

How New Terms Are Created and Introduced into Legislative and Other Institutional Texts

(In light of approximation of the legislation of Georgia with EU standards)

As it is well known Georgia is in the process of approximating its legal framework with EU legislation and implementing the DCFTA-related approximation requirements, based on the state policy of the implementation of EU-Georgia Association Agreement. One of the important prerequisites for the success of this process is the translation of EU legislation into Georgian and the unification of specialised terminology.

The opinion “**How New Terms Are Created and Introduced into Legislative and Other Institutional Texts**” (In light of approximation of the legislation of Georgia with EU standards) shared by me to the participants of one of the conference sections “Corpus Linguistics and Translation Studies” reviewed the current terminological work in state bodies from drafting laws and policy-making to implementing policies and working in all special areas. And this process is associated with the use and introduction of new specialised terms and concepts. Therefore, it is not surprising that in the context of large-scale legal approximation, we are facing challenges with an uncontrolled and mass influx of new terms. Since state agencies do not have a terminology service or corresponding staff positions, lawyers and single-skilled specialists employed in the state agencies promptly work to standardize and introduce domain-specific terminologies, without consulting language specialists.

It is absolutely impossible to conduct large-scale translation activities without translation centres specially created for this purpose. This is confirmed by the experience of advanced European countries: the path that Georgia is now following has been passed by each EU member state as a candidate or a potential candidate country for European integration.

What steps have been taken by the state of Georgia in this direction?

Two state agencies were established: **Translation Bureau of International Agreements** in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in 2001 (responsible for translating/editing and officially certifying international treaties and other official documents) and **the Translation Centre** in the Legislative Herald of Georgia within the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in 2012 which is especially active since 2013 (responsible for translating Georgian legislation and other necessary documents into English and EU legislation and other necessary documents into Georgian, developing terminological explanatory dictionaries and creating terminological databases). In addition, **the State Language Department** was established in 2018, which protects the constitutional status of the state language, promotes it, establishes and introduces the norms of the Georgian literary language, develops a strategy and policy for the protection and development of the state language. At the final stage in December 2021, the Government of Georgia approved the “**Unified Programme (Strategy) of the State Language for 2021-2030**” and “**Action Plan for 2021-2022**”.

The development and standardization of the Georgian terminology is one of the main tasks of the State Language Strategy. As stated in the Strategy, “the need for standardization and harmonization of terminology is due not only to the smooth functioning of the state language, but also to the requirement

to introduce the Georgian language in relations with the international community. Membership in the Council of Europe and the desire to develop political, economic, military, scientific and cultural ties with the European Union oblige the country to understand and assimilate the requirements of modern international terminology and translation policy” (Strategy, p. 77).

In order to fulfil the task of national importance, the State Language Strategy provides for a number of measures, including **the creation of the corps of terminologists**, which will work on the basis of the principles of verification and establishment of terms developed by the State Language Department, and the work performed will be submitted for consideration to the Commission of State Language Experts. At the same time, after the approval of the national terminological standard, various public or private organisations working with Georgian terminology will be required to be guided by the above standard when translating or defining terms.

In addition, due to the magnitude of the issue, preliminary studies reveal a shortage of human resources in the field of terminology. In this regard, a large-scale study of this problem and further steps are planned to eliminate the shortage of terminologists and translators (Strategy, pp. 78-79).

It should be noted that in order to improve the terminological work, **“Guidelines for Terminology Policies”** prepared by Infoterm was translated into Georgian. The book discusses the approach and principles for the development and implementation of a national terminology policy in language communities.

In addition, the standard of the International Organization for Standardization **ISO 860:2007 “Terminology work – harmonization of concepts and terms”** has been recently translated into Georgian. On its basis, the development of the Georgian standard is at the final stage.

But ‘one swallow does not make a summer’. Unfortunately, up to this moment the State Language Department has not created the corps of terminology experts and, accordingly, there is no coordination between the state agencies on translation and terminological work. As mentioned above, since the ministries, state departments or agencies do not have a terminology service or corresponding staff positions, lawyers and field specialists employed in the respective departments promptly work to standardize and introduce terminology innovations, without consulting language experts. As a result, each state institution translates only those documents that it needs, based on current activities or urgent needs, and since the process of translating legal and other official documents of Georgia and the European Union is not systematized and properly coordinated, often one state agency does not know what documents another state agency works with, and vice versa. Therefore, it happens that different state departments work independently but in parallel on the same document. There is also no unified termbank, which leads to inconsistent use of terminology, and due to ignorance of language norms, the lack of instructions for the correct use of morphological and stylistic rules characteristic of the language of law, and most importantly, thanks to untrained “translators”, most of translated texts are of poor quality and inconsistent in the use of terminology. In my presentation I further discussed specific examples of terminological inconsistencies made in laws, draft laws and other regulatory documents either by a non-professional translator who is not versed in specialised terminology, or by a single-

skilled specialist who knows specialised terminology, but is not familiar with the language norms, orthographic and stylistic nuances.

