

## TERMINOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP AT THE KÁROLI GÁSPÁR UNIVERSITY (BUDAPEST)

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### Abstract

*The paper provides a brief overview of the activities of the Terminology Research Group which operates at the Károli Gáspár University, Budapest.*

**Keywords:** *terminology research, TERMIK, journal of terminology, MA in Terminology*

**T**he Terminology Research Group (TERMIK) [1] is hosted by the Károli Gáspár University, Department of Hungarian Linguistics.

The research group is lead by Ágota Fóris, associate professor. The researchers collaborating in the group are the staff of the department (10 persons), other colleagues and doctoral students. The tasks set out are fulfilled with the continuous help of experts from institutions involved in terminology development. The activities are carried out in different parts of the country, and the scientific and institutional relations are formed through regular cooperation, occasional group seminars and publications (journal articles, conference talks). In order to create a common scientific approach, solve long term tasks, and evaluate results it is important to hold regular discussions. Daily contact is managed via the internet, and continuous exchange of ideas is feasible this way to join the work extended to various fields and cities.

Out of the events preceding the foundation of the research group I mention the results of studies that were aimed at investigating the situation of Hungarian terminology, and identifying the tasks of terminology development. The findings of such studies and the main tasks for development are summarised below [2, 3, 4]:

- The theoretical background of the development of Hungarian terminology and the practical methods to apply were laid out in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, during the neologist movement. The traditions of

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these works provide good basis to solve the currently emerging problems.

- The radical changes following the turn of the millennium increased the importance of terminology at every field. At the same time, they also required reforming the theory and introducing new methods of application.
- The development of Hungarian terminology lags behind international trends, the theory and practice of terminology are not adjusted to the ever increasing needs.
- Scientifically well-founded unity is lacking in the research, practical works, and administrative management of terminology.
- The publication of results achieved in the field of Hungarian terminology research and development is not feasible; while international works are not widely known.
- The international network of Hungarian terminology research and development is not satisfactory.
- The teaching of terminology is neglected at every level. The major problem is the lack of successors with graduate and academic training.

The TERMIK research group was founded with the aim of contributing to the solution of the tasks that are a consequence of the above mentioned statements. Most importantly:

1. To establish a wide range of relations in the field of Hungarian and international research and development.
2. To serve as an initiator and active contributor in introducing terminology as a subject at Hungarian universities.
3. To actively participate in organising conferences and launching journals in order to build a network that disseminates the results of terminology research.
4. To assume an organising and managing role in terminology research in Hungary.

The almost four years of TERMIK activity could be summarised as follows, in accordance with the 4 task types undertaken at the time of its creation:

**1. To establish a wide range of relations in the field of Hungarian and international research and development**

The TERMIK has created a wide network with the institutions interested in terminology research, teaching and application in Hungary.

- The Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies doctoral programs of several Hungarian universities (Pécs, Budapest, Veszprém) announced lexicography and terminology courses, so doctoral research in the field is now possible.
- The TERMIK has signed a research and development contract with the Joint Forces Command of the Hungarian Defence Forces, to develop the terminology of military science, and to carry out research that would lay the basis of a terminological database.
- The members of the research group regularly participate as members of organising committees in national conferences and workshops that present the findings of studies into the theory and practice of terminology, and they also hold talks and participate in debates.
- The international relations of the group are forming in several levels. 1. The results of research carried out within the group are regularly published in Hungarian and international scientific forums. 2. The international relations of the field of science is strengthened through international conferences on terminology organised in Hungary. 3. The appearance of the Journal of Hungarian Terminology ('Magyar Terminológia'), an international academic journal, facilitates the flow of scientific knowledge. 4. Through the leader of the TERMIK the research group joined the work of the EAFT.

The members of the research group actively participate in various scientific events (conferences, courses, publications) with presentations and articles. These, on the one hand serve the dissemination of scientific knowledge, on the other hand help raise awareness of terminology development.

## 2. Initiate the introduction of an MA in Terminology in Hungarian universities

The paradigm change that is undergoing in the field of terminology has caused difficulties in several areas, since theories based on the old paradigm and modern methods and techniques are often hard to match. A prerequisite of a quick updating of Hungarian terminology is to employ experts who possess modern scientific knowledge. Such adjustment of Hungarian terminology to the needs of national and international economic and cultural cooperation is only feasible through the foundation of a university level training program.

