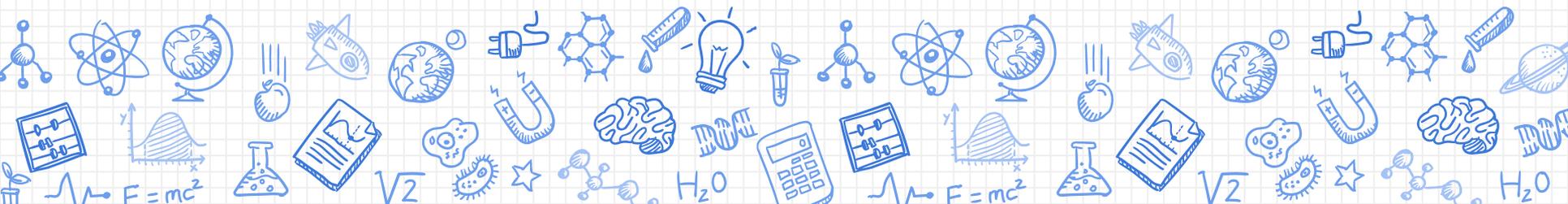# Terminology Management for Translators

Maria Fernandez-Parra
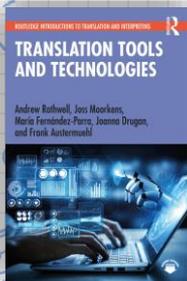
Swansea University

A bit about me

- Trained as a translator and interpreter
- Still a practising professional
- Teaching and researching translation topics at Swansea University since 2012
- MA Director
- Director of STING, the **S**wansea **T**ranslation and **IN**terpreting Research **G**roup
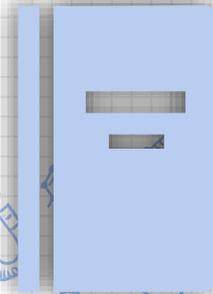

Translation Tools and Technologies
2023
with Andrew Rothwell, Joss Moorkens, Joanna Drugan and Frank Austermühl

Handbook of Translation Simulation
Forthcoming
Co-edited with Gys-Walt van Egdom, Koen Kerremans and JC Penet

Why this book?

Because terminology can make or break the quality of a translation.

This book is a contribution to shine a light on the way forward for translators who want to stay competitive in today's global market.

Why for translators?

Yes, you really should! Even if you are *not* a translator!

In a nutshell, because translators play a crucial role as disseminators of technical knowledge.

But I don't really understand **why**.

I know I should be managing terminology.

And even if I understood why, I wouldn't know **how**.

Don't worry! Chapters 1 to 6 cover both the **why** and the **how.**

From: Muegge (2020)

How is the book organised?

HOW?

Theory

Practice
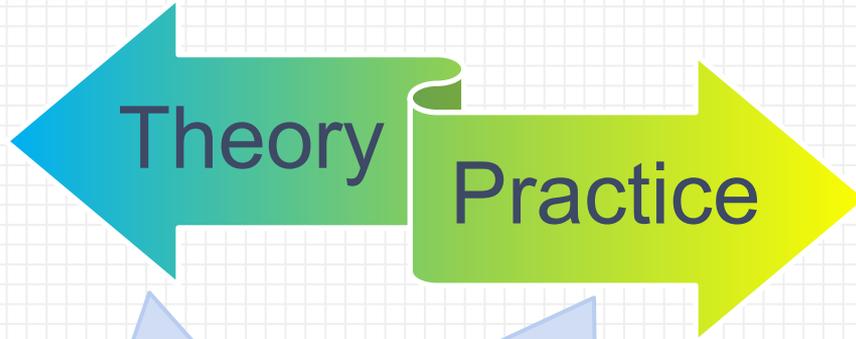
- The "**whys**" of everything.
- What bits from theories are useful to translators.

- The "**hows**" of everything.
- How terminology management has actually been implemented in some commercial and high-profile settings.

