying principles and rules proper to the SL (the **SL convention**), whereas the TL namer must have fully understood the new concept by means of its basic data from the SL and he/she has on one hand to **transfer** to the TL all those data which are “transferable” and on the other hand to **form** the **equivalent designation Y** of the new concept in the TL, by using principles and rules proper to the TL (the **TL convention**). Therefore, the passage of a new concept, as a new unit of knowledge, from SL to TL, is done within the TL namer’s mind. The **‘Analogue Rule’ of Naming** is applicable when creating the TL *convention* for **Y**. This rule states that except the above basic data of the new concept, the **term-formation mechanism** used for the *designation X* should be taken into account, and utilizes *any analogies* which may be applied to the TL to create the *designation Y*. A set of such analogies is indicated. Examples are given for the pair of languages **English** (SL) – **Greek** (TL).

The basic data concerning a new concept and their ‘transfer’ from the source language to the target language

An **object** is anything perceptible by our senses or conceivable by our minds; the **characteristics** of an object or a group of objects are *abstractions* of the properties of the object(s), whereas a unique combination of characteristics of an object or a group of objects forms a unit of knowledge, the **concept**, which represents the object(s) in our minds (being an *individual concept* or a *general concept, accordingly*) [1].

Both **definition** and **designation** are representations of a concept: **definition** represents the concept by a descriptive statement fully delimiting and differentiating it from all other related concepts, while **designation** represents the concept by a sign which (by convention) denotes it. This representation may be either **verbal** (i.e. made of one or more words) – being a **“name”** or **“appellation”** for an *individual concept*, or a **“term”** for a *general concept* – or **symbolic** (i.e. a **“symbol”**), or combining both (word(s) and symbol(s)). “Designation” also is the act of “designating”, that is the function performed by the *name, term, or symbol* of a concept, but also the act of “forming” the *name, term or symbol* of a concept by somebody, whom we agree to call the **“namer”** of the concept.

The designation **X** of a **new concept** in a subject field is a choice of the person who discovered or invented the new concept and rendered it in his/her own language (source language). The new knowledge is created in the source language and then is transferred to other languages (target languages). The *source language namer* conceived the new concept, formulated its definition and formed its designation **X**, by applying – consciously or unconsciously – principles and rules proper to his/her language, without being committed to other languages. He/she was free to render the new concept in his/her best way having full knowledge of both the concept and the changes it causes to the system of concepts of the relevant subject field. The formation of **X** and the adoption of its correspondence to the new concept constitute, in essence, the **source language convention** to designate the new concept.

The matter is not the same for the *target language namer* (and we say: target language “namer” and not “translator” because we cannot talk about *translation* while the target language *equivalent designation* has not yet been formed). Therefore, the *target language namer* must have fully understood the new concept through data (*objects* covered by the concept, *characteristics* of the objects, *definition* and *designation* of the concept) the knowledge of which he/she obtains from the source language, and he/she has on one hand to **transfer** to the target language all those data which are “transferable” – namely information about *objects, characteristics, and definition*, since they are described through known *concepts* and *designations* – and on the other hand to **form** the **equivalent designation Y** (i.e. *name, term or symbol*) of the new concept in the target language, by using principles and rules proper to the target language.

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The *formation* of **Y** and the adoption of its *correspondence* to the new concept – thereby its equivalence to **X** – constitute, in essence, the **target language convention** to designate the new concept.

Therefore, the passage of a new *concept*, as a new *unit of knowledge*, from source language to target language for further dissemination, is done through a *noetic translingual interface* which is effected within the *target language namer's* mind.

In figure 1, the target language namer's "linguistic/intellectual" function for the source language is represented by a horizontal geometrical plane and the "linguistic/intellectual" function of the same *namer* for the target language is represented by a lower horizontal geometrical plane¹. The course of transfer of the new concept's knowledge from one language to the other, through the abovementioned *noetic translingual interface* considered to be between the two planes of figure 1 is as follows:

The target language namer

- 1 can, via source language, follow and understand the source language namer's mental route (need to cover the **new object(s)** \bowtie abstraction of the **characteristics** constituting the **new combination** i.e. the **new concept** \bowtie formulation of the concept's **definition** in the source language \bowtie formation of its **designation** in the source language);
- 2 having understood, via source language, both **characteristics** and **concept** does not have to «transfer» these items to the target language, since they have *interlingual* character;
- 3 however, can «transfer» the **definition** of the concept from the source language to the target language, because the **definition** in the source language is formulated by means of **known designations** of the source language **for which there are already equivalent designations in the target language** (under this condition the target language *definition* in a *translation* of the source language *definition*);
- 4 taking into account the **definition** of the concept (in both languages) and its **designation** in the source language, **forms** its **designation** in the target language, using **designating principles and rules** proper to the target language.

