HERIBERT PICH'T AND JENNIFER DRASKAU: TERMINOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION

This introductory course in terminology has finally come out. There has been a definite gap in the English terminology literature for a handbook/coursebook which the present work will very aptly fill. It owes its origin to a number of residential courses held over the years in Denmark, Venezuela and England for various international target groups. The course has been published in revised written form by The University of Surrey, where a seminar was held by the two authors in the spring of 1985. The suggested target groups are students aiming at applied language degrees and diplomas in translation.

To give you an idea of the scope of this 265-page book in A4-format I shall describe and discuss the contents of the main chapters in order of appearance.
I LANGUAGE FOR GENERAL PURPOSES (LGP) - LANGUAGE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES (LSP)

This introductory chapter draws the line between LGP and LSP from a functional and communicative angle. It looks at the special characteristics of SLs by means of the traditional linguistic levels and then describes qualities of this kind from a functional point of view, i.e. answers the question what SLs are needed and used for. The authors also take up a few special points such as standardization and language planning and argue persuasively for their justification in an LSP context. The didactic differences between LSP and LGP teaching are also clearly illustrated. The final aim of this chapter is to anchor terminology firmly in the framework of LSP and show its interdisciplinary nature.

II DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT STATE-OF-THE-ART OF TERMINOLOGY IN RESPECT OF THEORY, RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL WORK goes smoothly on to the historical background of terminology, its non-linguistic origins and its pragmatic aims. The no-nonsense motivation of terminological work is clearly manifested as well as the fact that terminologies are indispensable tools for a special subject area.

The authors stress Wiister's supreme importance for the present stage of terminology and give a description of the main components of the general theory of terminology (semantics, lexicology, lexicography, logic, information & documentation, standardization and the contribution of new disciplines and their applications). The main schools of terminological thought are commented on (too) briefly, the authors taking the stand that what is commonly agreed upon is far more important to practical work than what is disagreed about. An evaluation is given of the impact of terminological thinking and the new technology on the quality of lexicographical work. The chapter rounds off by presenting an exhaustive list of assignments for both theoretical and practical terminology work.

III THE CONCEPT IN THE THEORY OF TERMINOLOGY

In this chapter we enter the fundamental conceptual network of the theory of terminology. The question "what is the concept" is treated thoroughly. Individual concepts are distinguished from general concepts. Intension and extension are discussed by means of illustrative examples as well as the emergence of new concepts through the combination of existing concepts. A balanced overview is given of possible classifications of conceptual characteristics and this is followed up with an evaluation of the pragmatic importance of the choice of conceptual characteristics. Definitions are first discussed from a theoretical angle. The various types are exemplified and their inherent assets and drawbacks assessed. Good examples give a clear idea of faulty definitions and also of the difficulty of writing appropriate ones. It is made clear that concepts and definitions are not static phenomena but open to updating and revision. It also becomes apparent that definitions should not be studied in isolation but as parts of a system of definitions within a conceptual network.

IV TYPES OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CONCEPTS, SYSTEMS OF CONCEPTS AND THEIR REPRESENTATION

The central notion of terminology, the system of concepts, is elaborated on in this chapter. The construction of a concept system is treated from the angle of classifying criteria and their relations. The types of relations (logical, ontological and
others) are discussed in detail and their use in both mono- and polyhierarchic and mixed systems is well illustrated with examples from several languages. We also obtain a good idea of how various forms of graphic representation can be used to support a verbal description. The conclusive remarks summarize the main points of the chapter and stress the concrete benefits of the formulation of concept systems.

V THE TERM
Here we move to the surface level of terminology, the actual linguistic representations of concepts. The relationship between concept and term is expanded on from different theoretical angles. Terms are studied in the network of conventionalized signs and as elements in a system of terms—the terminology of a particular subject field. Monosemy, polysemy, synonymy, equivalence and homonymy are discussed as types of term-concept relations and terminologization, compounding, derivation, conversion, loan words and abbreviations as means of term-formation.