Overview of chapters

How to find terms and use corpora

Tools for terminology management

What you need to know to design a termbase

5

6

7 **Case Study**: the Translation Bureau in Canada

4

3 What do terminological theories say?

Case Study: the World Bank

8

Case Study: LSPs

9

2 Aren't terms and concepts the same thing anyway?

1 Why bother with terminology management at all??
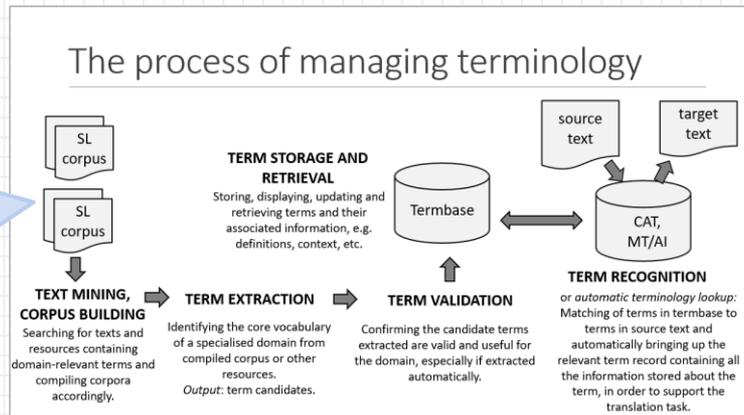
Best practices and quality management

10

Chapters 1 to 6: Conceptual overview

Key Questions and Issues

- What is terminology management and why is it impor... translators?
- What are the differences between translators and terminologists?
- How does terminology management work?
- Why a systematic approach to terminology management is a smart investment for translators (and interpreters).

Summary of **key issues** at the start of each chapter.

Box 1.2 The Polysemy of *Terminology*

The word *terminology* has been used in the literature with at least three different meanings:

1. Terminology as a discipline or theory: the study of terms as specialised units of knowledge.
2. Terminology as a practice, methodology or activity: a "set of principles that govern term compilation" (Cabré, 1996: 16).
3. Terminology as a product or vocabulary of a specialised domain: the list of terms from a domain which have been compiled according to the practice of terminology.

According to Faber and L'Homme, terminology was recognised as an independent discipline in the first half of the 20th century (Faber & L'Homme, 2022a: 1). However, it is rather ironic that, as Austermühl (2012: 62) puts it, a theory that "occupies itself with precision and the avoidance of ambiguity" should have three different meanings for the concept of *terminology*. In Chapter 3, we will mostly be referring to the first meaning; in Chapters 4 and 5, we will be mostly using meanings 2 and 3; in Chapter 6, the second meaning will often be referred to. In Part II, we will use mostly meanings 2 and 3 but we will occasionally need to refer back to meaning 1.

Supporting graphics to present information more visually.

The process of managing terminology

SL corpus

SL corpus

TERM STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL
Storing, displaying, updating and retrieving terms and their associated information, e.g. definitions, context, etc.

Termbase

source text

target text

CAT, MT/AI

TEXT MINING, CORPUS BUILDING
Searching for texts and resources containing domain-relevant terms and compiling corpora accordingly.

TERM EXTRACTION
Identifying the core vocabulary of a specialised domain from compiled corpus or other resources.
Output: term candidates.

TERM VALIDATION
Confirming the candidate terms extracted are valid and useful for the domain, especially if extracted automatically.

TERM RECOGNITION
or *automatic terminology lookup*: Matching of terms in termbase to terms in source text and automatically bringing up the relevant term record containing all the information stored about the term, in order to support the translation task.

Useful boxes highlighting specific issues and explaining them concisely.

Yes, AI and LLMs are in it too!

Some thoughts:

- AI and LLMs are **here to stay**!

- Terminology management can certainly be **enhanced/augmented** by using AI and LLMs.

- The more familiar the next generation of linguists are with these tools and how to use them to their advantage, **the more they'll be prepared for the future**.

See San Martín (2024a, 2024b) and Massion (2024)

comparing terminological data with authoritative sources

etc.

identifying equivalents in another language

analysing how terminology is used in a given context

writing definitions

term extraction tasks

understanding of complex subject matter

Chapters 7 to 9: Case Studies

It also includes **TermCatch**, a program developed by Swedish **Fodina**! ☺

The Translation Bureau

Government of Canada   Gouvernement du Canada

- Employ "terminologists" and "translators".
- *TERMIUM Plus®:* free online termbase in en, fr, es and pt.