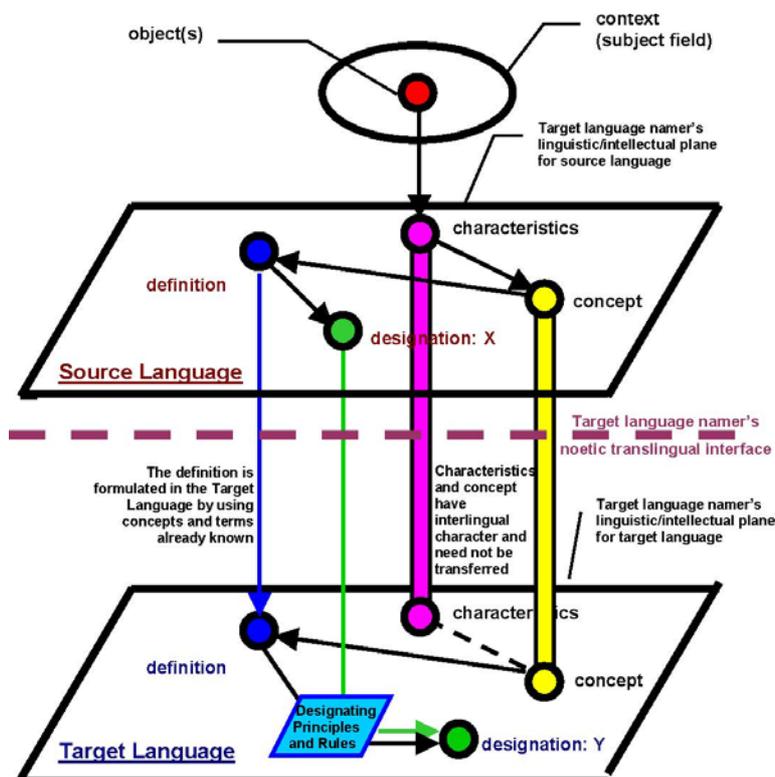


Figure 1 – Transfer of basic data concerning a *new concept* from the source language to the target language through the target language namer's «noetic translingual interface»

¹ This representation is intentionally simplification; the horizontality and level difference of the two planes do not imply but the direction from source language to target language, while their parallelism does not imply that the functions they represent are extraneous and irrelevant, the points "characteristics" and "concept" already being considered as common points of the two planes.

2 Main term-formation mechanisms for concept naming based on the English language (according to ISO)

According to ISO [2], three general term-formation mechanisms which apply to English and may also apply to other languages are: *creating new forms*, *using existing forms*, and *translingual borrowing*.

2.1 New forms are [2] new lexical entities that never existed before. For the creation of new forms one may use processes such as *derivation* (e.g. phosphor+ous ↗ phosphorous), *compounding* (e.g. information + highway ↗ information highway, information + entertainment ↗ infotainment), and *abbreviation* (e.g. disc operating system ↗ DOS).

2.2 For the creation of new forms one may use **existing forms** by processes such as *conversion* (e.g. output {noun} ↗ to output {verb}), *terminologization* (e.g. circuit <general language> ↗ circuit <electronics>), *semantic transfer* (e.g. screen {concrete} ↗ screen {abstract}) and *transdisciplinary borrowing* (e.g. virus <Medicine> ↗ virus <Computer science>).

2.3 Terms existing in one language can be introduced into another language by **translingual borrowing**: either as direct loans or as loan translations.

3 Main term-formation mechanisms for naming new concepts in the Greek language (either as a source language or as a target language)

All that is stated by ISO above based on the English language are applicable to Greek too, as the following mechanisms which apply to the Greek language fall properly within the three main mechanisms of ISO.

a. *Creation of a neologism² by creating a new Greek word which has never been used till now in the Greek language. For the formation of the neologism we may employ processes and techniques such as derivation, composition, parasynthesis, blending et al. (ISO case 2.1 for monolectic (one-word) new forms).*

b. *Formation of a polylectic (multi-word) complex term by using known Greek terms in a syntactical interrelation which mirrors the verbal description of the definition. In this case shortening processes can also be used, such as initialism formation and acronym formation. (ISO case 2.1 for polylectic (multi-word) new forms).*

c. *Transfer of a term – monolectic or polylectic – from the general language (terminologization) or from another subject field (transdisciplinary borrowing), i.e. use of a common term, or a term from another subject field, as designation of the new concept of the subject field under consideration. (ISO case 2.2 for existing forms).*

d. *Translingual borrowing of a term from another language, that is transcription of this term into the Greek alphabet with or without adaptation of the term to the conjugational system of Greek. (ISO case 2.3 for translingual borrowing).*

e. *Application of the “synecdochical extension”, i.e. the use – by logical extension – for a concept, a qualification proper to another concept which is related to the former, and has basic importance for it. This process does not constitute a separate mechanism, but a horizontal rule applying to all other mechanisms stated above. Although not mentioned by ISO, this mechanism*

² In Hellenic Terminology, a **neologism** is a newly formed monolect – simple or complex – which may be a root word, a derivative, a compound or a parasynthetic word and which is formed and used for the first time, in all history of the Hellenic language, to designate a (not necessarily new) concept.

Formulation of the «Analogue rule» of naming

It is true that today the major part of new knowledge is produced in English as a *source language*. The problem of terminology in the Greek language, as in other languages too, as *target languages*, appears extremely intense on **importing new knowledge**: this import is done at such high rates that a great effort is needed to follow and timely render all **new terms of the source language** with **equivalent terms** of the *target language* considered.

However, a **new term** in the source language, in any given **subject field**, means a **new concept**, in that field, for which not yet any **equivalent term** has been developed in the target language; and for such a **new concept** it is impossible, indeed, to find the *equivalent term* in any existent dictionary of the target language. Consequently, the target language namers for the relevant subject field (within the teamwork of the proper *terminology body*) have to deal with the matter and **agree on** forming the *equivalent term*.

