

Optimizing Terminological Equivalence through Experimenting with Translationally-sustained Terminographic Work

Abbas Mehrpooya

University of Isfahan, IRAN

abbas.mehrpooya(a)gmail.com

ABSTRACT

A 'term' is normally defined as a lexical unit with linguistic characteristics similar to a 'word' except that it is applied in a specialized discourse-type with subject-field experts as its end-users. Viewed as such, a semantological and morphological review of the key terminology used in certain Persian discourses reveals that more efficient terminographic work is required in this regard. Mention can be made of using the Persian word 'همایش/hämäyesh' for the technical term 'collocation', where it appears to interchangeably mean *conference*, *forum*, etc. Viewed in light of Cabré's (1999: 194) emphatic statement that 'special communication demands a higher level of precision than that required in general communication', such an application conflicts with the discursive requirement of 'communication without ambiguity', a terminological condition which requires of any single designation to correspond to a single concept and vice versa.

Such terminological efficiency is to be achieved by providing for the possible terminological shortfall(s), detected in the first practical phase of dictionary(s)-checking and expert(s)-consulting. Consequently, the question raised in this study is how translation and terminography can theoretically and practically contribute to and benefit from each other to fill the identified terminological gaps. In the second phase, this study tries further to promote such terminological efficiency gains by proposing a sounder theoretical translational-cum-terminographic solution and using a translation-oriented terminographic work to bridge the possible gaps. Such a theoretical position will take up the often-cited stance maintained by Hartmann (2007) foregrounding the role of 'translating lexicographers' as an essential capacity by which the material substance for bilingual dictionaries can be created. This can be seen itself in view of Cabré's (2010) terminological emphasis which sees 'translated documents' as a term-providing source wherever no original text on a discursive subject exists in a target language. Acting within this sphere, a cornerstone idea for the general argument of providing for terminographic equivalence through translation is offered by the prospective notion of 'constructing [of] comparables', suggested by Ricoeur (2006: 36), to ideally address the lexical/terminological needs of the host language.

In a further stage, for this theoretical infusion to take a solid shape, Cabré's (1999) general plan for ad-hoc search has been used as the initial hallmark. Thus, the inferences drawn from such theoretical discussions have been recapitulated only to culminate in a supplementary follow-up on the quality features of terminographic proposition; what is appended to Cabré's general plan for ad-hoc terminological search with the aim of qualifying terminographic work based on a translational-cum-terminographical stance. This study finally puts the translational-cum-terminographical proposal into practice by providing for the terminographic needs of certain meta-discourse(s), i.e. 'discourse about discourse' (Hyland 1998: 431), where the demand for 'special communication' is urgent. In fine, the tabulated results of ad-hoc terminological searches are found to exhibit a random deficiency pattern in terms of the shortfalls detected in dictionary/expert terminological provisions. Furthermore,

the findings of this study confirm that it is primarily in catering for terminological coverage, resolving ambiguity, achieving condensation, and reaching terminological consistency that more terminographic work needs to be undertaken.

KEYWORDS: constructing comparables, term, terminography, terminological gap, translation

Completion of Thesis

Place: University of Isfahan, Isfahan

Year: 2017

Supervisors: Dr Ahmad Moinzadeh, Dr Azizollah Dabaghi