

Stoffa Jan

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia
Pedagogical faculty, Department of UNESCO
jstoffa @ukf.sk

Stoffa Veronika

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia
Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Informatics
vstoffova @ukf.sk

CREATION OF THE FIRST THESAURUS OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Abstract

The study deals with strategy of creation of a first thesaurus of educational technology, which is created in the frame of a project of Slovak Science Grant Agency in the period of 2002-2003 in the Department of UNESCO of the Pedagogical faculty of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia firstly in the world.

1 Introduction

A new pedagogical nomenclature branch of pedagogical sciences group - the branch Educational Technology was created some years ago in Slovakia. The group of pedagogical sciences was differentiated only into two branches for a long period. The branches were: general pedagogy and theory of instruction of subjects of general and special nature. From 1977 (1) the nomenclature of scientific branches includes moreover five new specialisations: 75-18-9 Special pedagogy, 75-20-9 Logopedy, 75-22-9 Andragogy, 75-56-9 Educational technology and 75-61-9 Social work. The first branch 75-01-9 is named Pedagogy now. The branch 75-02-9 Theory of instruction of subjects of general and special nature has 10 more narrow specializations, e. g. Theory of instruction of special technical subjects, Theory of instruction of biology, Theory of instruction of chemistry and so on.

There are five exceptions of the system in the nomenclature. There exist nomenclature branches Theory of instruction of mathematics, Theory of instruction of physics, Theory of instruction of informatics, Theory of instruction of military subjects and Theory of instruction of police subjects have been included into other science branches nomenclature systems, i. e. out of the system of pedagogical sciences.

The new scientific branch Educational technology has to define the subject of the science, to form its terminological system and the methodology as well.

We are involved into the formation of the terminological system of Educational technology. The first step to it is the creation of its thesaurus. The work is planned in the frame of the grant project of the Slovak Science Grant Agency No 1/9174/02. The work is coordinated by UNESCO Department of the Pedagogical faculty of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The work is planned in the period 2002-2003.

The thesaurus can be a very suitable aid for an information searching and for creation of translation vocabularies as well.

As the English serves as an integration language, the creation of translation vocabularies Slovak-English and English-Slovak is planned as the first final product of the project. Later separate projects for creation of similar bilingual or multilingual translation vocabularies in international cooperation are supposed to be initiated by the Department of UNESCO.

2 The strategy of creation of the thesaurus

We have no information that a thesaurus of Educational technology was created somewhere in the world. As a model we can accept the thesaurus of Educational technology created by UNESCO for general pedagogy thesaurus in different variations, e. g. (2), (3), (4). The thesaurus and some added micro-thesaurus include some terms which are common with educational technology and can be included into the planned thesaurus.

We consider as the best method for selecting the descriptors of the thesaurus the excerption of terms from selected original scientific and specialized literature, both in Slovak and English. As the official literature written in Slovak is not very rich, also substandard documents like textbooks, conference books and other sources are excerpted.

For selecting the terms into the thesaurus such strategy was chosen:

1. Studying the original text and identifying the concepts and corresponding terms. In this period the main task is to difference the terms from usual words of the context.

2. Transformation terms, which have been find into standard form, e. g. nominative form in the case of names.

3. Excerption of the terms into a database with localization data. The data allow to identify the source and the localization of a term in the first three cases. We assume that there is a probability near zero to confuse the localization in the three cases simultaneously, i. e. that at least one of them will be valid in the case of error localization.

4. Simultaneously wit main terms all their synonyms are excerpted and their mutual relation is registered.

5. The terms are putted into alphabetical order.

6. Only the terms used by more users are accepted into the thesaurus.

7. Substandard terms are excluded from the thesaurus.

Until now about 20 literature sources were excerpted, both books and papers written in Slovak language. The amount of terms which were excerpted until now is

more than ten thousand. Simultaneously the excerpt of English terms from original English sources is made, with special attention to neologism terms. The amount of the terms is of the order 1000.

The best reflected area is the terminology of static picture information, which was made in the period of preparation of the project. Some results of the work were published in (5)

4 Conclusions

The creation of translation vocabulary of educational technology is very actual now, as the process of internationalisation of terminology and the possibilities of mobilities of the pedagogical communities is more and more intensive nowadays. As the greatest amount of new terms - neologism terms comes through English language, the creation of translation vocabularies with English is most desired. Through English any other translation vocabulary can be created very quickly after the thesaurus is created. As the most problematic terms of the thesaurus and of the translation vocabularies the neologism terms are. There is only limited possibility to accept the English terms into national terminology systems. Most of them must be adapted and for a part of them new national terms must be created.

5 References

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