However, which one of the abovementioned mechanisms should they choose? Fig. 2 shows a simple block diagram of naming a **new concept**; firstly in the *source language* (left side) and then in the *target language* (right side). As shown in this figure, the act of naming a *new concept* in the *target language* does not take into account, as the only **data**, the **definition** of the concept and its *designation* (the **term**) in the *source language*, but it additionally takes into account the **term-formation mechanism** in the *source language*.

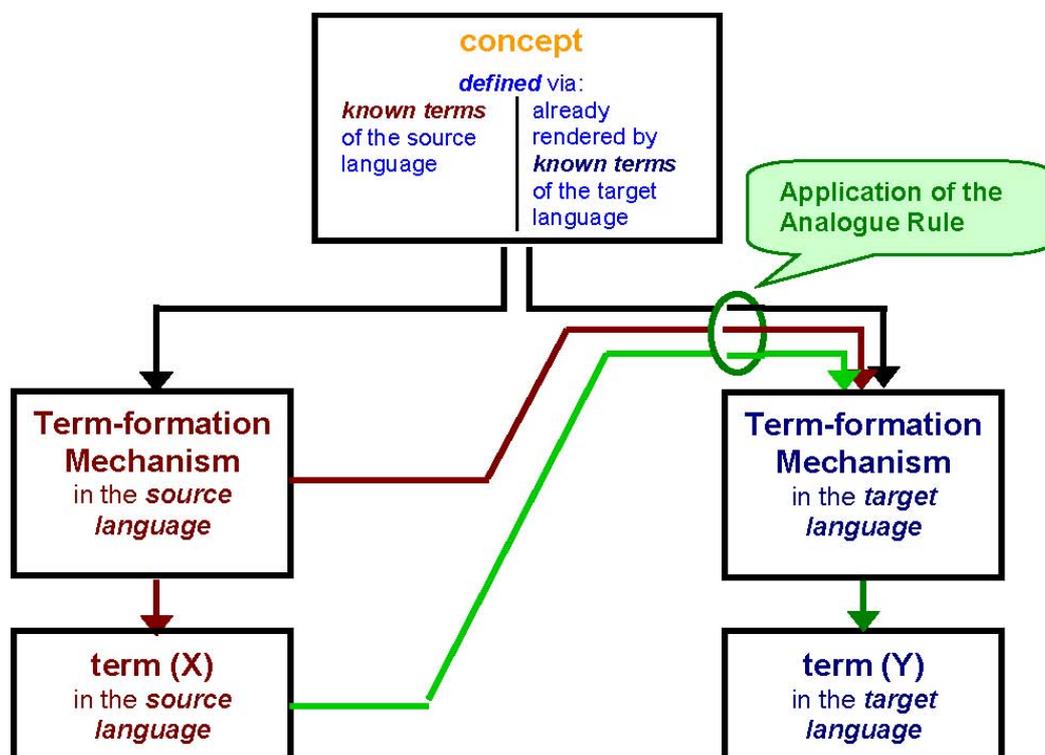


Figure 2 – The application of the «Analogue Rule» for naming a new concept in the target language takes into account, besides the *definition* of the concept and the *term* designating the concept in the *source language*, the relevant term-formation mechanism.

In essence, fig. 2, concerns the function of naming in the *target language* through the target language namer's *noetic translingual interface*, with the difference that it adds, to the data of fig. 1, one more datum: the *term-formation mechanism* according which the *designation X* has been formed in the *source language*; i.e. it adds a third arrow to the two ones which lead to the *designation Y* (see fig. 1) corresponding to the information about that mechanism.

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An immediate question is then asked: To what extent the *target language* namer will follow a route **analogous** to that followed by the *source language* namer, i.e. an **analogous term-formation mechanism** in the *target language*. For the Greek language as *target language*, the answer is based on more than twenty years' terminological practice and experience in naming, in the framework of cooperative work with terminology bodies such as **MOTO** (Permanent Group for Telecommunication Terminology) and **ELOT/TC48/WG1** (Information Technology Terminology), and has been formulated [3] as the «Analogue Rule» of Naming:

The "Analogue Rule" of Naming:

When forming a term in a language (target language) in order to name a new concept that has been primarily named in another language (source language), the namer's first choice should be to apply a term-formation mechanism analogous to the term-formation mechanism used for the source language term.

Table 1 – Correspondence of term-formation mechanism data examined according to the Analogue Rule

No.	In source language	In target language
1	A <i>monolectic new form</i> X has been created a. monolectic simple term X (ST) b. monolectic complex term X (dD ή Dd), where d is the <i>determining component</i> and D the <i>determined component</i> of the term)	Creation of a <i>monolectic</i> term Y (neologism), simple or complex correspondingly, is examined. In case of a complex term the examination focuses on the correspondence of its immediate components (i.e. the Determined component of X to the Determined component of Y, and the determining component of X to the determining component of Y: $D_x \square D_y$ and $d_x \square d_y$)
2	A <i>polylectic new form</i> X has been created (polylectic complex term)	Creation of a <i>polylectic</i> term Y is examined, with immediate components of Y (D_y, d_y) corresponding to those of X (D_x, d_x)
3	The term X has been obtained by <i>conversion</i>	Analogous <i>conversion</i> to obtain the equivalent term Y is examined
4	There has been <i>terminologization</i> of the general language term X	Analogous <i>terminologization</i> of the equivalent or other proper general language term Y is examined.
5	There has been <i>transdisciplinary borrowing</i> of the term X from the subject field SF	The examination is whether <i>transdisciplinary borrowing</i> of the equivalent term Y from the same subject field SF may be adopted
6	The term X is an <i>abbreviated form</i> of the full form x	Creation of an <i>abbreviated form</i> Y of the equivalent full form y is examined
7	<i>Synecdochical extension</i> has been applied to the term X	Application of the analogous <i>synecdochical extension</i> to the equivalent term Y is examined

Application examples of the «Analogue rule»

A series of application examples of the «Analogue Rule» are given below, the target language being Greek.