Such inconsistencies were analysed on the example of maritime terminology in sector benchmarks - the normative documents of higher education, where the same foreign concept is translated into Georgian in different ways or vice versa - different foreign terms are mentioned in the same Georgian equivalent. For example, the terms like **Marine / Maritime / Nautical** were not properly translated and used in Georgian. The confusion is caused due to the fact that there is no absolute demarcation between these terms in English except for **Marine** when it relates directly to the sea environment and its creatures, e.g. *Marine biologist* and never *Maritime biologist*. But even if you look at the **ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013)**, **Marine engineering** and **Maritime engineering** are mentioned under the same code 0716, but there is no reference whether they are synonyms or mean different things. That's why, Georgian translations for the terms "Marine" and "Maritime" are not distinct, consistent and in most cases are introduced as synonyms. The situation is more confused with the use of "**Nautical**" which is translated into Georgian by two words: „საზღვაო/ზღვაოსნობის“. It turns out that the main terms in seafaring and sea environment are interchangeable terms in English. It is fact that even dictionary definitions are useless in this regard, mostly contributing to the confusion and interchangeable use of these three terms in English. In the process of studying these terms and their meanings, I was pleasantly surprised to find out that in Georgian the differentiation of these terms in meaning and intent is easily possible. The basis for this is given by the word „ზღვა“ (sea), from the root of which three different attributive words are formed: ზღვის, საზღვაო, საზღვაოსნო. Accordingly, in Georgian translation the correct use is suggested as ზღვის - **Marine**, საზღვაო - **Maritime**, საზღვაოსნო - **Nautical**.

As for the sector benchmarks, many other inconsistencies have been identified compared to the International Standard Classification of Occupations ISCO-08, for example, *Ship's Navigators* instead of *Ships' Deck Officers or Pilots* (ISCO-08 code: 3152); the occupation of *Ships' engineers* (ISCO-08 code: 3151) is accompanied with the non-equivalent Georgian translation *გემის ინჟინერ-მექანიკოსი*, while its English equivalent term is *Mechanical Engineers* (ISCO-08 code: 2144). In addition, discrepancies have been identified even for ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013). For example, ISCED-F (2013) makes a distinction between the terms *Marine Science* and *Maritime Science*, but there is no reference to whether *Marine Engineering* and *Maritime Engineering* have different or similar meanings as it is mentioned above. These examples mean that there is a mismatch between the English and Georgian terms. Taking into account international standards, it is recommended to bring the names of occupations and fields of education specified in the maritime sector benchmarks of higher education in line with the International Standard Classifier of Occupations ISCO-08 and ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013), in agreement with field specialists.

The next issue discussed in my presentation described my personal collaboration with the Terminology Coordination Unit of the European Parliament within the framework of the project "**Terminology without Borders**". TermCoord Unit, represented by its Head Rodolfo Maslias, proposed me to

participate in one of the seven project domains and prepare Georgian equivalents. As part of this collaboration, I chose the terminology project on education and education systems, in particular the subdomain of intercultural education and, as a whole, processed 57 terms. But the most important aspect of this work was the use of a free tool of **FairTerm** for compiling and generating multilingual terminological notes. The FairTerm web application is developed by professors Federica Vezzani and Giorgio Maria Di Nunzio at the University of Padua. It is the first terminology tool designed in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) for research data and ISO TC/37 SC/3 standards applicable in terminology management. After the start of cooperation with the higher universities of Georgia, the Georgian language has been added to the list of the languages supported by the FairTerm tool.

As a result of the study of the collected metadata on 57 terms available for searching in the IATE and their Georgian equivalents, it turned out that the Georgian lexicographic and terminological work lags significantly behind the European one. In particular, out of 57 terms, only 4 Georgian terms are fully defined in Georgian dictionaries, 6 terms are partially defined, and the remaining terms are not included in any Georgian dictionary at all, despite the fact that most of them are known and used in the education system of Georgia (e.g. international partnership, strategic partnership, mobility, Erasmus+, Jean Monnet Activities, collaborative project, learning agreement, etc.).

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of institutional documents received for translation by the Translation Bureau of International Agreements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental and international organisations, which is caused by an increased demand for the translation of European regulations applicable to different sectors. The statistics for 2011-2021 clearly indicate an upward trend in translations, which is the result of the high-quality work performed by the Translation Bureau of International Agreements of the MFA.

Due to the diversity and seriousness of the documents submitted for translation and since the Translation Bureau of International Agreements:

- has close relations with almost all ministries, state departments, agencies, and services,
- cooperates with the State Language Department, various public or international organisations and higher education institutions, is open to expanding cooperation with the Terminology Coordination Unit of the European Parliament,
- has employees with relevant experience who produce high-quality documents in different languages,

it is necessary to strengthen the Translation Bureau and entrust it with the function of the major participant in coordinating translation and terminological work in government organisations of Georgia.

To achieve the goal, it is necessary to equip the Translation Bureau of International Agreements with computer-assisted translation and term-extraction tools, as well as expand its structure and create a working group that will work out the new terminology used in translated official documents, and prepare a detailed list of new concepts and terms (using a FairTerm web application) for submission to

the State Language Department for final approval. In this way, approved terms will become mandatory for all state agencies, resulting in the correct and consistent use of new terms and old terms with new meanings.

At the end of my presentation I referred to the state support for the further development of national terminology, which implies administratively and financially supported coordinated cooperation between research institutions and academic centres dealing with terminology issues, as well as scientific groups and various government and nongovernmental organisations responsible for sectoral development. The collaboration with the Terminology Coordination Unit of the European Parliament will be of great help in harmonising new terms and concepts of various fields. We once again drew attention to that need at the Batumi International Conference.

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