These technical aspects are followed by recommendations of what should be kept in mind when new terms are formed. The recommendations are based on practical experience and include such rules of thumb as that the terms must be well-motivated, systematic, grammatically correct, potentially productive, short, and not have confusing synonyms—all this without forgetting the socio-linguistic side of the matter (user attitudes and international aspects).

VI TERMINOGRAPHY
The LSP variant of lexicography is discussed from a contrastive angle. The merits of a systematic ordering over an alphabetic ordering of LSP are brought forward. The dangers of badly planned multi-lingual dictionaries are illustrated and proper working methods introduced. The problems of conceptual non-equivalence or partial equivalence between languages are described as well as the existence of "false friends" in multilingual terminologies. Visions of terminographical products in the near future are outlined at the end of the chapter.

VII TERMINOLOGICAL DATA BANKS is the beginning of the practical "hands on" part of the book—particularly well-suited for those who are engaged in actual terminology work. Here a short history is given of the origin of data banks. The main problems of data banks are illustrated—their size, networking capability, mutual compatibility, quality issues etc. DANTERM—the Danish term bank—is discussed as a case study.

VIII MODELS AND METHODS OF PRACTICAL TERMINOLOGY WORK
The practical information continues. It is given systematically and concerns those terminologists with different professional backgrounds, working methods and techniques, economic aspects and models for co-operation.

IX STANDARDIZATION AND TERMINOLOGY
Here the aim is to clear up some general misconceptions about standardization and then describe how it is done, for what purpose and where, and what the legal status of standards is. The types of standardization are listed and, in particular, standards relating to principles and methods are discussed in detail. The organization of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is explained from the point of view of its working methods.
X TERMINOLOGY AND INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION (I&D)
This chapter looks at the interfaces between terminology and I&D, at terminology as the tool of communication in I&D and at I&D as the tool of terminology.

Again the approach is very pragmatic. Terminological documents are described and the types of documentation elaborated on. The different phases of the work are exemplified and the institutional framework for terminology documentation is explained. Authentic documents supply further information.

XI ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TERMINOLOGY
The necessity for international co-operation comes out clearly in this chapter that sets out to illustrate the various forms of co-operation that exist at the moment. Evaluative and somewhat subjective comments are included about the efficiency and future prospects of organizations involved in various terminological activities. Information of this kind can naturally soon become outdated.

The Nordic countries are represented as a case-study model of functioning co-operation and of systematic terminology work in different institutions.

XII THE TRAINING OF TERMINOLOGISTS
This final chapter includes suggestions for target groups of terminology training and the possible contents of training courses and their integration in study programmes.

It should become clear from the above that TERMINOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION provides a wealth of information for anybody who wants to know about the workings of terminology. It can be used both as a textbook and a handbook. The central issues of terminological theory are thoroughly treated and well exemplified. Areas that have been considered more peripheral from the pragmatic angle occasionally get a fairly cursory treatment which leaves the reader with the feeling of not getting an answer to all the questions provoked by the text.

The lecture course origin of the book is a great asset and makes the book well-planned, systematic and pleasant to read. Further editing could have given a more polished and streamlined finish, both as regards the text and the lay-out of the examples. The reader could also benefit more from the handbook character if the work had been supplied with a subject index, full cross-references and some "suggestions for further reading". The level (from the textbook angle) is pitched so that some knowledge of basic linguistic concepts is required but, on the other hand, the overall pragmatic touch ensures that the work is comprehensible for a terminologically orientated non-linguist as well.

TERMINOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION is an important contribution to the field and it should be of value to anyone concerned with terminological activities whether of theoretical or practical nature.

The book is obtainable from the University of Surrey, Department of Linguistic and International Studies, GUILDFORD, SURREY, GU2
5XH, ENGLAND at the cost of Pounds 15 per copy + postage (bulk orders of over 6 copies at Pounds 12 each). ISBN 0 9510943 1 9

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