The Terminologist of the 21st Century

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From Sumerians … to games

Terminologist's profile:

- In 2600 BC
- In the literature
- In job descriptions
- In organizations
- In the TermCoord interviews
- In day dreams - visions
- In games

In 2600 BC

Sumerian terminologist's profile

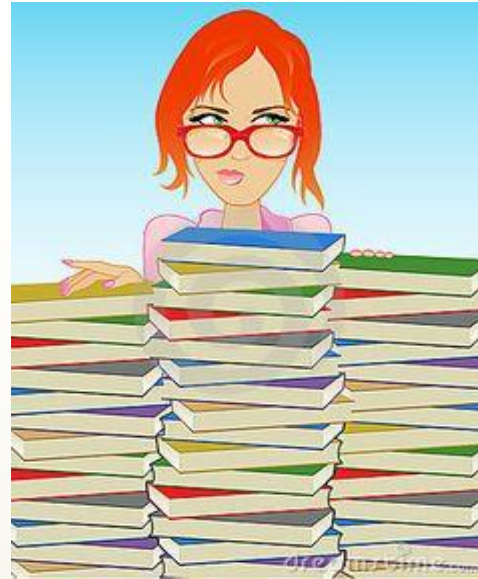- Thematic monolingual dictionaries were recorded as early as the year 2600 BC made by the Sumerians on clay bricks

In the literature (selection)

Traditional terminologist's profile

- competence in terminological theory and practice

- linguistic competence (mainly specialized languages)

- knowledge in one or more subject fields

Traditional terminologist

Modern terminologist's profile

- IT competence

- competence in managing data bases

- competence in information theory
  and management

- specific research competences

- competence in standardization

- competence in project management

Contemporary terminologist's profile

- competence in using new technologies/ new media

- competence of using semantic webs in representing ontologies

- combined competences tailored to the needs of the client

- competences embedded in global context

- competences related to netiquette, confidentiality, data safety

Contemporary terminologist

skills

competences

abilities

skills

skills

competences

In job descriptions (selection)

E.g. Ad terminology job NATO

▸ "Qualification & experience :

   - knowledge of terminology theory and practice

   - *5 years experience in terminology work*

   - *computer literate*

▸ Competencies:

   - analytical thinking, flexibility, impact and influence, initiative, organisational awareness, teamwork" (OTAN – http://www.nato.int/wcm-asp/recruit-hq-e.asp)

E.g. Ad terminology job CEB

- **"Advanced university degree** (or professional training in the field of terminology, language technology or translation, or a proven ability to perform the tasks required by the position).

- **Professional experience:** at least two years' professional experience (preferably in the field of terminology, language technology or translation), including practical experience of translation-oriented terminology work preferably with terminology management and translation memory software packages such as SDL MultiTerm and SDL TRADOS.

- **Skills needed: IT skills (...); Language skills (...)**

- An interest in financial and economic affairs would be an asset." (CEB - www.europa-nu.nl)

In organisations (selection)

E.g. Terminologist UN

- They advise and consult other UN offices and bodies who draft, translate or edit in their respective language, and answer queries and provide guidance in terminology usage.

  Their tasks encompass monitoring documentations and identifying changes, developments or linguistics inconstancies and variations in different areas of terminology such as organisational nomenclature, functional titles, administrative and budgetary matters, and various other areas.

  Terminologists use various electronic tools for their trade. They investigate organizational and technological developments particularly in the field of machine-assisted translations and data bank systems for the improvement of efficiency and productivity, making suggestions as to the development of the United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM). They also rely on their extensive language skills to produce terminology that is clear and coherent.
  https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=LCEFD&FId=6

■ Main Responsibilities include:
The terminology group helps product developers, writers, and translators use the correct terminology in IBM products and materials. The group currently has an open position for a junior terminologist. Regular tasks include creating and updating terminological entries in a multilingual terminology database, and identifying terms from an automatically extracted corpus that are relevant to translators.

The position includes the following additional responsibilities:

•Researching and defining new terms

•Using a terminology management system to create, update, or streamline definitions, and add other metadata such as parts of speech, grammatical information, and context sentences

•Using sound terminological principles, establish relationships between synonyms and other related concepts

•Importing new terminology into the database and exporting existing terminology into various forms of output including glossaries and bilingual dictionaries

E.g. International Telecommunication Unit

Competencies:

•Good knowledge of the use of computer equipment for desktop applications (eg, Word, Excel, Internet and data capture in databases)

•Practical knowledge and experience of terminology database management systems or translation environments such as for instance Multiterm, OmegaT, Synchroterm, TermBase, TermStar, MemoQ, AlignFactory, DéjàVu, LogiTerm, MultiTrans, SDL, Terminotix or Multicorpora, .

