OFFICIAL RESOURCES FOR TERMINOLOGY AS A FACTOR FOR THE TRANSLATION QUALITY ASSESSMENT

RESURSE OFICIALE PENTRU TERMINOLOGIE CA UN FACTOR PENTRU CONTROLUL CALITĂŢII TRADUCERILOR

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Abstract

The Translation Quality Assessment, a sub-field of Translation Studies, focuses on several factors. Different approaches of the Translation Quality Assessment show a constant and important factor influencing the translation quality: the use of precise terminology. The aim of the study is to identify the most reliable terminology resources for translation and interpretation. Our work hypothesis was that the most consistent and reliable resources for terminology and translation are published by official institutions. We used the research method of the corpus analysis, and we checked websites of international organisations, in order to identify reliable resources of terminology, to be used by translators, interpreters and terminologists.

Rezumat

Analiza Calităţii Traducerilor, un domeniu secundar al Studiilor de Traducere, se concentrează pe numeroşi factori. Abordări diferite ale Analizei Calităţii Traducerilor indică un constant şi important factor care influenţează calitatea traducerilor: folosirea terminologiei precise. Scopul studiului este de a identifica cele mai de încredere surse de terminologie pentru traducere şi interpretare. Ipoteza muncii noastre a fost aceea că cele mai consistente şi de încredere surse de terminologie şi traducere sunt publicate de către instituţiile oficiale. Metoda de cercetare folosită de noi a fost corpus analysis, şi am consultat siturile web ale organizaţiilor internaţionale, pentru a identifica resursele de încredere în materie de terminologie, pentru a putea fi folosite de către traducători, interpreţi şi terminologi.

Keywords: *Translation Studies, Translation Quality Assessment, Terminology, Official Terminology Resources*

Cuvinte cheie: *Studii de Traducere, Analiza Calităţii Traducerilor, Terminologie, Resurse Oficiale de Terminologie*

1. Background

The Translation Quality Assessment, a sub-field of Translation Studies, focuses on several factors. By comparing different approaches of the Translation Quality Assessment, we found a constant and important factor influencing the translation quality: the use of precise and constant terminology.

By example, the official translations for the European Commission "*should comply with the general principles and quality requirements for professional translation laid down in the international standard ISO 17100*" (EC-DGT, 2015, *DGT TQG*, p. 1). And the first requirement for translations from the international standard *ISO 17100:2015 Translation services -- Requirements for*

translation services is the following: *"Throughout this process, the translator shall provide a service conforming to this International Standard as regards: a) compliance with specific domain and client terminology and/or any other reference material provided and ensuring terminological consistency during translation".* (ISO, *ISO 17100, 5.3.1 Translation*). So, the terminological consistency at European level and at the global one should definitely take into consideration the official resources, in order to insure the translation quality.

2. Objectives and Methodology
The aim of the study is to identify the most reliable terminology resources for translation and interpretation. Our work hypothesis is that the most consistent and reliable resources for terminology and translation are published or recommended by official institutions.

We used the research method of the corpus analysis, we checked websites of international organisations, in order to identify reliable resources of terminology, to be used by translators, interpreters and terminologists.

3. Results
As European researcher, it is recommended to use the official European terminology, which is identify and published by national and European experts. All the translators, interprets and terminologist have to use the terminology published on the websites of the European Institutions.

Also, for working on a global level, they should use the terminology published by the international organisations.

Considering these ideas, we tried to identify the most reliable official websites as resources for the official terminology, and we have chosen the websites of the European Commission and the United Nations Organisation.

3.1. European Commission – Resources for Translation and Drafting Resources
The website of the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Translation, the Joint Research Centre and other EC webpages recommend a list of resources for translators. Concerning their language technology resources and tools, the European Commission websites makes them available, as following:
- IATE database
- Translation and drafting resources site for EU languages
- Multilingual translation memory for EU law
- EUR-Lex, a compendium of all EU laws currently in force, in all official EU languages
- Language Technology Resources – EC Joint Research Centre
- EU Bookshop.