Example 1:

In subject field <Electronics> the **English** term **chip** was formed in the source language as a simple monolectic term, by **terminologization** of the common term "chip" which means «a very thin slice of wood, food et al.» to render the concept «*integrated circuit in the form of a rectangular thin flat piece of semiconductor*». In **Greek**, MOTO applied an **analogous mechanism** by *terminologization of the common Greek term* **πλινθίο**/plinθίο/ (= little brick). This rendering made possible to designate **analogously** a number of related concepts such as those in table 2.

³ Rendering a monolectic term of the source language by a monolectic equivalent term of the target language (hereupon Greek) – regardless of being a simple or complex term – is particularly important for transferring the future development of the relevant concept system to the target language, since it makes possible further manifold complexing with other components in order to designate newer concepts of the field.

INFOTERM MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Table 2 – Some English terms containing the component chip and the corresponding Greek equivalent terms in accordance with the Analogue Rule

English term		Case in Table 1	Greek term	
chip	ST	4	πλινθίο /plinθío/	ST
chip-carrier	dD	1b	πλινθιοβάση /plinθio-vási/	d D
silicon chip	dD	2	πλινθίοπυριτίου /plinθío piritíu/	D d
multichip {n.}	dD	1b	πολυπλινθίο /poly-plinθío/	d D
multichip {adj.}	dD	1b	πολυπλίνθιος /poly-plínthios/	d D
multichip module	dD	2	πολυπλίνθιοδομοστοιχείο /poly-plínthio domostixío/	d D
chip frequency	dD	2	συχνότηταπλινθίου /syxnótita plinθíu/	D d

Example 2:

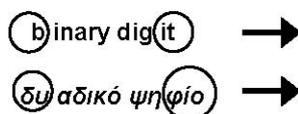
In <Information Technology> and <Telecommunications> the English term **bit** was formed in the source language as a new form (a monolectic simple term) by **abbreviating** (hereupon **blending**) the full form **binary digit** without changing the concept designated by the full form: «*a digit of the binary numbering system*»

The two bodies, **MOTO** (Telecommunications) and **ELOT/TC48/WG1** (Information Technology), proposed three candidate equivalent Greek terms for **bit**, which ELETO put to vote among its members. The proposal voted for was the blend **δυφίο**/dífío/, which is produced by **blending** the equivalent full Greek term **δυσιαδικόψηφίο**/dysiadikó psifío/ in exactly the same manner as for **bit**:

bit**δυφίο** /dífío/

The adoption of the term **δυφίο** has really *disburdened* the Hellenic telecommunication terminology, by allowing a rationalizing revision of some hundreds of Greek complex terms containing the full form **δυσιαδικόψηφίο** as a rendition of the source language term **bit**. A number of such terms are given in table 3.

Table 3 – Some English terms containing the component bit and the corresponding Greek equivalent terms in accordance with the Analogue Rule



INFOTERM MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

English term		Case in Table 1	Greek term	
bit {n.}	ST	6, 1a	δυφίο /ðifio/	ST
bit {adj.}	ST	6, 1a	δυφιακός /ðifiakós/	ST
bit number	dD	6, 2	αριθμόςδυφίου /aríthmós ðifíu/	Dd
bit sequence	dD	6, 2	ακολουθίαδυφίων /akoluθía ðifíon/	Dd
bit error	dD	6, 2	δυφιακόσφάλμα /ðifiakó sfálma/	dD
bit error ratio	dD	6, 2	λόγοςδυφιακώνσφαλμάτων /lógos -ðifiakón sfalmáton/	Dd
bit-oriented protocol	dD	6, 2	δυφιοστρεφέσπρωτόκολλο /ðifiostréfés protókolo/	dD
data bit	dD	6, 2	δυφιοδεδομένων /ðifioðedomenón/	Dd
field extension bit	dD	6, 2	δυφιοεπέκτασηςπεδίου /ðifio - epéktasis pedíu/	Dd
dibit	dD	6, 1b	διδυφίο, διδυφο /ðidifíio, ðidifio/	dD

ELOT (Hellenic Organization for Standardization), for the subject field <Quality>, **borrowed** from <Diplomacy> the Greek term **διαπίστευσης** as the Greek equivalent term for the English **accreditation** to render the concept «*procedure to provide a formal recognition that a certain organization or person is competent to accomplish special tasks*» (see also Table 4)

Table 4 – Rendition of some English terms, from <Quality>, which contain the component **accreditation**

English term		Case in Table 1	Greek term	
accreditation	ST	5	διαπίστευση /ðiapístefsi/	ST
laboratory accreditation	dD	5, 2	διαπίστευσηεργαστηρίου/ ðiapístefsi erγastiríu/	Dd
accreditation criteria	dD	5, 2	κριτήριαδιαπίστευσης /kritíria ðiapístefsis /	Dd
accredited laboratory	dD	5, 2	διαπιστευμένοεργαστήριο /ðiapistevménoo erγastirio/	dD
accreditation body	dD	5, 2	οργανισμόςδιαπίστευσης /organizómós ðiapístefsis /	Dd

Example 4:

The *synecdochical extension* of the use of the English adjective «**digital**» from the concept «*digital signal*» (= «*signal with discontinuous temporal change in one of its characteristic quantities, which assumes values from a set of discrete values*») to a series of related concepts of the same concept system has been adopted (by MOTO) and used for the Hellenic Telecommunications Terminology (see also Table 5).

