

Manuale di terminologia. Aspetti teorici, metodologici e applicativi
Marella Magris, Maria Teresa Musacchio, Lorenza Rega e Frederica Scarpa (eds.)
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The *Manuale di terminologia. Aspetti teorici, metodologici e applicativi* is a collection of essays about several actual and essential terminological subjects, including both theoretical aspects as well as aspects related to terminological work. This book intends to be a reference tool for translation and interpretation students, as well as for other students who have to translate, interpret or write specialized texts. The different topics are presented from a descriptive and plural point of view; always showing varied approaches to the same aspect.

The *Manuale di terminologia. Aspetti teorici, metodologici e applicativi* was edited by four professors from the Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttori de la Università degli Studi di Trieste, who are also included as authors. However, if we consider the rest of the authors and their professional backgrounds, the *Manuale* is a polyphonic work, since the essays included in this volume were written by eight Italian faculty members from Bolzano University, Bologna's Studies University, and Trieste's Studies University, and three non-Italian faculty members from Surrey University (United Kingdom), Maiduguri University (Nigeria) and Sprachen und Dolmetscherinstitut di Monaco (Germany).

The *Manuale*—published in Italian—has been structured in eleven chapters. The first three of them deal with more general terminological and theoretical topics and, finally, the last eight chapters are dedicated to methodological and applied aspects of terminology. Next we will examine the content of each chapter in more detail.

The volume opens with Franco Crevatin's contribution, titled "Terminologia, traduzione, cultura" (p. 1–7). This author argues that language is not a nomenclature, but a culturally-determined cognitive organization. As a consequence, in natural language's lexicon, and also in a specialized lexicon, a mono-referential and homonymic correspondence not always takes place, like it has been sometimes presented in a somewhat naive way. Crevatin presents different examples from different languages and historical periods that show the difficulty and the risk of translating culturally determinant terms or non-existing terms in the target language. Even though it has been believed sometimes that terminology has no cultural connotation, he defends that in most domains, especially in those that are closer to human social life like law, medicine or economics, culture plays an important role. For him, all that is a human product is culturally connoted and changes with time.

The second chapter by Susanna Soglia, titled "Origine, sviluppo e tendenze della terminologia moderna" (p. 9–25), offers a historical panorama of terminology from its origin until today. Soglia makes reference first to the General Theory of Terminology, developed by Austrian Eugen Wüster, as the starting point of modern terminology. Then she continues to offer a panoramic view through the different

terminological schools, from the early twentieth century until the 1990s—the Viennese, Czech, Nordic, Soviet and Quebec schools—focusing on their main characteristics and orientations. Soglia also comments on the two main terminological functions: specialized knowledge representation and its transmission. Finally, she explains that during the past decade, new voices have emerged casting doubts on some principles of the General Theory of Terminology, and representing new contributions that come from both theoretical and practical positions, as well as from the analysis of the scientific and technical discourse, from communicative needs, and from the development of a technology applied to terminology.

Federica Scarpa argues in "Terminologie e lingue speciali" (27–47) the dual tension that exists between the representative function of terminology and its communicative function. On the one hand, her essay shows how a representational aim leads to a prescriptive terminology, with the intention of an international normalization. Consequently, it eliminates variation and connotation. Moreover, from a communicative context, terminology becomes dynamic and descriptive, and variation, emotivity and ambiguity are the natural phenomena of meaning. Within this framework, language cognitive theories can play a relevant role, mainly—as the author points out—in relation to the definition of terminological units. In this case, for example, Rosch's prototype theory allows a more perceptive-cognitive treatment of meanings.

The fourth chapter introduces that part of the book that focuses on different aspects of terminological work. In "Il termine in un'ottica terminologica plurilingue" (49–62), Lorenza Rega, firstly, asks herself *What is a term?* And again the duality between objectivity and subjectivity, between connotation and neutrality, and between standardization and variation comes up. Secondly, the author exposes the terminologization of a word. That is to say, how terms are built, how a word abandons its condition of general word leading to its transformation into a term. Finally, Rega proposes the need to build multilingual terminological data banks, which will allow a continuous input of new terms and changes in the meaning of existing terms. In this work context, she notes the difficulty to recognize and delimit terms.

Khurshid Ahmad's chapter "Come nascono i termini: zeri, componenti e nuclei" (63–81) proposes the importance of diachronic studies that demonstrate one more time the relativity of concepts like *term univocity*, *stability* and *fixation*. The author argues that the terminological analyses based on computerised textual corpora offer a new and varied perspective of specialized language dynamicity. Corpus' linguistics allows studying a term's grammatical and semantic behavior, by analyzing different usage contexts and their frequency in texts. Ahmad shows how it is possible to study the origin and the evolution of scientific reflection of one particular discipline through terms. This way, he gives examples from tree fields—mathematics, linguistics, and physics—in order to test this thesis.