3.1.1. IATE database
The IATE database - *InterActive Terminology for Europe* contains *"the terminology used in the various European institutions. It contains about 8 million terms, 520 000 abbreviations and 140 000 phrases in all 24 official EU languages, Latin and some other languages"* (EC-DGT, *IATE*) Initially, this database was interinstitutional only, but since 2007, IATE is available online.

Its interface is available in all official languages, and provides equivalent terms for all these languages. Each term has a standard description, including definition.

The reliability of each term is measured by 1-4 stars.

Figure 1 European Commission - IATE terminology database

3.1.2. Translation and drafting resources for EU languages
The EC-DGT websites for translators recommend language resources for translating and drafting, for all the EU official languages, resources grouped according to the source/target language. Every language benefits from various resources, as online dictionaries, glossaries, national sites etc.

By example, for translations from/into Romanian, the EC website and their translators suggest a list of official Romanian institution websites, like the website of the President of Romania, Senate, Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Academy, Official Journal of Romania etc., but also public institutions: Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Romanian Office of Inventions and Trademarks, Romanian Railway Authority (AFER), Romanian Ornithological Society (SOR) and many others. Also important, links to online dictionaries, term banks and glossaries are provided.

3.1.3. Multilingual Translation Memory for EU law
The multilingual translation memory for EU law - *DGT's Translation Memory* contains about one million sentences and their translations in 24 EU languages. "*The aligned translation units have been provided by the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission by extraction from one of its large shared translation memories in EURAMIS (European advanced multilingual information system).*" (DG-TM). This multilingual Translation Memory for the Acquis Communautaire can be downloaded.

3.1.4. EUR-Lex
EUR-Lex is a compendium of all EU laws currently in force, and other public EU documents. It is the electronic version of the *Official Journal of the EU* in all 24 EU official languages.

The aligned versions of the EU laws can be downloaded and used by translators, interpreters and terminologists, and not only.

3.1.5. EC Joint Research Centre - Language Technology Resources

The page of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission published a list of language technology resources and tools: *multilingual software, parallel corpora, and more*, available for download from the JRC's webpages.

Language technology resources
- *JRC-Acquis: a multilingual parallel corpus*
- *DGT-Acquis: multilingual parallel corpora from the EU Official Journal*
- *DCEP: Digital Corpus of the European Parliament*
- *DGT Translation Memory*
- *ECDC Translation Memory*
- *EAC Translation Memory*
- *JRC-Names: names and their spelling variants*
- *JRC Eurovoc Indexer*

(JRC, *Language*)

3.1.5.1. JRC-Acquis: a multilingual parallel corpus

The Acquis Communautaire is the total body of European Union (EU) law applicable in the the EU Member States, a collection of parallel texts in the 22 languages.

The JRC-Acquis is a multilingual aligned parallel corpus for more than 20 languages, created by compilation of CELEX documents, and provides "*a large parallel corpus of documents for (computational) linguistics research purposes.*" (JRC, *JRC-Aquis*).

3.1.5.2. DGT-Acquis: multilingual parallel corpora from the EU Official Journal

DGT-Acquis is the multilingual parallel body of EU law, containing paragraph-aligned, full-text documents from the Official Journal of the European Union. It contains several multingual parallel corpora extracted from the Official Journal of the European Union, with documents written in to 23 languages from 2004 to 2011.

3.1.5.3. DCEP: Digital Corpus of the European Parliament

"*The Digital Corpus of the European Parliament (DCEP) contains the majority of the documents published on the European Parliament's official website. (...) DCEP is available as full-text documents and as sentence-aligned data.*" (JRC, *DCEP*).

The corpus contains 1,5 million documents and 1,37 billion words. The types of documents contained in this digital corpus is related to the European Parliament work: agendas, reports, motions, questions, general texts etc. Most of the texts are in English.