Table 5 – <Telecommunications> From «**digital**» signal to a series of other «**digital**» concepts

English term (dD)	Case in Table 1	Greek term (dD)
digital signal	2	ψηφιακόσήμα /psifiakó síma/
digital input (= digital signal input)	2, 7	ψηφιακήείσοδος /psifiakí ísodos/
digital electronics (= digital signal electronics)	2, 7	ψηφιακήηλεκτρονική /psifiakí ilektronikí/
digital network (= digital signal network)	2, 7	ψηφιακόδίκτυο /psifiakó díktio/
digital connection (= digital network connection)	2, 7	ψηφιακήσύνδεση /psifiakí sínðesi/
digital radio link (= digital signal radio link)	2, 7	ψηφιακήραδιοζεύξη /psifiakí radiozéfksi/

Conclusions

In transferring knowledge from one language (*source language*) to another (*target language*) transfer of *new concepts* as new *knowledge units* plays a basic role. One of the essential components of this transfer is *naming* the new concepts in the *target language*, a function usually performed by *terminology bodies* (special committees or groups) of *target language* (*target language namers*). The «Analogue Rule» is applicable when naming new concepts, which have not been named before in the *target language*. According to this rule, besides the source language *definition* and *designation* of the new concept the *target language namer* is asked to take also into consideration the term-formation mechanism used in the source language, and investigate, as first choice, the likelihood of using an *analogous term-formation mechanism* in the target language.

The Analogue Rule [3] does not *impose*, but simply *gives priority* to the examination of a term-formation mechanism in the target language analogous to that of the source language, thereby ensuring:

- *utilization of the work* which has been accomplished in the *source language*, where the *new knowledge (new concept)* was created, and which it is unwise to ignore;
- *restriction of arbitrariness* in selecting term-formation mechanisms possibly *irrelevant* to, or *incompatible* with, the term-formation mechanisms for the rest of the concepts of the same concept system, where the concept being named belongs;
- *minimization of the problems* that may arise from future *modifications* or *revisions*, which will reasonably be effected in the *source language* (given that knowledge from future development of the subject field under consideration will most probably remain *imported knowledge* for the target language).

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PROJECTS



The IN-SAFETY Project

Road safety engineering measures may reduce casualties by 6.5%. However, the rather high cost of traditional infrastructure construction/adaptations is a prohibiting factor. The combination of new technologies with existing infrastructure may lead to much more cost-efficient solutions.

The project work is based on an amalgam of previous work results and innovative concepts, realized and extensively tested in 4 inter-related pilots Europewide, covering all road types and including key drivers' cohorts, such as tourists, elderly and novice drivers.

The project is a 3-year EC co-funded project which started on February 2005.



The problem

Over 42,000 road users are killed in European Union (EU) countries annually and around 3.5 million are injured, when under-reporting is taken into consideration. Looking at fatality risk however, the traffic system is less safe for the more vulnerable road users, where the risk of death on EU roads for pedestrians and cyclists is 8-9 times higher and for motorcyclists it is 20 times higher. The use of new technologies may become the catalyst towards achieving this goal, especially since the combination of new technologies with existing infrastructure, or with limited improvements of it, may lead to much more cost-effective solutions.

Objective

The IN-SAFETY project aims to use intelligent, intuitive and cost-efficient combinations of new technologies and traditional infrastructure best practice applications, in order to enhance the forgiving and self-explanatory nature of roads, by:

- Building consensus on priorities for regulation and standardization processes and assessing the potential and cost-effectiveness of combined use of such new technologies (ADAS, IVIS) and innovative HMI concepts.
- Developing and testing new simulation models (micro and macro) and risk analysis tools, to estimate the safety of road environments.
- Developing training tools and curricula for road and TMIC operators, focusing on the use of new technologies.
- Harmonizing/optimizing vertical and horizontal signing and personalizing their information to the specific needs and wants of each user.
- Issuing priority implementation scenarios, guidelines for further research and policy recommendations for cost-efficient road environment development, road safety assessment and inspection, including new technological

Self-Explanatory Roads

One focus of the project is on self-explanatory road environments and on innovative combinations of horizontal and vertical signing employing traditional and advanced technologies. Emphasis will be on signing and related standardization and the use of best practice in developing and applying pictograms in the TERN (Trans-European Road Network). Tests will be carried out in Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The optimization of verbal messages will be taken care of whenever "referents" cannot be translated into pictograms. A typeface family, harmonized in style with the proposed pictograms will be elaborated too plus an easily comprehensible and legible content structure for displaying combined pictogram and verbal messages.



Download the powerpoint presentation of Infoterm and its role in IN-SAFETY from <http://linux.infoterm.org>.