•Sense of responsibilities and creativity.

•Proven ability to work effectively and in harmony with people of different nationality and culture.

•Ability to work hard and with attention to details.

•Willingness to develop and to acquire new skills.
•https://erecruit.itu.int/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?jobinfo_uid_c=28515&vaclng=en

In the TermCoord Interviews (selection)

Interview question (revisions)

▶ **How would you define the profile of a terminologist?**

Answers / selection /

- **Be knowledgeable in** : terminology management, lexical semantics, sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, language policy, specialism knowledge in various domains

- **Have interest in**: language philosophy, philosophy of science, knowledge engineering, ontology management, semantic webs, standards, new trends in society, new workflow procedures, corpus linguistics, computational linguistics,

contin.

- **Should consider**: cultural differences, corporate culture

- **Skills**: information retrieval, knowledge acquisition, research skills, project and process management skills, diplomatic skills, language skills, group / team work

- **Personal skills**: flexible, open to innovation, creative ideas, patient, determined, diligent, excellent communicator, eye for detail, logical brain

To do list (based on interviewees' answers)-selection

- Get sound training with theoretical and practical basis
- Avoid excessive technologization
- Remember terminology is crucial in any form of communication
- Consider terminology as part of everyday life
- Meet the requirements of various user groups
- Approach terminology in multilingual settings
- Cover needs of domains lacking terminology
- Treat all domains equally important
- Protect regional languages

contin.

- Support awareness raising campaigns in favour of terminology

- Localize terminology

- Develop diversified terminology services

- Create interactive TDBs

- Assure quality of term data

- Provide terminological education and training

- Encourage 'hands-on' training envisaging real-life solutions

- Certify trainings

Interview question (visions)

▶ **How do you see the future of terminology?**

Answers / selection /

- Possible theoretical changes due to Web 3.0 developments
- Interdisciplinary research projects aiming at solutions to real-life problems
- Networking : industry experts/public services and academia
- Improved awareness/attitude of companies towards terminology
- Increased involvement with new media / crowdsourcing
- Terminology closer to the people (lay persons)

contin.

- Terminology: collaborative, customized, cloud-based solutions
- Promotion of best practices
- Terminology : high technologization
- Terminology : important actor in the globalized society
- Terminology training: life-long learning approach
- Further collaboration between terminology and interpreting

In day dreams – visions (selection)

New skills and competencies correlated with 21st century skills

(basic 21st century skills: adaptability; complex social/ communication skills; non-routine problem-solving skills; self-management/self development; systems thinking)

Terminologist's new/additional competencies/skills:

leadership, innovation, people management, change management, knowledge curation, operational efficiency, reflection skills, etc.

contin.

- New jobs

  e.g. terminology asset manager (mapping clinical terms to corresponding coding terms)

- New position in organization's management

- Increased contribution in the development of Internet of Things, management of big data

- Involvement in Web 3.0

- Increased involvement in the use of social media facilities

- Improved social skills (communication, intercultural awareness, diversity)

In games

(selection)

Use of games in solving terminology problems

➤ **Games and terminology teaching**

➤ **Games and terminology in industrial environments**

✓ E.g. serious alternate reality games (SARGs)– puzzle solving, collaboration, intense involvement, sharing, use of multimedia, social networking, mix of specialists, combination of skills, analysis and coordination of real-life and online activities

Profile of "gamer – terminologist"

- competences in designing and using SARGs

- competences in dealing with the new media, respectively, Web 2.0 and Web 3.0

- competence to communicate with the "digital natives";

- competence to socialize by getting involved in social communities;

- competence to collaborate virtually with (groups of) people from various cultures;

- competence to adapt to the intercultural / cross- cultural diversity of the partners;

contin.

- increased competence to evaluate and validate the quality of data produced by "collective intelligence", corroborated with development of critical thinking;

- competence to select realistically Web 2.0 technologies and adapt them to the specific needs of terminology users;

- specific behaviour competences, such as: encourage active participation, develop trust in the community members, increase responsibility for personal contribution to collective heritage, accept advice and suggestions from others; create an informal atmosphere

Instead of Conclusions

Let's play a terminological game

✓ Define the term "summit" in a tweet

!!! Not more than 140 characters

✓ Send your tweet to the Summit Jury of Awards (@_eaft) and win one of the 2 prizes:

1) Theoretical contribution (proper terminological definition)

2) Originality / Creativity

T H A N K   YOU

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