SPECIAL TERMINOLOGIES DELIMITAION

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Abstract: *The concept teminology has two meanings: the interdisciplinary branch of knowledge and the number of terms specific to various terminologies (speciality languages) providing knowledge in different fields of professional activity.*

As a specialized language terminology represents a linguistic system that uses certain terms and other linguistic means in order to eliminate ambiguity in a particular field.

The terminological „bank" is currently enlarged with more and more borrowings from other languages. In the Romanian terminologies there are made important and rapid changes in order to continuously support the wide range of activities and the progress as such.

Keywords*: loan, specialized language, lexichology, lexichography, terminology, ontology, conceptualization.*

1. The curent explosive development of science and technology, the increase of the inter-cultural changes and the the great deal of knowledge acquired in different activity fields determined the emergence and development of terminology.

The concept teminology has two meanings: the interdisciplinary branch of knowledge and the number of terms specific to various terminologies (specialized languages) providing knowledge in different fields of professional activity.

As a branch of science, terminology deals with the thematically organised system of the lexical units belonging to science and techinque. All the changes in the sciences system entail others in the denominations system and the role of terminology is to solve this problem. „The implication of terminology as a specific method of science must be functional especially in technology, law and in all the fields where there is a large circulation of sciences." (A.Rey, 1995, p.165)

Terminology has a strong interdisciplinary character; „ the terminology of different scientific fields being connected with linguistics, ontology and the informatic sciences." (J. S., 1990, p.2)

Although terminology belongs to the linguistic domain it is different from linguistics from the practical and theoretical point of view. „As for the theory, terminology differs from linguistics due to its main aspects: the conceptualization of language and of the subjects according to the branches of study, the perspective of studying the objects and the aims of research." (M.T.Cabre, 1996, p.20)

From a practical point of view, terminology is also different from lexicology as far as methodology is concerned. The lexicological methodology follows a semasiological pathway – starting from a linguistic form it studies all the possible semantical values; whereas the terminological methodology has an onomasiologic character since the research starts from the concept towards the sign.

Both lexicology and terminology study the relation between the denominative units and the objects, but while the former deals with the vocabulary, all the words existing in a language, the latter refers to the specialised lexical units.

Besides drawing up dictionaries, lexicography, a linguistic branch, deals with sciences and terminology as well. There is a terminological lexicography, a special lexicography relying on the concepts of the special and general languages. We can notice an obivous and mutual relation between terminology and lexicography as all the described objects are identical but the conceptual field of the mentioned system is the specific object of terminology; lexicography studies the words functions and „conducts" in society. F.W. Riggs pointed out that lexicography aims at helping the readers to interprete the texts while terminology deals with helping the authors to write them.

Terminology and terminography define the words in different ways. The terminological definition focusses on describing the concepts characteristic to a certain concept and, in case more denominations are accepted, one of these prevails.

2. Another meaning of the concept of terminoly is that of *specialized language*, „a linguistic system that uses a terminology and other linguistic means referring to the accuracy of communication in a particular field." (P.Lerat, 1995, p.32)

„The interpretation of terminology as a specialized language has to do with an inner approach from different scientists' points of view." (A.Bidu-Vranceanu, 1990, p.2-4) International organisations study terminology from this perspective: International Federation of Natural Standardizing Associations (IFNSA), International Organisation for Standardisation (IOS), The French Association of Terminology (FAT), Term New.

3. In different activity fields, the specialists use specific linguistic systems „the functional styles or the language styles. Similar to the language, the style is a group of verbal skills used in a community with a particular socio-cultural orientation." (I.Coteanu, 1995, p.147)

„The specialty texts use either the studies of style, more concerning the group of words than the word as such (a too general lexicographic object) or the simple word (a possible specific object) as well as the sentence and even the whole text." (P.Lerat, 1995, p.147)

Extra-linguistic elements enable the occurence of the functional styles (the belletristic style, the journalistic one, the legal-administrative style), each one with its particularities depending on the linguistic factors and their relations.

The functional styles emerged from the interaction of some extra-linguistic elements, but the involved liguistic factors and their relations make the difference.

In the publicistic style, the speaker wants to keep a balance between the sent information and his ability to persuade the interlocutor, showing his own personality through his expressiveness.

Among all these functional styles, the scientific one represents an extreme term on the stylistic scale of the language as it is opposed to the belletristic style, the other extreme term, a means of using the language in the field of atristic comprehension of the world.

