

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/btl.18.01pre>

Pages ix–xii of

Terminology, LSP and Translation: Studies in language engineering in honour of Juan C. Sager

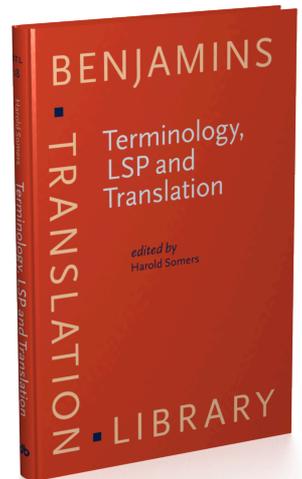
Edited by Harold Somers

[Benjamins Translation Library, 18] 1996. xii, 250 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



Preface

When Juan Sager took early retirement at the end of the 1994–95 academic year, this gave us the final motivation to start work on an idea that a number of us had been considering for several years: a Sager *Festschrift*. Even before we had started to put names together, we were being contacted by former colleagues and associates who had heard the news and were asking if they could contribute. One of these was Bertie Kaal saying that since Benjamins were *his* publishers, they would like to publish it. We quickly agreed that the collection would consist of new material, and all the contributors contacted agreed that one could not honour him by recycling old stuff. Indeed, many contributors took it upon themselves quite explicitly to review their research in terms dictated by Juan Sager's *œuvre*.

As the biography and bibliography compiled by Blaise Nkwenti-Azeh shows, after some years in the field of language teaching, Juan Sager's interests focused on three areas — lexicography and terminology, Language for Special Purposes (LSP), and translation and Machine Translation (MT) — and the lines of contact between them in the domain of Language Engineering. This latter is a concept which has emerged in the last few years with no little input from Juan Sager, particularly in his role as advisor to the Commission of the European Communities. We have accordingly been able to divide the contributions to this *Festschrift* into four parts.

Part I focuses on Lexicography and Terminology. The first four contributions in this section discuss the role of terminology in the modern world, with reference to specific local situations: Teresa Cabré looks at Spain with standardisation activities coupled with the recognition of the position of regional languages such as Basque and Catalan. Bruno de Bessé and Donatella Pulitano look at the development of the termbank used by the Canton of Berne in Switzerland. Nigel Holden discusses the need for new terminology in the former Soviet Union and its satellites to meet the needs of the ideologies newly being embraced, notably in the field of management and business. And María Pozzi discusses the problems of quality assurance introduced by the wider availability of terminology on computer networks. Jean-Claude Boulanger describes one of the earliest activities in this field,

namely the linguistic collection and categorisation of words by the authors of Egyptian *onomastica*, hieroglyphic word-lists. Alain Rey's article neatly provides a bridge between this and the other sections by noting how the three disciplines that have interested Sager interact, in particular with terminology as the driving and linking force.

In Part II, we turn our attention to LSP, with Reiner Arntz's description of language teaching within an LSP framework: he describes the development of special language teaching material for second language learners and translators in their own field. Meanwhile, Frank Knowles gives a practical demonstration of the kind of lexical analysis that can be performed with special language texts as a prelude to their description and identification.

Contributions in Part III focus on translation, beginning with Jean-Paul Vinay's nostalgic review of how translation was taught half a century ago, and how the modern practices and techniques developed. Wolfram Wilss considers translator behaviour from a psychological angle, and in particular whether there are any particular cognitive skills which are specific to a translator. Catriona Picken notes how specialisation is less of an option for the translator dealing with "minority" languages, in her case, Dutch. Mona Baker discusses how some of the techniques of corpus linguistics can be applied to the study of translation.

Three articles make up Part IV of this collection, under the heading of Language Engineering. Maghi King looks at some important aspects of the newly (re-)emerging field of MT system evaluation. Yorick Wilks critically examines some recent work in the field of "sense tagging", that is, identifying automatically in a text which of a number of word senses given by a dictionary is appropriate. Finally, Tony Hartley and Cécile Paris describe an experiment in flexible multilingual text generation as part of the documentation process.

As mentioned above, there were many offers of contributions to this *Festschrift*, and not all could be accepted. Notable perhaps by their absence first of all are contributions from Juan Sager's immediate colleagues here at UMIST (with the exception of Mona Baker, recently appointed to the Institute to attempt to cover the gap left by his retirement!). It would have been difficult to choose whom to include and whom to leave out, so it was decided that UMIST could be represented by this preface and biographical notes. Acknowledgment should duly be made here of the general assistance and support of everyone in the department.

Two specific names should also be mentioned here: two colleagues who would certainly have figured amongst the contributors if not as co-editors, were it not for the fact that they have left the field. We are referring to Rod

Johnson and Jeanette Pugh, both of whom were central figures, under Juan Sager's leadership, in the establishment and administration respectively, of the teaching and research activities at the Centre for Computational Linguistics, at UMIST.

This volume is respectfully dedicated to "Prof" as a token of our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all he has done for us. On behalf of past and present members of the department, all contributors to this book, and all admirers and well-wishers everywhere, we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Harold Somers, Blaise Nkwenti-Azeh
Department of Language Engineering
UMIST, Manchester
June 1996

