

Introduction to the Round Table “Lexicography for Specialised Languages – Terminology and Terminography”

Maria Teresa Zanola,
Catholic University, Milan (Italy)

The discipline of terminology has developed out of the need to designate concepts clearly and precisely, and also the need to preserve language in use. Terminological activities are fostered and advanced through the requirements of translation in technical and scientific fields, as well as through language planning projects. It can be seen that, as a result, work relating to the theoretical foundations and basic principles of terminology, to methodology and the practice of terminological activities, and to terminological source materials and documentation all involve different but interrelated approaches. Both conceptual competence in specialized domains and linguistic-textual competence are needed to produce terminological tools to be used for reference, and which are suitable for users at different levels.

Matters to be discussed at this round table on terminology include methods, forms, and applications, with particular reference to lexicographical studies of languages for special purposes. Contributions will consider terminological description in the writing of specialized glossaries (e.g. “*Thesaurus Italiano di Bioetica*” written by M. Della Seta, F. Napoletani, S. Pizzarelli and E. Poltronieri); the analysis of concordances (the “*PuertoTerm*” project and the analysis of the lexicon of coastal engineering by M. I. Tercedor Sanchez and C. I. Lopez Rodriguez); results from the use of complex terminological instruments (e.g. the “*KBExplorer*” by P. De Baer, K. Kerremans and R. Temmerman); the complex relationships between everyday language and language for special purposes (in the work of F. Ruiz Quemoun); and a terminographic project relating to terminological problems in Irish (carried out in three languages by U. Bhreathnach, C. Phaidin and D. U. Bhraonain).

The contributions to this round table are all significant, and represent the most recent methodologies and most relevant trends in the field. They furthermore demonstrate the maturity of the field and underline lexicographers’ continuing commitment to terminology and interest in terminological activities.