3.1.5.4. ECDC Translation Memory

The agency European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) of the European Union published a translation memory, "*a collection of sentences and their professionally produced translations, in 25 languages. (...) The major part of the documents talks about health-related topics (anthrax, botulism, cholera, dengue fever, hepatitis, etc.), but some of the web pages also describe the organisation ECDC (e.g. its organisation, job opportunities) and its activities (e.g. epidemic intelligence, surveillance).*" (JRC, *ECDC*).

This translation memory is very useful for translators for medical documents.

3.1.5.5. EAC Translation Memory
The Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) of the European Union released a translation memory in 26 languages.

The EAC Translation Memory was built from translations of the electronic forms for the Life-long Learning Programme and the Youth in Action Programme

3.1.5.6. JRC-Names: names and their spelling variants
JRC-Names is a multilingual entity resource for person and organisation names, consisting of *large lists of names and their many spelling variants (up to hundreds for a single person) (...), a technical resource that can be used to find names even if they are spelled differently.* (JRC, *JRC-Names).*

3.1.5.7. EuroVoc
The EuroVoc thesaurus was created by the European Parliament, the EU Publications Office and national organisations for the indexing document collections in 22 languages.

All the Joint Research Centre can be downloaded.

3.1.6. EU Bookshop
The EU Bookshop is an online bookshop, containing 100 000 titles and 190 000 in more than 50 languages. The Pdf end e-book versions are free of charge for downloading.

If we want to translate in the European Union official languages, the websites of the European Commission and the other European Institutions are the most reliable for translation and terminology, since they use and provide the EU official terminology. But if the source or the target language is not European, one of the most reliable website for terminology resources is provided by the United Nations Organization.

3.2.   United Nations Organisation
The United Nations terminology resources page provide a list of links for various languages, like Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

3.2.1. United Nations Terminology Resources
The terminology databases listed on the United Nations website are concerning domains like agriculture, physics, chemistry, life sciences, engineering, economics, environment etc.

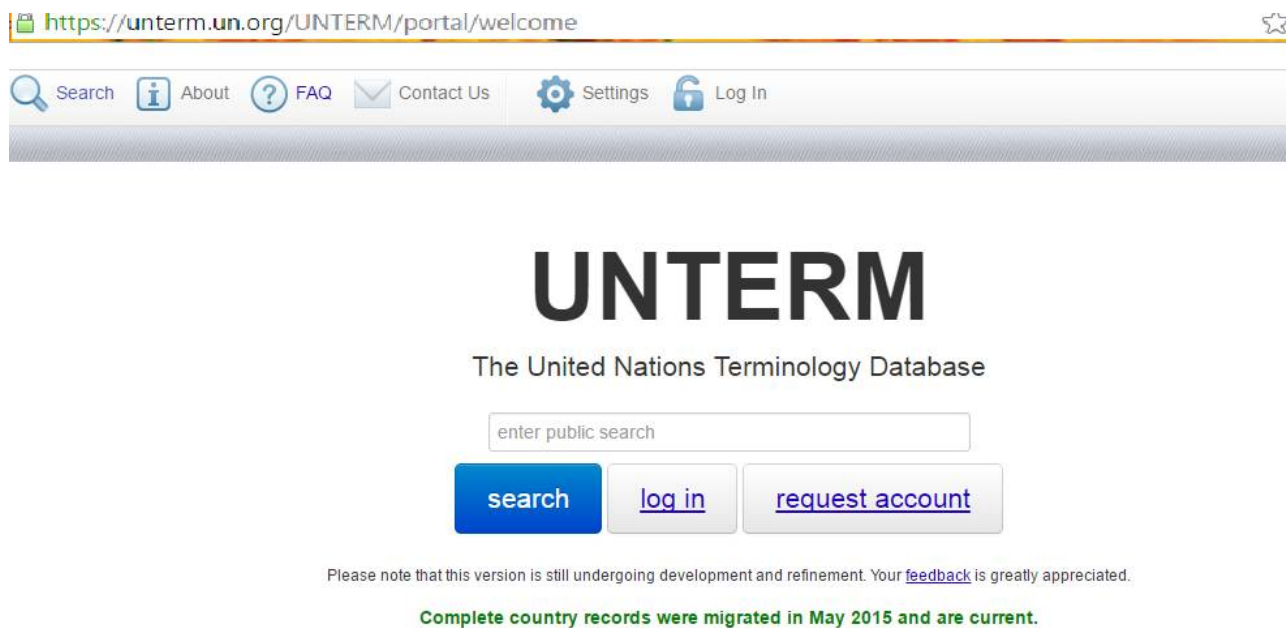This is the list of databases recommended:
- *AGROVOC - areas of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO)*
- *INIS/ETDE Thesaurus*
- *IPCC Glossary on Climate Change*
- *LEO - Law & Environment Ontology*
- *Terminology of Telecommunications*
- *Terminology on DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction*
- *TourisTerm - the World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) terminological database*
- *The multilingual UNBIS Thesaurus - subject analysis of documents and other materials relevant to United Nations programmes and activities*
- *UNESCO Thesarus*
- *UNICRI - Criminological Thesaurus*
- *UNTERM - The United Nations Terminology Database*

