



TERMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH INVOLVED IN A PAN-LATIN GLOSSARY ON MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT

THE PRESENT ARTICLE FOCUSES ON THE RESEARCH ENCOMPASSED BY CREATING A PAN-LATIN GLOSSARY ON MIGRATION. THE RATIONALE FOR COMPILING A GLOSSARY ON MIGRATION GOES BACK TO THE PERIOD WHEN, A STUDENT AT EUROPEAN MASTER IN TRANSLATION AND TERMINOLOGY STUDIES, IN DEALING WITH TRANSLATING A TEXT FROM SPANISH INTO ROMANIAN, I COULD NOT FIND A ROMANIAN GLOSSARY ON THE SUBJECT-MATTER. WHICH DETERMINED ME TO HARMONIZE A GLOSSARY ON MIGRATION. ACCORDING TO M. T. CABRE, A GLOSSARY MUST BE BASED ON TERMS FROM A REAL TEXT, THEY SHOULD NOT BE CREATED. HENCE, TO DEAL WITH THE SPECIALIZED LIST ON MIGRATION, I LAID MY HANDS ON A BOOK, MIGRATION THEORY. TALKING ACROSS DISCIPLINES, CAROLINE B. BRETTELL AND JAMES F. HOLLIFIELD, EDITORS, PUBLISHED IN 2023.

KEYWORDS: *TERMINOLOGY, TERMINOGRAPHY, PAN-LATIN GLOSSARY, TERM, SPECIALIZED LANGUAGE*

1. INTRODUCTION

"If we want to start something, we must ignore that our starting point is, all efforts taken, shaky. If we want to get something done, we must ignore that, all provisions made, the end will be inconclusive. This ignoring is not active forgetfulness; it is, rather, an active marginalizing of the marshiness, the swampiness, the lack of firm grounding in the margins, at beginning and end". (Jessica Mariani quoting Spivak (1999: 175)

Terminology emerged out of human necessity. The discussion whether it is an independent science, an art or a practice is still open (Sageder, 2010: 126). The human need for a terminology relates to translation and the desideratum for a harmonized vocabulary enabling human communication. The terminologists are like linguists up to a point. Just as linguistics operates with words, terminology operates with terms. Scientifically speaking, the term is a designated consisting of a word or words representing a general concept belonging to a specialized language (Busuioc, 2003). We can assert that the term represents the summum of object, concept and designated. As applications of terminology there are terminography and terminotics. Terminography as an application of terminology deals with gathering, systematizing, and presenting terms from a specialized language. Terminotics encompasses the operations of storage, managing and diffusion of terminological data with the help of computer science. The pan-Latin glossary involves compiling glossaries specialized on migration. The terms comprised by the pan-Latin glossary are from "a real book".



2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS UPON TERMINOLOGY AND TERMINOGRAPHY

Terminology emerged out of human necessity, most of terminology specialists state (Cabre: 1999, 2; Sageder: 2010, 123). The discussion whether terminology is an independent science, an art or a practice is still open (Sageder: 2010, 126). The human need relates to translations or interpretations and the desideratum for a harmonized vocabulary enabling the human communication.

Just as linguistics operates with words, terminology operates with terms. What is a term? A scientific definition may be “a designated consisting of one or more words representing a general concept belonging to a specialized language” (Busuioc: 2003). What is certain is that the term represents the summum of object, concept and designated.

We consider useful for the reader to outline important moments in the development of the terminology. Sageder reminded above not only did state that terminology emerged of the human need, but also that terminology is not new, even if back then, the statute of the discipline was unclear, yet the approach passed from amateurish to truly scientific (Cabre: 1992, quoted by Sageder).

The story of terminology begins with the preoccupation of the scientists for the subject-matter. Even if so-called terminological endeavours were known long before¹, the engineers and technicians became more involved in the domain (Sageder: 2010, 126). Thus, the most important moment in the history of terminology is the year 1930, when Eugene Wuster, the father of terminology defended his doctoral thesis. The engineer, Eugene Wuster presented in his thesis arguments for systematization of terminological methods, established some principles and outlined points of a methodology helpful for processing terminological data. Therefore, it is worth pointing out that Wuster’s work became the basis of terminology as a science with three schools, Austrian, Soviet, and Czech deriving from it, Sageder asserts. Furthermore, Wuster sets the base for the General Theory of Terminology (Sageder, ibidem).

Another important moment for terminology is the second half of the 20th century, when science and technology boomed. At this point, it becomes essential naming related objects and ideas. Hence, data banks emerged and the need toward standardization of terminology withing a specialized language.

However, the real boom in terminology was in the period 1975-1985, when proliferation of language planning on terminology emerged. Consequently, terminology becomes a significant field of activity, while the emergence of personal computers brought about major changes in processing terminological data (Cabre: 1992, quoted by Sageder, 125).

The terminotics, that is terminology and informatics, is the application of terminology making use of computer science for processing the terminological data.