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EuroTermBank

Workshop in Copenhagen

Workshop on "Requirements of a EuroTermBank" organized by the partners of the EU project "EuroTermBank – Collection of Pan-European Terminology Resources through Cooperation of Terminology Institutions" in conjunction with the TKE conference 2005 in Copenhagen

The EuroTermBank project focuses on the harmonization and consolidation of terminology work in the new EU member states, transferring experience from other European Union terminology networks and accumulating competencies and efforts of the accessed countries. The project will result in a centralized online terminology bank for the languages of the new EU member countries – mainly Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland – interlinked to other terminology banks and resources. It will also enable the exchange of terminology data with existing national and EU terminology databases by establishing cooperative relationships, aligning methodologies and standards, designing and implementing data exchange mechanisms and procedures.

One of the first steps in the project was to identify and classify terminology resources existing in the new EU member states mentioned above. About 250 very heterogeneous terminology resources have been described and presented in a way allowing to evaluate their quality and appropriateness for the project objectives.

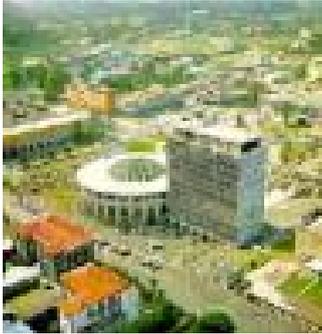
The second important task carried out so far consisted in assessing methodology standards and best practices. To this end, current ISO standards on terminology methodology as well as national standardization organizations of the respective countries have been described in an extensive report. A detailed description of the relevant infrastructures and the single steps constituting the workflow of terminology tasks as well as the applied tools in the different countries and various organizations are also subject of the report.

The workshop in Copenhagen aimed at defining the requirements for the database on the basis of this background information, namely for the database structure, the application software and the user interface as well as the data exchange mechanisms. Surveys and interviews have been carried out beforehand to obtain generic user needs and requirements demanded by terminology resource owners in the different countries. The presentation of the results was followed by general considerations concerning the data structure and the technical design. The results of the workshop will be incorporated in the next project report, the "Implementation Specification (Design Document)".

For further information on the EuroTermBank project, please refer to <http://www.eurotermbank.com>.

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WE BELIEVE IN PARTNERSHIP



A call from NATIE for networking

By Mr. Yissakor Beyene

Ethiopia is situated in the Horn of Africa. It is one of those countries with ancient civilizations. It has rich literature, language, art and cultural treasures and heritages. The capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, is the seat of international organizations like the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNEP, and others.

There are more than seven world heritage sites (seven wonders) in Ethiopia registered by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). They are very old, e.g. the Lalibela rock Hewn churches built about the beginning of the 12th century and the castles of Gonder built in the beginning of the 17th century. And there are more than 13 literature heritages (many of them in parchment) in the country registered and under UNESCO's protection as the world's property.

The diversity of languages spoken is among the unique fascinations of the country. There are more than 75 languages (more than 75 ethnic tribes) and 200 dialects spoken in Ethiopia. Most belong to the Semitic and Cushitic branches of the Afro-Asiatic (Hamo Semitic) family. 'Ethiopic', 'Abyssinian', 'Abyssinic', 'Ethiopian' are the terms most familiar to the western world for the primary writing system of Ethiopia. In Ethiopia the writing system is known affectionately as 'Ge'ez', 'Fidel', and 'Fidelat'.

The language of the Ethiopian church liturgy, Ge'ez, gave rise to the Semitic cluster of languages: Amharic, Tigrinya, and Tigre. Amharic, the country's official language, is spoken by more than half of the population. English and Arabic are also spoken by many people.

Not only little attention is given from the relevant bodies to introduce the countries literature and language heritages to the rest of the world through translation but also to the growth of translation and interpreting professions in Ethiopia.

Few years ago, some qualified translators and interpreters (many of them from literature and linguistic back ground including sign language), who had a vision of establishing a registered body which primarily strives for the growth of professionals and the profession itself and being a bridge between the country and the rest of the world took the initiative. It was the start of how the National Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ethiopia (NATIE) came into existence. NATIE is a nascent and as its name refers it is an association which represents professionals nationally. Conducting research programmes, building an institution which train qualified practitioners for the expanding market, policy development, establishing a terminology centre in the country which has regional and international networks, undertaking localization and standardization projects, building the capacity of our association and its members are some of the missions of NATIE to mention. Even if the members of NATIE are dedicated in working very hard, there are lots of problems which limit the activities of our association. Due to financial limitations, we don't have permanent staff and a formal office. To tackle the problems and become fruitful we are using partnerships strategies. To show the power of partnership and to loud our voices, we brought the translation and interpreting professions under the umbrella of one national association.

Currently, our association is engaged in the following major activities:

1. **ISO/TC 37** – formal meetings between our association and the Quality and Standards Association of Ethiopia (QSAE) are under way on the representation of our association in and joint cooperation with ISO TC/ 37.
2. **Establishing a terminology centre in Ethiopia**, to be used as clearing house by the regional towns in the country. There is no such a centre or relevant body working in this area in the country. NATIE is the only body which initiated and launched terminology activities in the country.
3. **Sign language** is one of our target working area. We are organizing to undertake sign language training programmes to a larger extent in the country. We have decided this because of two reasons. One is to fill the gap between the deaf and the hearing community. The second one is to make information

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

accessible to this marginalized community through public interpreters. It is very shocking when we compare the number of the qualified interpreters against the number of the deaf community. There are more than 200,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in the capital Addis Ababa and the neighboring towns. But there are not more than 10 sign language interpreters in the country.