The results of research carried out within the TERMIK and the experiences gathered in the wide network of relations made possible the development of different curricula that adapt to the various levels and forms of university education.

The first step was the development of the curriculum for PhD studies. This had various reasons: 1) University education witnessed a newly emerging need to do terminology research with a modern approach. 2) The TERMIK incorporated the majority of results of terminology research and development published in the international scientific literature. These served as excellent basis for the development of a curriculum that meets the academic requirements. 3) The students of various doctoral schools chose research topics from the field of terminology. Owing to this interest adding lexicography and terminology into their study programmes became necessary. 4) The experiences gathered during cooperation proved that in order to develop Hungarian terminology the first step was to establish the scientific foundation of the field.

The success of the PhD program and the experiences of terminology works in Hungary and Europe provided the basis for creating the curriculum of an MA in Terminology, which were accredited by the relevant authorities. The launch of the study program was requested by the Károli Gáspár University, the request was supported by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee, therefore the MA in Terminology is going to start at the Károli Gáspár University in the academic year of 2011/12. Currently the knowledge gathered by the research group is channelled into teaching materials that meet the interdisciplinary requirements.

### **3. Organise conferences and launch journals in order to build a network that disseminates the results of terminology research**

International conferences and journals play a significant role in the formation of national and international relations. In order to create publication opportunities that link Hungarian terminology research with the international network, I initiated the establishment of a new, international scientific journal titled *Journal of Hungarian Terminology* ('Magyar Terminológia'), published by the Akadémiai Kiadó [5]. The professional background for the publication is formed by the national and international relations of the research group and by the ongoing research. The journal, in accordance with its purpose articulated at the time of its launch, is in the Hungarian language, but occasionally it publishes significant results in English.

Two major international conferences in terminology were organised thanks to the relations of the research group. In November 2006 a conference was organised in Szombathely with the title "New Trends in Terminology", and currently we are having the 5<sup>th</sup> Terminology Summit of the EAFT, to be held in Budapest in November 2010. These conferences have been attended by internationally renowned experts of the field. The conferences are also noteworthy because they provide the opportunity for Hungarian research to achieve international presentation and to build further research relations.

The findings of research carried out by the group were presented in October 2010 in Beregovo (Ukraine) at the 16<sup>th</sup> Élőnyelvi Konferencia (Conference of Modern Languages) in the form of presentations held in a separate workshop.

### **4. Take an organising and managing role in terminology research in Hungary**

The terminology work done in the research group can be classified into two parts. One task type is to contribute to the theoretical issues of terminology. The aim of the research is to develop a terminology model based on modern network theory. The second task type is to investigate the practical applicability of our own theoretical findings and also of those published in the specialist literature, to develop new methods and techniques, and to adapt the methods already applied abroad. Several tasks of research and development are helped by external partners. Some of the

theoretical and methodological studies are linked to doctoral programs of cooperating universities. Partnership is established through doctoral students participating in the research. Practical aspects of research topics are occasionally related to other cooperating institutions. Three PhD dissertations have been written on the latest research findings and defended successfully (Italian-Hungarian bilingualism and terminology of mathematics; terminology of sports; Hungarian terminology of mathematics). Currently another three dissertations are about to be submitted and a further three are worked on.

Significant cooperation: there is complex cooperation between the research group and The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Institute for Linguistics and the Hungarian Standards Institution [6] in basic research, development and teaching. With the former we do joint research on computerised terminological methods, and with the latter on terminology harmonisation and standardisation.

The research cooperation with the Joint Forces Command of the Hungarian Defence Forces is in the preparatory phase, the project has the aim of creating the Hungarian terminology database of military science. This is a long term research project, the plans include compiling a terminological dictionary and a database.

## References

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- [5] Akadémiai Kiadó journals: [www.akademiai.com](http://www.akademiai.com)
- [6] Hungarian Standards Institutions: [www.mszt.hu](http://www.mszt.hu)