Multilingual thesauri

Three major thesauri have been commissioned in the fields of agricultural management, veterinary science and in food science and technology which should be available in 1978.

Two major projects on thesaurus Evaluation and on the State of the Art of multilingual systems have also been completed. They were initiated by the Commission's Committee for Information and Documentation in Science and Technology, (CIDST) which also takes a keen interest in multilingual activities. The thesauri are expected to serve as important access tools within Euronet. CIDST and CETIL are now cooperating on projects of mutual interest.

Technical Infrastructure

It is hoped that by recording all texts to be translated on to paper or magnetic tape immediately as they are being produced, the time and cost of retyping, especially for automatic translation can be reduced. A study is being undertaken at this moment to determine the feasibility of this idea and the most suitable techniques and organisational arrangements for its implementation. Another study is concerned with integrating the revision or post-editing of texts into this automated process. If the text to be revised is in machine readable form any changes can be made on an automatic keyboarding machine with printer and input-output device for a machine readable medium.

In this way typing time and paper can be saved and the process of translation can be speeded up. Both studies will be evaluated by CETIL later in the year.

Other activities

Most of these developments will not only benefit the European Community institutions, but Euronet and national governments will have access to the substantial expertise developed as a result of this Plan of Action and its tangible results in the form of studies and systems ready for implementation.

Considerable progress has been made in the major fields of automatic translation, terminology banks and thesauri. Future meetings of CETIL will be concerned with the teaching of LSP, teaching methods and the development of teaching materials for e.g. reading comprehension, and the complex of problems best described as management of interlanguage information transfer. This would involve the study of existing conventions in texts and the possibility of conventionalising further certain text modules, the introduction of multilingual form or text patterns for largely repetitive operations, the setting up of levels of quality criteria for translation so as to differentiate according to the importance of the text to be translated, and the development of quick, reduced information circuits in the form of summaries.

References


MONIKA NEYMANN: INFORMATION ON THE STUDY OF THE LANGUAGE OF ECONOMICS

The purpose of this study is the analysis of the English language of specialization for the needs of the students and graduates of a Higher School of Economics as well as drawing linguistic and didactic conclusions, resulting from it.

The analysis has been performed on the grounds of:

1. Reading material from textbooks in the language of different economic specializations used according to the syllabus and classified by economists as most typical for the needs of individual departments of the Central School of Planning and Statistics, Warsaw.
2. Texts selected for obligatory reading in economics for master's thesis and specialized seminars.
3. Commercial correspondence.
Research methods are qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative research has covered a detailed description of the language in question at the level of morpheme, lexeme, phrazeme, sentence, text. Text analysis is performed on slightly broader basis than usual, as economic information is often passed in the forms having some elements of discourse/partially in the press or in commercial correspondence.

In the field of morpheme there has been emphasized the role of characteristic prefixes of foreign and English origin and their semantic implication /e.g. super market, over valuation/. As far as words are concerned there have been distinguished anglicized words of foreign origin /e.g. production/ as well as those native English terms which entered the international economic terminology /e.g. strike, boom etc./ Phrases were discussed at the level of collocation /e.g. high price/ "accepted" or "conventional" phrase /e.g. to pay cash/ and idioms /e.g. black market/. Sentence is analyzed mostly from the position of its characteristic grammatical features /use of tenses, specific structures, syntax/ and text as a set of logically connected sentences is examined from the points as above and style.

Quantitative analysis performed by a computer is based on determining the number and frequency of occurrence of economic terms as single words and in phrazological units. The sample examined consists of 77500 words, including 800 economic terms in 8000 repetitions. Within these 8000 cases there have been selected terms - as nouns, adjectives and verbs as well as nominal and verbal phrases. Frequency and range lists of the terms examined brought to the determination of basic economic terminology necessary for a graduate of a Higher School of Economics. Terms repeated in the sample more than four times will form the terminological basis of the new textbook for the use of all first and second year students of economics, thus introducing them to the English language of this discipline.

The study is written from the position of sociolinguistics with an emphasis laid on the ways of passing specialized information within the speech community of economists. Thus considerable attention is paid to the discussion of the style of different economic texts as well as social and functional contents behind them.

Linguistic analysis and summing up of its results is followed by a separate chapter devoted to the problems of efficient teaching of language of economics, presenting a range of methods effective in developing the skill of extensive reading of economic texts and comprehension techniques as well as ability to enlarge on a given economic subject within the standards of the language of this discipline.