Terminology in the Portuguese Parliament: collaboration between terminologists and domain experts in the validation process of terminological content

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presentation of the project

The Terminological and Textual Database (BDTT-AR) results form the synergy between CLUNL and the Portuguese Parliament aiming at creating a terminological and textual database to support translation.

(1) Guarantee the linguistic and conceptual quality of terminological data
(2) Guarantee the quality of the whole process that underlies the feeding of the database
(3) Guarantee the quality of discourses produced inside the Parliament
The partnership between CLUNL and the Parliament results from the conviction that quality is only achieved through the application of methodologies that aim to improve professional performance in the long run, holding all the agents in this process responsible for it.
team

• General Coordination
  ▫ Portuguese Parliament

• Scientific Coordination
  ▫ Centro de Linguística da Universidade Nova de Lisboa

• Multidisciplinary workgroups
  ▫ Group of terminologists and translators
  ▫ Group of experts in parliamentary subjects (jurists, economists, ...)
  ▫ IT Center of the Parliament
tasks

• Translators
  ▫ huge domain knowledge

• Experts
  ▫ validate the designation
  ▫ validate the relation between designation and concept
  ▫ validate the micro-conceptual system
  ▫ definition in the natural language

• Terminologists
  ▫ responsible for the methodological design
  ▫ mediators between the experts and the translators
tasks

- IT Center
  - creation and implementation of the BDTT-AR
- Librarians
  - computerize references according to the NP 405-1(1994) standard
database - workstation
database - intranet & internet
database - intranet & internet
methodology

I. textual organization
II. terminology validation
III. creation of conceptual micro-systems
IV. validation of definitions

A. build of a terminological database
B. build of a textual database

→ relate both
methodology - textual organization

1. The status and value of texts in the Parliament
2. Criteria for textual organization:

   three large groups
   constitutional law
   ordinary law
   non-binding normative act
methodology - textual organization

- Ordinary law
  - law
  - executive law
  - regional legislative decree
  - Assembly’s resolution
  - regulation
    - regulatory order of the Government
    - Council of Minister’s resolution
    - Order of the Government
    - Decree issued by the President of the Republic

Basis for the organization of the textual database associated with the terminological database
methodology - terminology validation

Preservation of the quality of the data for an efficient management of the information:

Creation of a circuit to validate the whole information in the database

Acceptance and the recognition by the experts of the concepts produced in the Parliament

Linguistic validation of the terms by the CLUNL researchers
methodology - terminology validation

1. Candidate terms are extracted from the texts
2. Candidate terms + sources are given to the experts in an Excel file

i. Yes : scale from 1 to 8
ii. No: scale from 1 to 3
iii. I don’t know
iv. Notes
methodology - terminology validation

3. From the experts to terminologists

- If Yes → BDTT-AR
- If No or I don’t know → go back to other experts
- If No for the second time → rejected

combine 2 types of validation

- linguistic
- conceptual
methodology - micro-system of concepts

For the moment we do not need to structure the whole domain. But we need to structure the micro-system of concepts only for those concepts which are ambiguous in textual contexts, in order to:

(i) Find equivalents
(ii) Write definitions
Resultados da Pesquisa

- voto
- voto de confiança
- voto de gratificação
- voto de pesar
- voto de protesto
- voto de saudação
- voto eletrónico
- voto em branco
- voto favorável
- voto por correspondência
- voto por procuração

voto = n.m.

- PORTUGAL. Leis, decretos, etc. Regimento da Assembleia da República, 2003

- vote

  - PORTUGAL. Leis, decretos, etc. : Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic, 2003

  - If one third of the committee members so request, Members of the Assembly who vote shall be named and their vote recorded in the minutes. [Article 117(5)]

  - PORTUGAL. Leis, decretos, etc. : Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic, 2003

- vote

  - PORTUGAL. Leis, decretos, etc. : Règlement de l’ Assemblée de la République, 2003

  - Sont consignés au procès-verbal les noms des députés qui ont pris part au vote et l’orientation de leur vote, dès lors qu’un tiers des membres de la commission en fait la demande. [Article 117-5]
methodology - micro-system of concepts

Why do we need to build micro-systems?

Language are *per natura* ambiguous and polysemic;

Try to handle concepts in a discourse independent way to reduce as much as possible ambiguity and polysemy
methodology - micro-system of concepts

(1) does the term “vote” represent the same concept?
(2) does every single multiterm represent different concepts?
(3) are they all terms or are they terminological collocations?
(4) are they no terms or terminological collocations? (free lexical combinations?)
(5) ...
acção de votar

voto

modo
- por procuração
- por correspondência
- electrónico

resultado
- em branco
- favorável

procedimento
- de confiança
<act of voting>

“vote”

manner
- “proxy vote”
- “postal vote”
- “electronic voting”

result
- “blank ballot paper”
- “affirmative vote”

procedure
- “confidence motion”

?
expressão de um desejo

voto

de congratulação  
de pesar  
de protesto  
de saudação
<expression of a desire>

vote

- congratulation
- condolence
- protest
- greeting
methodology - micro-system of concepts

Conceptual maps are proposed by terminologists based on:

i. knowledge of translators and texts
ii. interviews with parliamentary staff
iii. validate by the experts group

Ready to search for equivalents and write definitions
methodology - definitions

2 phases

(i) Rewrite existing definitions (finalizing)

(i) Write new definitions (beginning)
methodology - definitions

1st step – terminologists

1. read the definition
2. separate what defines the concept from what is encyclopedic information
3. encyclopedic information: what information is important to understand the concept; what information is useless
4. rewrite the definitions
5. rewrite the encyclopedic information
methodology - definitions

2\textsuperscript{st} step – terminologists
1. Send the proposals to the experts (7)

3\textsuperscript{rd} step – experts, translators and terminologists
1. Meetings every 2 weeks, 2 hours

4\textsuperscript{th} step – terminologists
1. Make the definition available - intranet
2. Make the definition available - internet
textual database

Why a textual database?

i. to give additional information about the term

ii. to allow an in-depth research on the texts to observe terms on their actual usage contexts

iii. to better understand the concept we are looking for
textual database

Terminological and textual databases are related:

i. to allow a constant fluctuation between terminology and texts

ii. to guide the user in finding the correct information having in account the context he is working with
textual database
Functionalities of the database

1. Occurrences in the text
2. Navigation from term to term
3. Every entry in the terminological database is hyperlinked
4. User can return to the starting point (terminological record) or he can choose another term in context through the hyperlinks
some brief conclusions

i. identifying the most frequent terms used in the texts produced in the Parliament

ii. stabilizing and harmonizing the terminology used in the Parliament, proactively involving experts

iii. contributing to decreasing terminological and discourse variation

iv. it can be a reference for all other Parliaments of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries

v. it allows a more effective collaboration with other counterpart and similar institutions
Thank you

- www.parlamento.pt/pls/ter/terwintra.home~
- www.clunl.edu.pt/PT/home.asp