3. TERMINOGRAPHY, AN APPLICATION OF TERMINOLOGY – THE RESEARCH INVOLVED IN A PAN-LATIN GLOSSARY

Whereas terminology emerged as human need, terminography is an application of terminology. It refers to the activity of collecting, managing and diffusion of information provided by the terminological researchers. Interestingly, terminography must not be confused with translation, though. It is the translators that need specific terminology for specialized texts. In this sense, the translator working with terminology is different from translating a term from one language to another. Translating refers rather to gathering the designations that users of a language make use of to refer to a concept. Yet there are cases when the translator can propose alternatives. This is the case, when she or he is not satisfied by the designates found.

Nonetheless, our concern is terminography. Let us examine the principles guiding terminography. According to Maria Theresa Cabre, among the basic rules of terminological work is abiding by the language rules (Cabre: 1992, 115).

¹ See the article of *Dra. Nadia Rodríguez Ortega, Dra. Bettina Schnell, Profesoras de traducción y terminología Universidad Pontificia Comillas (professors of traductology and terminology studies of University Comillas).*



On a deeper level, the theorist states that terminography refers to “gathering, systematizing and presenting terms from a specific branch of knowledge or human activity” (Cabre, *ibidem*). Related to terminography, Cabre states that between terminography and terminology, the same connexion occurs as between lexicology and lexicography. For the reason of “gathering and systematizing” the work of a terminography specialist should not be confused with that of a translator. Translators need glossaries in their activity, which are the result of the activity of terminography specialists, who have the competence to create them. This competence refers to studying and researching terminology as a discipline as well as consulting specialists in the respective domain of knowledge.

Interestingly, Maria Teresa Cabre states that to deal with a glossary, the terms should be collected from “real texts” and not “invented” or created” (Cabre: 1992, 115). Moreover, she states that the absence of a certain topic in communication and specialized texts obviously implies a gap in terminology (Cabre: 1992, 116). Consequently, I laid my hands on a book published in 2023: *Migration Theory. Talking Across Disciplines*, IV edition, Editors, Caroline B. Bretell and James F. Hollifield. The printed book, undoubtedly a “real text”, encompasses essays of specialists in eight disciplines, namely history, demography, economics, sociology, anthropology, geography, politics, and law, which examine migration from the point of view of their domain of knowledge.

The rationale behind the creation of a Pan-Latin glossary goes back to my last year as a student in the European master’s degree in Translation and Terminology Studies with UBB University. Therefore, in the last year I had to accomplish a dissertation, which resided in translating a specialized text on crop protection from English to Romanian and another specialized text on issues of migration, from Spanish into Romanian. It is worth mentioning that I had no problem in finding parallel texts and glossaries on the English topic. Nevertheless, I encountered issues on finding appropriate glossaries in Romanian upon the subject-matter of migration, except for those of international bodies, which were either English-English or Spanish-Spanish.

Since migration currently represents a hot topic, I set out to create, compile a glossary. I started my approach from finding the definition on “pan” and according to dexonline.ro, the term refers to “whole”. On the other hand, my research is based on thorough documentation on Realiter glossaries. As for Realiter, it represents Pan Latin network of terminology. Notwithstanding, I do not pretend to be as specialist as the network since it reunites specialists in more countries. It is only an attempt.

For that reason, I consulted the specialist (Cabre, Busuioc) in the domain of terminology and re-read the principles underlying terminography. Thus, the principles are reliability (consulting authentic, real texts, identifying through comparison with parallel texts), accessibility (specialized and over-specialized texts), exhaustivity (I. Busuioc says it is a utopia, because of the difficulty to find all the specialized terms), the possibility to bring the glossary to date.

The lexis of migration has as departure point English and continues with Italian, Spanish and Romanian, languages for which the author has linguistic competency. Thus, I studied Italian during my BA studies at the University of Craiova, Spanish during my MA at “Babes Bolyai” University in Cluj Napoca, while Romanian is my mother tongue. The terms from the book are going to be checked with specialised glossaries on the topic of migration belonging to international bodies like EU (https://www.emnitalyncp.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Glossary_ITA.pdf), UNO and OIM (https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_7_sp.pdf).

The inventory of terms includes simple terms (e.g., *stranger*, *immobility*) as well as multiword terms (e.g., *internal migration*, *forced migration*, *migration process*, *transatlantic European migration*, *sociology of migration*, *international border*¹). Therefore, first I set out to disambiguate the terms *migrant*, *emigrant*, *immigrant*, and *refugee*. Therefore, the term *migrant* is a generic one, while *emigrant* is the person leaving his native country in search for better living and *immigrant* is the person who

¹ The terms in the examples are from the chapter *The Sociology of Migration*, David Scott Fitzgerald.



comes in a foreign country in search for better living conditions. The term *refugee* is special in that the persons leaves his native country to flee from persecution.

The term in English is accompanied by definition and its grammatical category, then the equivalents for each language, which I reminded before. The terms may also be followed by synonyms.

Therefore, in the context of the human mobility and globalization, we think that the Pan-Latin glossary of migration will facilitate the interlingual communication.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, terminology emerged out of human need to facilitate communication.

Terminology became an important domain of knowledge when Eugene Wuster defended his doctoral thesis in 1930, for which he is known as the father of terminology. Terminography is an application of terminology and deals with glossaries of specialised languages pertaining to different domains of knowledge. The rationale behind the Pan-Latin glossaries in that there are no such glossaries on migration.



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