STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC PECULARITIES OF WATER TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN

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Le but principal de la présente recherche est de développer un soutien théorique et pratique en termes de particularités sémantiques et structurelles de la terminologie de l'eau en anglais et en roumain dans la théorie traditionnelle et les phénomènes wusteriene et neowusteriene liées à la relation entre le concept, la definition et le terme. Afin nous proposons une analyse multidimensionnelle et une synthèse de la terminologie de l'eau dans les actes juridiques de l'Union européenne et la République de Moldova et le développement d'un produit terminologique qui répond aux standarts de la terminologie de l'eau européenne.

There exist a lot of controversies about terminology as a separate discipline. The existence of three schools of terminology the Vienna, the Prague, and the Soviet schools, is one of the reasons of appearance of so many debatable issues in this field of linguistics. The starting point of these controversies is the fact that terminological work can be both attributed to the sphere of competence of linguistics as well as to the domain of individual subject areas. As a result it became more and more apparent that terminology was in need for an independent discipline – a terminology science. Wüster's last work *Einfuhrung in die Allgemeine Terminologielehre und Terminologische Lexikographie* (1979) became the most comprehensive

account of the terminology theory. It was an attempt to explain terminology both with respect to its theory and method.

The relevance of this research consists in providing a wider perspective on the terminological study of water terminology in Romanian, and bringing it closer to European water terminology standards.

The topic presented is of great interest especially for, translators and interpreters, who are mostly the first who feel the lack of terminologies when they have to reformulate the information in another language. Terms are needed when the information is formulated and when it is condensed or retrieved. The need of terminology is explained also by the fact that scientific knowledge and technological skills are scattered on different places of the world.

Any scientific discipline operates with specific approaches and methods that help to come to results and conclusions. Thus, in the case of terminology we consider that the basic approaches that regards the scientific representation of terminology is the onomasiological and semasiological approaches. P.Auer analyses the onomasiological and semasiological approaches from the structuralist point of view. He states that according to the traditional terminology of structuralist lexicology, a semasiological point of view is one in which the lexical element is taken as a point of departure, and in which the meaning of that item is described [1, p.824]. The way terminology works with both approaches has a chronological aspect. Firstly, it operates with the onomasiological approach. It means that the new concept, idea or object that appear need to get a name and as Dirk mentions onomasiology is responsible for naming and designation [3, p.78]. Secondly, it operates with the semasiological approach which involves operations with the meaning. A. Blank mentions that the simplest semasiological approach to words is the alphabetical order of a dictionary, a glossary, a thesaurus, etc. [2, p.10].

All the definitions that were analyzed in the chapter entitled *Structural and Semantic Peculiarities of Water Terminology in English and Romanian* can be divided according to J.C. Sager's classification [4]: *synthetic definitions*, *analytic definitions*, and *denotative definitions*. A synthetic definition determines the place of a concept in a system of relations and identifies the subordinate terms, e.g. "Inland water – means all standing or flowing water on the surface of the land, and all ground water on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured." An analytic definition always relates a term to its superordinate and may also include coordinate terms, e.g. "Râu – înseamnă un corp de apă interioară care curge în mare parte pe suprafața solului, dar care poate curge și în subsol pe o parte a cursului său". A denotative definition lists all the subordinate terms of a term, e.g. "Body of surface water – means a discrete

and significant element of surface water such as a lake, a reservoir, a stream, river or canal, part of a stream, river or canal, a transitional water or a stretch of coastal water."

We didn't make any changes to the definitions we analyzed concerning this classification. Our purpose was to identify each of type of definition and to find the characteristics of each type of definition. Definitions must be written so that the initial descriptors should be of the same grammatical category as the head term, e.g. "Ape interioare – înseamnă toate apele stătătoare sau curgătoare de pe suprafaţa solului şi toate apele subterane situate în amonte faţă de linia de bază care serveşte la măsurarea întinderii apelor teritoriale". All definitions that were analysed respect this rule. Definitions must use known words; if more specific words are used, they must be terms defined in the same glossary or dictionary. In *European Water Directive* this rule is taken into consideration and respected, e.g. Surface water – means inland waters, except groundwater; transitional waters and coastal waters, except in respect of chemical status for which it shall also include territorial waters. This definition explains the concept of *surface water* with the help of four terms which are related to this concept, and according to the second rule of writing a definition listed by M.T. Cabre, three of these term are explained in the same glossary except *territorial waters*. Adding the definition for this term will be a plus for the glossary. In the glossary of *Legea Apelor* this rule is not respected at a high level. For instance, the following definition „Bazin hidrografic – porțiune de teren de pe care toate scurgerile de suprafață curg printr-o succesiune de râuri, fluvii şi lacuri spre mare într-o singură gură de vărsare, estuar sau deltă, delimitată prin cumpăna apelor." comprises five terms *râu, fluviu, lac, estuar, deltă, cumpăna apelor.* The glossary of *Legea Apelor* gives an explanation only to one of these terms – *lac*. The other four terms can be met in the text of the *Legea Apelor* but they are not explained previously and this makes the understanding of the text more difficult. Definitions should not be circular. This rule was not respected in all definitions that we analyzed, e.g. "*Pollutant – means any substance liable to cause pollution.",* "*Poluant – orice substanță care ar putea constitui un factor de poluare*". In cases when this rule is not respected one of the ways to ameliorate the quality of the definition is to use periphrasis. In this case the term *pollution* can be replaced by the term *contamination*. Definitions written in English use as an introductory element of the definition the word *means*, e.g. *Groundwater – means all water which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.* All definitions that were translated into Romanian from the European Water Directive have this word as introductory element of the definition as well, e.g. *Ape subterane –*

înseamnă toate apele care se găsesc sub suprafața solului în zona de saturație şi în contact direct cu solul sau cu subsolul. None of the definitions from the *Legea Apelor* contain this element. We consider that it is better to use this element because it makes the definition more explicit and it creates a structure /x = means/înseamnă +z+y.../.

The subject of this Master Degree Thesis can be continued. We want to enlarge our study by creating a database of water terminology both in English and Romanian taking as a example the database WordNet. The water terminology analyzed in this paper deals with the topic *River Basin Management*. We plan to enlarge the list of topics connected to water.

References:

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Recomandat
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