- *United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM) is a linguistic tool that provides access to a diverse multilingual terminology and nomenclature of UN documents.*
- *WTOTERM – the Terminology database of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for translators.*

According to the field, the translations could choose one of the recommended databases. We will not present in detail every database content, but we will exemplify a few of them.

3.2.1.1. UNTERM - The United Nations Terminology Database
United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM) provides access to a multilingual terminology of UN documents.

Figure 2 United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM)

3.2.1.2. AGROVOC - Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
The AGROVOC Multilingual agricultural thesaurus *"is a controlled vocabulary covering all areas of interest of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, including food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment etc. It is published by FAO and edited by a community of experts. AGROVOC consists of over 32,000 concepts available in 23 languages: Arabic, Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Malay, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Telugu, Thai, Turkish and Ukrainian."* (FAO, *AGROVOC*).

Due to the importance of UN actions and its Food & Agricultural branch, the translations accuracy, in this case, is vital. So, the reliability of this resource, AGROVOC, is essential.

3.2.1.3. INIS/ETDE Thesaurus
The INIS/ETDE Thesaurus provides translations from some of the most widely spoken languages of the world (English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese). The author is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The Joint INIS/ETDE Thesaurus includes physics, chemistry, materials science, earth sciences, radiation biology, radioisotope effects and kinetics, applied life