4. **Formal training/study opportunities overseas** - Addis Ababa University, the older and the bigger university in the country (and all the other major universities in the regions), lack a department to study translation and interpreting fields. Due to this, we realized that some of our members need to take courses and go through formal study programmes overseas to meet the professional competence. We kindly extend our call to all universities, colleges and study centres throughout the world to offer our association study opportunities. We assure you of our full attention and commitment.

5. **Facilitations of translation of Ethiopian literature into foreign languages.** NATIE encourages and supports translation of Ethiopian literature into foreign languages, as translation is a bridge that brings people living in different cultures and lands closer. Currently, NATIE is discussing the inclusion of Ethiopian intellectual diaspora for this purpose.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those national and international organizations that reacted to our call for partnership to work together in Ethiopia and regionally in the Horn of Africa. To name some of them and their activities, Infoterm/TermNet, for extending its invaluable cooperation to implement terminology projects in Ethiopia and regional countries jointly with our association. UNESCO Addis Ababa -Information and Communication Sector, for its financial support by sponsoring our members to take terminology courses and experience sharing activities overseas. And TNC -Swedish Centre for Terminology for their willingness to network with us and start organizing translation-oriented terminology courses in Ethiopia.

So, we cordially invite fellow associations, training institutions, research centres, universities, Ethiopian intellectuals and donor organizations to join a potential cooperation networking.

Please come and join us and let's show others that partnership really matters!

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20 Years CNCTST

Infoterm has congratulated CNCTST on behalf of the Infoterm Community for its 20 years of successful existence.

Established in 1985 by the State Council of China, CNCTST (the China National Committee for Terms in Sciences and Technologies) has ever since created many subcommittees for various subject fields with a view to unify authoritatively Chinese equivalents for scientific-technical English terms.

This was a great challenge in view of the fact that the authoritative approach was new in academia at that time, and CNCTST performed very well in setting up and coordinating the emerging subcommittees. In the course of the years, more than 60 subcommittees produced more than 50 glossaries of Chinese and English terms, covering 70 subject fields. These authoritatively discussed and approved Chinese terms amounting to a total volume of 174.000 glossary entries have a substantial bearing on the educational system in China.

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Recently, CNCTST was able to produce its first CD-ROM covering all glossaries prepared so far by the subcommittees in cooperation with the Beijing University Press. This has been particularly welcomed by Infoterm, which has tried since its very beginnings to drive the field of terminology studies and applications to the highest level. Thus, CNCTST – being an Infoterm Associate Member since 2000 – has contributed significantly to the world terminology community.

Inquiries concerning the CD-ROM should be addressed to:

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Hotline: +86-10-8624 3222

MoU/MG

By Dr. Christian Galinski, Infoterm

Topics like terminology, multilinguality, multimodality, cultural diversity, multiple classification, universal accessibility (incl. the requirements for people with special needs) and language resources in general, as well as the respective basic and fundamental principles and methods have become recognized as essential aspects of semantic interoperability.

Two statements concerning 'semantic interoperability' (ISO/TC 37 N 496) and 'cultural diversity' (ISO/TC 37 N 497) formulated in cooperation with CEN/ISSS/CDSG, the Cultural Diversity Steering Group of CEN's Information Society Standardization System (<http://www.cenorm.be/cenorm/businessdomains/businessdomains/iss/activity/cdsg.asp>), have been endorsed by ISO/TC 37 (<http://www.iso.org/tc37>), CEN/ISSS/CDSG and CEN/ISSS for submission to the MoU/MG Management Group of the ITU-ISO-IEC-UN/ECE Memorandum of Understanding concerning standardization in the field of eBusiness (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/e-business/mou/>).

- ISO/TC 37 N 496 (2004) Proposal for an MoU/MG statement concerning Semantic Interoperability and the need for a coherent policy for a framework of distributed, coordinated repositories for all kinds of content items on a world-wide scale.
- ISO/TC 37 N 497 (2004) Statement on eBusiness Standards and Cultural Diversity

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CGALINSKI
UNESCO

A Summary of relevant Unesco Newsflashes: July - September 2005

28-09-2005 (Addis Ababa) - New partnership for terminology capacity building in Ethiopia. Ethiopian and Swedish terminologists will cooperate through an agreement recently reached between the National Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ethiopia (NATIE) and the Swedish Centre for Terminology (TNC).

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=20023&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

27-09-2005 (Moscow) - On 20 September 2005, a round table on "Safety of children on the Internet" was organized jointly by the Russian Federation's National Committee for UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP) and Microsoft Corporation Russia and CIS branch.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=20000&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

20-09-2005 (The Hague) - Experts to discuss preservation of digital heritage in November in The Netherlands Principles and policies for preserving the digital heritage will be on the agenda of an international conference that is taking place from 4 to 5 November 2005 in The Hague.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19965&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

19-09-2005 (Paris/Geneva) - Preparation of WSIS in Tunis enters last phase with meeting in Geneva. The final preparatory meeting for the forthcoming Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society opened on 19 September at the Palais des Nations in Geneva with UNESCO observers participating throughout the two week event.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19933&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

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16-09-2005 (Paris) - UNESCO will support the organization of the second World Electronic Media Forum that will be held in Tunis from 15 to 16 November 2005, in connection with the second phase of World Summit on the Information Society.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19840&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

15-09-2005 (Paris) - A one-day debate on Infoethics took place on 15 September 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris as part of the 9th session of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP).
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19917&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