In the following chapter, "La definizione in terminologia e terminografia" (83–98), Stefania Coluccia deals with definitions. After presenting a historical outline of the noun *definition* and the verb *to define*, she compares terminological definitions with terminographic definitions. This way, she notes that cognitive sciences, which take the influence of human experience and understanding in the creation of meanings into account, offer alternative methods to tackle definitions. The ample classification that Coluccia presents about the different kinds of definitions and their differentiating characteristics is also interesting.

Making a profound study in the meaning of terms, Bassey E. Antia notices in "Il termine: contesto definitorio e contesto d'uso" (p. 99–114) that there is often no coincidence between the meaning of one concept within a text and its terminographic definition. Consequently, he remarks that sometimes the network of relations that a term can set up in a text are not the same network of relations that are activated in a dictionary. To Antia, a lot of these incongruences are intrinsic to the very process of writing a text (*textualization*). In the last part of the essay, the author observes the need to look for new practical strategies that can help translators to overcome this kind of discrepancies. He invites terminologists to reconsider the methods of making terminological dictionaries in order to give more importance to the relations that terms establish within texts.

Felix Mayer makes reference in the eighth chapter to two very interesting aspects of terminology: synonymy and equivalence (p. 115–133). Mayer explains that the term *synonymy* is usually reserved for work in only one language and, on the other hand, that *equivalence* is used in inter-linguistic work. For example, in the field of translation. He also remarks that synonymy usually refers only to the lexicon and, in contrast, equivalence is relevant in all the levels of linguistic analysis. After making these general considerations, Mayer focuses on the conceptualization and treatment of synonymy. First, he focuses on the semantic point of view and, later, on the terminological point of view. In the second part of his essay, this author reviews the role of equivalence in translation and in contrastive linguistics. He also shows how these two disciplines treat the equivalence phenomena differently and how that has its repercussions on terminographic work.

In the following chapter, titled "I tecnicismi collaterali" (135–150), Maria Teresa Musacchio deals with phraseology. In the context of a terminology-oriented translation, phraseology and collocations in general, play a very important role because they help translators to produce adequate phrases from the technical and scientific point of view. Musacchio first gives some definitions of phraseology and then she reviews some theoretical models to allow the description of phraseology from specialized texts. In the second part of her essay, Musacchio makes reference to the strategies to choose phraseology. She also comments on the most relevant structures for translation. These kinds of collocation would be very favorable for a translator if they were registered in a multilingual database.

The two final essays included in this volume deal with conceptual relations. Marella Magris, in "Les relazioni concettuali" (151–166) explains how there is no

universally-accepted classification of conceptual relations. Magris presents a broad panorama of varied relations that take place in terminology and notes the complexity of the conceptual systems in the different domains. The author also comments the terminographer's difficulty in representing these conceptual systems. This way, she mentions some existing projects that take into account conceptual relations. Magris considers that translators are the main users of conceptual relation information and she presents two different situations in which translators need a conceptual relation analysis. Finally, she observes that terminographic applications do not usually adapt to the user's needs.

"Problemi di visualizzazione" by Claudia Magris (167–181) concludes this volume by renewing the subject of conceptual relation representation in databases. First, she presents the fields that they use to build a terminological file and how they distribute and connect. After this, Magris gives the basic characteristics that would have to be fulfilled by terminological databases: interchange and easy accessibility, and the possibility to feed this database through multimedia and hypertext information.

As far as the book's bibliography is concerned, all the essays are based on a bibliography of eleven updated reference works (1989–2001). Moreover, each article includes its own references and each one of them presents a basic bibliography of books, journals, terminological databases, ISO norms at the end of the volume, all destined for beginners. Finally, two indexes close the book. One is an analytical index about subjects and concepts, and the other an index of proper names which both help to make specific search and consultation easier.

From our point of view, one of the main values of this volume is that it is the first book written in Italian that presents a panoramic view about today's terminology as a discipline and also some of the most actual subjects of terminological research work. Because of this, *Manuale di terminologia. Aspetti teorici, metodologici e applicativi* will certainly be a very interesting and didactically useful book for university students, since it will allow them to introduce themselves into a matter that has become a key issue in a period characterized by a constant increase and exchange of specialized knowledge.

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