sciences, radiology and nuclear medicine, isotope and radiation source technology, radiation protection, radiation applications, engineering, instrumentation, fossil fuels, synthetic fuels, renewable energy sources, advanced energy systems, fission and fusion reactor technology, safeguards and inspection, waste management, environmental aspects of the production and consumption of energy from nuclear and non-nuclear sources, energy efficiency and energy conservation, economics and sociology of energy production and use, energy policy, and nuclear law." (UN, *INIS/ETDE Thesaurus*).
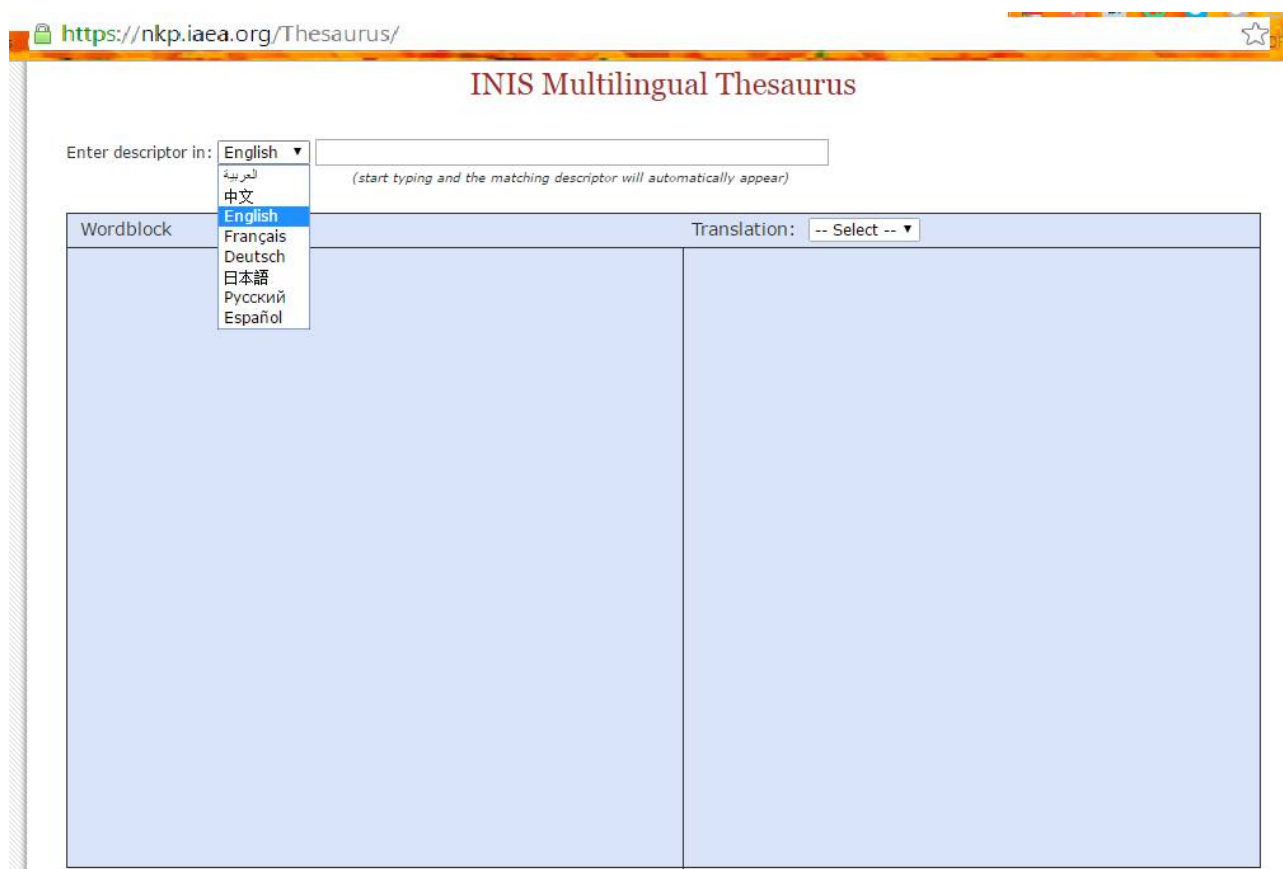

Figure 3 INIS/ETDE Thesaurus

All the other terminology references recommended by the United Nations experts have to be be reliable, due to the very important activities carried out by this international organisation.

4. Conclusions
According to translations standards, the quality improvement of translations has to include the use of reliable resources of terminology.

The aim of the study was to identify the most reliable terminology resources for translation and interpretation, and the work hypothesis was being that the most consistent and reliable resources for terminology and translation are published or recommended by official institutions. The research method was the corpus analysis, established on the basis of the hypothesis, on the pages of international organisations, like the European Commission and the United Nations Organisation.

Our hypothesis was tested and verified, and the analysis shown that the most reliable terminology resources are provided by official institutions, like the European Commission and the United Nations Organisations, and many other important institutions.

Using official resources for terminology is a very important factor for the translation quality assurance and assessment, which increases the accuracy of translations.

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