„In the scientific text the are two important guidelines for specialized communication: the arguments wording and the positioning within the contradiction true-fals. The former imposes the logical structuring principles over the linguistic assertion: from the known things to the unknown ones (subject – predicate), from general to particular and aleatory." (D.Irimia, 1986, p.108)

Therefore, in the scientific style, the specialist is mainly concerned with the message transitivity and the accuracy of the scientific text, the receiver being only partially involved.

The legal-administrative style is a language variant and it reflects the relation between the citizen and the public institutions. More than in the publicistic stylde, the author plays an important role in the linguistic text organization, but in this case, the relation text-reader prevails over the personal style of the author.

Every „functional style" has its own features which make it special and also

common ones making up an interference area; this area is very large between the scientific style and the legal-administrative one as compared to that between the scientific style and the belletristic one.

4. Regardless the professional activity field, all terminologies are made up of colloquial words and strictly specialized ones which individualize every special language.

As a lexical domain, terminology represents „the whole amount of special words used by sciences, arts, research and all the professions as well as by a scientist or a group of scientists." ((I.Coteanu, 1990, p.95-108)

A very efficient terminological activity is carried on during the dialogue between the language specialists and the ones in the respective activity field as „ the linguists do not invent new words except for their own job, the other professions must find the necessary terms according to their notional system, to the nomenclature or their linguistic code." (I.Coteanu, 1986, p.186)

Considering the terms in different fields such as: chemistry, biology, philosophy, we can notice that terminologies are conventional, representing either words from the common vocabulary with special meanings added for every field or new words made up according to strict rules, specific to a language and in conformity with the specialists' opinion – authors of a theory, invention or discovery.

As compared to the casual vocabulary, terminologies are relatively closed since very accurate knowledge in a certain field is sent through terms.

The *terms* are systematically organised lexical units, belonging to a certain specialized field; they are usually mono-referential and mono-semantic and therefore independent of context. These features make them different from the colloquial words, the latter ones being used in casual conversatrion.

5. The terms may be created in different ways: using the well-known resources, changing the existent resources or creating new linguistic entities.

In case we use the well-known resources, new meanings are added to the term in order to include new concepts: *spot*. New meanings are added especially while translating by accepting the loan translation. The loan translation, mainly the semantic one, is an important device to enrich the vocabulary. So, through loan translation,some terms acquire new meanings, as they are included in the economic concepts structure, for example *twist* means also a sore of the short term banking interests and a plunge of the long term interests to keep up the economic expansion. The phraseological loan translation represents the literal translation of a phraseological unit, expressing a single ideea (*financial audit, market economy, chain stores* etc.).

The terms are formed also changing the existent resources: derivation, compounds, conversion, abbreviation, acronyms.

In the Romanian technical-scientific languages there penetrated many

international affixes used to form new terms for new concepts (*monetarism, liberalist*). Other new words have been made up by joining other words, used independentty as well (*phantom-profit, parent-company*) or some other elements which are not used independently in Romanian (*Euro-currency, macro-economy*). To denominate the verbal concepts there are used nouns coming from long infinitives (*ensurance, accreditation*) or from past participle. Very often acronyms are used to denominate institutions, indexes, or parties (*I.M.F*).

However the main source of new terms is the lexical borrowing.

„Any current scientific terminology shows an enormous ability and an international talent to borrow terms, the quantitative mobility being acquired mostly by lexical borrowings as such (but also by loan translation) in all its adjustment stages." (G.Pana-Dindelegan,1997,p.6)

There is an outstanding trend to borrow neological terms , especially the American-English ones hence careful attention should be paid while introducing them in the specialized languages, the linguistic and socio-linguistic criteria are therefore to be taken into account.

This attraction for neological words is reasonable from two points of view: on the one hand we consider that the neological term with the best meaning of the defined concept is more largely used in a language than the created or translated terms, which need time to be considered specialized terms as such; on the other hand the specialist is more certain regarding the accuracy of the information sent by the original term.

In terminology, for a notion it is necessary to choose, fix a denomination (norm) or to create a conceptualized lexical unit (the terminological neology). Unlike the lexical neologism which is natural, spontaneous, the terminological one is created.

In the last ten years, the Romanian terminology of certain special languages has considerably changed. Significant changes have occured especially in the socio-economic and political field, as a consequence of the capitalist system implementation.

6. The special terminologies specific to a professional activity or to certain fields like science and technique, philosophy, informatics, economy, arts have particular terms and rules to word the linguistic statement.

In the scientific and technical field, the specialists try to be very precise and in order to be clearly understood they resort ot typical formulae, bypassing the new ones whenever possible. Nevertheless all the changes in the scientific field entail modifications in the denominations system. The names for the new concepts are either borrowed or created. Therefore there is a special relation between terminology and technology, consisting in the utilitary relation between invention (the technical progress) and the denomination system.