14-09-2005 (Paris) - Call for Application: Creative Thinking / Writing and Design Applications can now be submitted for online courses on "Creative Thinking / Writing and Design", the first part of a "Masters Module on Art, Design and Technology in the Arab States", offered by UNESCO with several partners in the Arab Region.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19878&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

13-09-2005 (Paris) - A three-day Colloquium on Language Technologies was held from 14 to 16 September 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19886&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

13-09-2005 (Paris) - A young women's leaders project started now in Uganda with the support of UNESCO's Information for All Programme. It helps young women leaders to develop principles and practices of alternative leadership and to build their confidence in the use of ICT.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19871&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

12-09-2005 (Paris) - A project funded by UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP) aiming at empowering library communities to become key players in the development of democratic societies started with the signature of a contract between UNESCO and eIFL.net.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19842&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

02-09-2005 (Paris) - Over 300 media professionals from all over the world gathered on 1-3 October 2005 in Amman, Jordan, at the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) to discuss challenges and opportunities facing the media development sector.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19786&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

01-09-2005 (Paris/Seoul) - The National Library of the Czech Republic was awarded the first UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize in recognition of its contribution to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage on 2 September 2005. The prize giving ceremony took place in Cheongju in the Republic of Korea.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19783&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

31-08-2005 (Paris) - An international workshop on "Creating the Information Commons for e-Science: Towards Institutional Policies and Guidelines for Action", organized by the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), opened on 1 September 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=19777&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

26-08-2005 - (Paris) With support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) is planning a series of activities to increase awareness, and support capacity building and informed decision-making related to the provision and use of openly available course content.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19773&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

25-08-2005 (Addis Ababa) - UNESCO launched the sixth community telecentre in Ethiopia. On Monday 22 August 2005, a dual ceremony was held at Rimbaud's House in the historic Ethiopian city of Harare to mark the inauguration of a UNESCO sponsored community telecentre and to present certificates to the first batch of graduates from the telecentre's basic ICT course.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19772&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

24-08-2005 (Paris) - Communication for Development Roundtable Report just published. The UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development has published the proceedings of its meeting in Rome, Italy, 6-9 September 2004.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19769&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

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23-08-2005 (Paris) - The National Library of Uruguay, in cooperation with the "Universidad de la Republica Oriental de Uruguay", UNESCO Montevideo and the National Library of Uruguay, organized in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 29 August to 2 September 2005, a training course for MERCOSUR countries on the creation of digital libraries.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19768&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

22-08-2005 (New Delhi) - The founder and coordinator of a UNESCO-supported community multimedia centre in Nepal was recently recognized for his contribution in disseminating information to society by innovatively using simple and cheap audiovisual technology.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19767&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

05-08-2005 (Paris) - Special fund for Information for All Programme grows thanks to France

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19643&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

01-08-2005 (Beijing) - China pledges contribution to UNESCO's Information for All Programme

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19620&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

28-07-2005 (UNESCO Bangkok) - India's Silicon Valley, Bangalore, has been chosen as the India headquarters for the United Nations "Global e-school and Communities Initiative" (Gesci), a special campaign to promote the use of technology in education.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19610&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

27-07-2005 (UNESCO) - The reports of the four conferences that UNESCO organized from February to May 2005 as "thematic meetings" for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which will held its second session in Tunis, Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005, are now available on line.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19580&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

26-07-2005 (UNESCO Bangkok) - Preparing teachers to judiciously use technologies for teaching and learning is the aim of the Next Generation of Teachers (NET) Project, which is designed to assist teacher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. It is one of UNESCO's most recent initiatives for the professional development of teachers that the Organization has supported for 60 years.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19535&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

25-07-2005 (UNESCO) - Audiovisual archivists, conservators and IT specialists from Laos, Cuba, Uganda, Ethiopia, Israel, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Denmark and Austria met for the Vienna Summer School on Audio Preservation from 11 to 15 July 2005 in Austria's capital. The UNESCO sponsored training course was run by the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the Austrian Mediathek.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19515&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

22-07-2005 (UNESCO New Delhi) - A toolkit to help policy makers and senior executives in developing countries on how and when to start successfully e-government projects was recently published by UNESCO and India's National Informatics Centre (NIC) as a contribution to promote transparency in public administrations and democratic processes.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19432&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

21-07-2005 (UNESCO Addis Ababa) - An online survey to elucidate the technical and other related problems faced by African institutions and information professionals in creating digital libraries was recently launched. The survey is intended to inform a feasibility study on the establishment of a Greenstone Support Organization for Africa, which can help to resolve these problems.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19489&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

18-07-2005 (UNESCO) - Increasing its efforts to provide project agents with the necessary tools for the safeguarding of languages in danger of extinction, UNESCO's Endangered Languages Programme is launching a world-wide call for submissions to its new 'Register of Good Practices in Language Preservation'.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19434&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

N E W S

15-07-2005 (UNESCO Kingston) - Within the framework of its mandate to promote the preservation of cultural heritage, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), the HEART Trust/NTA and the Institute for the Connectivity of the Americas, (ICA), held a 5-day regional workshop on the Digitization of Cultural Heritage and Digital Libraries in Jamaica, 18-22 July 2005.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19393&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

13-07-2005 (UNESCO) - ORBICOM, the International Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communications announced, that it would release a new report on measuring the "infostate" of 192 countries in the world in September 2005. It will be the second report produced in the framework of ORBICOM's project "From the Digital Divide to Digital Opportunities: measuring Infostates for Development".
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19392&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html