

Conference Language Diversity and National Languages in Higher Education, Ljubljana 2009 Report

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- The Report will focus on the Ljubljana Declaration on the use of Slovenian in higher education institutions in Slovenia with the aim of preserving language diversity in the European Union.

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- The international scientific conference entitled *Language Diversity and National Languages in Higher Education* was held on the 19th and 20th November 2009 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Organizers:

- Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language, RC SASA, Ljubljana,
- European Association for Terminology (EAFT),
- European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL).
- The conference was prepared by the organising committee chaired by Marjeta Humar and a programme committee chaired by Jan Roukens.
- Conference papers were published in 2010.



Participants:

- In total, 27 papers were presented at the conference.
- The participants were from: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden.

Conferences on globalisation in Ljubljana

- 2003: international conference *Terminology at the Time of Globalisation* (Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language)
- 2007: conference, dedicated to the Slovenian Language (Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts)
- 2008: international summer terminology school *Terminology and Contemporary Terminography* (Fran Ramovš Institut of the Slovenian Language)
- 2009: international conference *Language Diversity and National Languages in Higher Education*

Main topics discussed at the conference in 2009:

- language diversity in higher education,
- English in European higher education,
- future of national languages and terminology.

Declarations

- The conference intended to adopt two declarations – the common and the Slovenian one.
- Only the Slovenian version was adopted (there was not sufficient consensus for the common one).

Starting points of Slovenian declaration

- The Slovenian state and the University of Ljubljana were created, in part, to demonstrate that the Slovenian language was on a par with other languages, demonstrating its ability to act as a fully-fledged language in all areas of human existence.

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- The Slovenian state defined the proper position of the Slovenian language by adopting legal acts which state that the Slovenian language is an integral part of the Slovenian national identity.

The use of the Slovenian language is defined by:

- Article 11 of the Slovenian Constitution stating that Slovenian is the official language in Slovenia.
- Article 12 of the Public Use of the Slovene Language Act stating that education in publicly valid curricula from kindergarten to the university level is carried out in Slovenian.
- The Higher Education Act stating that the language of instruction is Slovenian and that foreign language programmes or parts of the curriculum may be conducted in a foreign language in which visiting professors or a large number of exchange students participate, yet these programmes should, however, simultaneously also be carried out in Slovenian.
- Statute of the University of Ljubljana, stating that BA/MA/PhD thesis should, in general, be written in the Slovenian language.

Resolution on National

Programme for Language Policy

2007-2011

Particular emphasis on the issues related to Slovenian terminology:

- Financial support to linguistic research, language technology projects and the development of Slovenian terminology;
- Compilation of specialised reference books for Slovenian, including terminological dictionaries;
- Stimulation and coordination of terminological groups particularly in natural sciences and technical fields, economy, management and the military;
- Improvement of language tools and making sure they are accessible online, including terminological collections;

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- Designing a common basis for a higher education programme “Expert-scientific variety of standard Slovenian”, as well as educating the lecturers and introducing the course into study programmes of most faculties;
 - Ensuring that essential higher education textbooks are available in Slovenian;
 - Ensuring that Slovenian can be used when taking an exam, writing BA/MA/PhD theses, even if foreign visiting professors are part of the board of examiners;
 - Encouraging publication of scientific works in Slovenian at international events in Slovenia, changing the regulations for evaluating publications in Slovenian, significant increase in subsidies for Slovenian scientific monographs and scientific journals.

Current language situation

- The English language has been penetrating university courses as well as research work of university teachers, even more so after Slovenia's entry into the EU and the introduction of the Bologna Declaration.
- The use of English is supported by the document entitled "Measures for the election in the title of university teachers, scientific workers and university co-workers" in which Slovenian scientific achievements are evaluated with only half of all points available, and among the necessary requirements for election only publications "in one of the major world languages" are considered, causing publications in Slovenian to be neglected and thus irrelevant for promotion.

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- In many Slovenian higher education institutions mostly foreign language (English) terminology is taught.
 - Terminological dictionaries are not subject to adequate evaluation in the system of scientific result assessment.
 - The work and participation in the development of Slovenian terminology is poorly funded.



Shortcomings of language policy

- Slovenia fulfils the demands stated in legal acts only in part – in particular is concerning the language use in higher education and the development of Slovenian terminology.

National Higher Education Programme 2011–2020

- In the entire text of National Higher Education Programme 2011–2020 prepared in 2010 by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Slovenian Language is mentioned only once in relation with English.
- The main idea is that our high education should be international.



Possible serious consequences

- Certain domains in the Slovenian language may in time come to lack or no longer develop Slovenian denominations, causing communication within such domains to be carried out only in a foreign language.



Tasks of Slovenian politics:

- Draw attention to the critical state of the use of Slovenian in higher education.
- Secure the Slovenian language its proper position in higher education and science as a constitutional, legal and self-evident right of a national language.

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- Increase the funding and evaluation of terminological and terminographical work.
 - Introduce a university course on Slovenian terminology.
 - Improve the evaluation of scientific works written in the Slovenian language.

The main entities in the field of terminology in Slovenia

- The Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (RC SASA), Ljubljana, with its Section for Terminological Dictionaries;
- Faculties of the University of Ljubljana, Maribor, Primorska, Nova Gorica;
- Other institutions (institutes, companies, etc.);
- Individuals.

Today's situation in the terminology and terminography

- Experts with the support of the terminologists of the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian language or alone produce dictionaries for various domains, usually with English equivalents.
- Projects of the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian language in progress:
 - Slovenian Law, EU Law, Legal History
 - Slovenian Technical Dictionary, Chemical Process Technology, Control Engineering, Urbanism
 - Animal Breeding, Visually Impaired Education, Pharmacy etc.

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- In the last five years, more than 20 new terminological dictionaries have been published.
 - The Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian language has its own website Terminologišče where terminological dictionaries are published.
 - The Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian language has a website which offers terminological consulting.
 - Experts translate the terminology in the Slovenian language (second terminologisation) for lectures and writing in the Slovenian language.