The medical terminology is characterized by: non-ambiguity, univocality, mono-reference; most of the terms in this domain have only one meaning

(*appendicitis, phlebitis , acupuncture*), so their definition must provide very clear information. Usually the medical terms are context free even if the context increases the accuracy of the message, for a more precise communication.

As for the exact sciences and informatics, the statement may be worded through letters, figures or other symbols, but in case of other terminologies (medicine, arts, journalism) the concepts are denominated resorting to the natural language.

In the philosophical terminology, the logical terms are the most specialized, sometimes non-verbal signs being used and „ they are useful for the precision of the argument more than for the terminological accuracy and they make a general communication beyond the limits of a certain natural language" (A.Bidu-Vranceanu,1990,p.16). Some less specialized philosophical terms may be found in the common language as well (*conclusion, certainty, consequence*).

The informatics, a science that has recorded a spectacular progress in the last decade, is „invaded„ by a lot of specialized terms dificult to be decoded even by the initiated persons.

Once the calculator/computer occured in our life, the informatics penetrated all the professional fields, hence the interested persons must understand and use the specific terms of informatic techinque, especially English words: *hardware, software, mouse, commander, options, windows, listing* etc.

In the economical terminology more and more English words are used (*marketing, factoring, off-shore companies, holding, leasing, audit …*etc.), terms introduced in our language in their original form as they are to be used by the businessmen and other people in commercial communication. These terms are largely spread mainly by means of written communication (economic magazines, reviews, financial and governmental publications, companies correspondence).

The terms in the fine arts are used both in the specialized languages and in the colloquial one. In the fine arts, a special category of „the visual arts", only few terms are univocal and mono-referential, less known by the ordinary people, most of them being polisemantic therefore ambiguous ones; in this case the context is very important as it should clarify their meaning: *painting* may refer to the branch of the plastic arts, the range of paintings in a country/ in a period of time (the French painting of the …century) or associated with another word it may refer to the type of painting (oil-painting, mural-painting..)

„The juridical terminology together with several sets of denominations organized in a coherent system may be conditioned by the prescriptive discourses." (A.Rey, 1995, p.56)

The juridical texts consist in chapters, sections, articles partly available only to the specialists. In this code there are two groups of terms: the ones specific to the juridical and administrative institutions and the terms from the common literary language, a great deal belonging to the vocabulary used in the juridical-administrative style.

The specific terms may be neological or old specialised Romanian words and

besides these there are some super-textual terms (*article, indented line, paragraph*) , support terms (*person, measure, infringement of the law*) and periphrases (*to set free, to inflict a punishment*) which semantically and sintactically complete the respective text.

The socio-political terminology is well represented in the publicistic style. Most of the socio-political terms are neological (*diplomacy, delegation, independency, trade union…*) the French ones prevailing. Some terms from other styles or from the common literary language were semantically changed: they are either neological terms (*economic development, market economy*) or old Romanian words with new meanings (*chamber, underdevelopment*).

Many English terms which have been lately introduced in the publicistic style still keep their foreign form (*play-back, happy-end, summit, discount, horror etc.*). We write the English words keeping the written form (*market, consulting, meci, trening*), reflecting the phonetic form (*lider, ghem*) or the morphological one.

„The specialized vocabulary has a transitional character, a dynamic and versatile one, continuously keeping up with various activities and progress." (R.Kocourek, 1994/1995, p.45)

Concerning the scientific texts used for didactic purposes, instead of the specialty terms, colloquial words are frequently used with an explicit value. In the school books or brochures the synonims may replace the definition or they may double it. The pupils can easier understand and remember the terms largely spread in the literary language due to their importance in communication.

The written and oral press make the terms very popular while informing the audience on the different aspects regarding the national and international socio-political and cultural-scientific life.

Sometimes in the written and oral press, the terms are used in a wrong way without taking into account their correct form, indicated in the dictionaries, either to impress by a more sophisticated style or because of the author's carelessness. The dictionaries provide the correct form of the terms and their right meaning as the definitions comprise both the strict scientific elements and the information useful for non-specialists.

Terminologies represent a strictly specialized vocabulary, but some terms may penetrate the colloquial language because of the press, such as: *to put off, to implement,* and on the contrary, a word may pass form the colloquial language to the special one: *action,* being therefore impossible border a line between the colloquial language and the specialty terminologies.

Terminology is wholly integrated in linguistic structures and aims at finding perfect correspondences between conceptualization and the language system, entailed by communication