The World Bank

- No "terminologists".
- Terminological tasks are carried out by "translators" and overseen by "editors".

- Case studies on the IMF and WTO coming soon to the online portal.

The Kaleidoscope Group

- Includes "Kaleidoscope" and "Eurocom"
- It also includes their client, Blum.

Terra Translations

- Online LSP

Layout of the Case Studies

Background of the company

Organisation and workflow

How do translators manage terminology?

Outlook

Updates!

DISCLAIMER

- The Case Studies represent a snapshot terminology management in time,

- i.e. by the time you read these chapters, some processes, procedures and/or names of tools, programs, etc, **may be out-of-date**.

- The Case Studies still provide **interesting insights** into how the companies and organisations dealt with terminology management **at a particular moment in time**.

Online portal

Table of Contents

Author(s)

Critics' Reviews

Instructor & Student Resources

Support Material

Shipping Options

Quizzes, answers, presentations, etc are here.

Create a free Instructor account with Routledge to access them.

Freely available quizzes (no answers, though).

What is in the online portal?

Terminology Management for Translators, 1/E (9781032299099)

- Resources for Instructors (ZIP 2.1MB)
- Quizzes Chapters 1-10 (ZIP 19.1MB)

Resources for Instructors:

- Detailed table of contents
- Some teaching suggestions
- A PowerPoint for each chapter
- A quiz for each chapter
- Answers to the quizzes and feedback.
- Other useful resources, e.g. examples of how to use AntConc for terminological tasks.

Quizzes Chapters 1-10:

- Quizzes only, no answers.
- Optimised for use in programs such as Kahoot, where the number of characters is limited.
- However, instructors can edit the questions and answers to suit the needs of their course and the programs they are using.

Tips for translators

1. **Specialisation** for translators.... the earlier the better!

2. Terminology begins **at source**, e.g. TermCatch, whenever possible/practical

3. No single software program that carries every terminological task... ...but **check out Quickterm**, developed by Kaleidoscope!

4. Learn to work with **specialised corpora**

5. **Concept maps** can be a useful tool

More tips for translators

6. Don't just Google something – carry out more **proficient searches!**

7. **Terminology** is **for everyone** – make sure you include everyone in it, whether they are linguists or not!

8. If you can, learn how to **use RegEx rules** – they sound complicated but can enhance the use of a CAT tool!

9. You might as well embrace **AI and LLMs** in your terminological tasks!

10. Read **Chapter 10** for upskilling, awards, ISO standards, competence frameworks, research projects... ...and lessons learned re. the terminological work of translators!
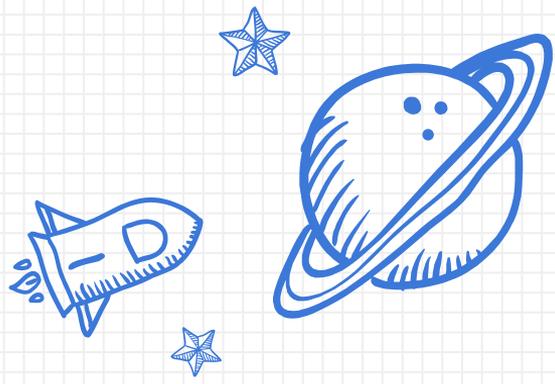
The remaining question?

It's **NOT** whether you can afford the time and effort to carry out terminology management...

...but rather whether you can afford **NOT TO!**

References

Massion, F. (2024). Terminology in the age of AI: The transformation of terminology theory and practice. *Journal of Translation Studies* 1 (2024), pp. 67-94.

Muegge, U. (2020). *Why you should care about terminology management – even if you never translate a single term.* ATA Chronicle, https://www.ata-chronicle.online/featured/why-you-should-care-about-terminology-management-even-if-you-never-translate-a-single-term/.

San Martín, A. (2024a). What generative artificial intelligence means for terminological definitions. *arXiv* : https://arxiv.org/pdf/2402.16139.

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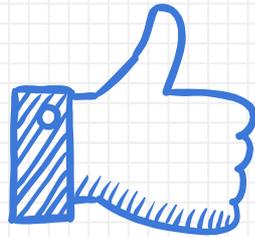
THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at

m.a.fernandezparra@swansea.ac.uk

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