EAFT TERMINOLOGY SUMMIT 2018
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Migration in Translation

the role of terminology and transediting in shaping the crisis in EU Institutions

The PhD Project in a nutshell

November 2014 – January 2018

Doctor Europaeus - Interdisciplinary

Prof. Roberta Facchinetti (University of Verona) – Corpus Linguistics
Prof. Lynne Bowker (University of Ottawa) - Terminology
Prof. Luc van Doorslaer (KU Leuven) – News Translation
Prof. Kaisa Koskinen (University of Tampere) - Ethnography

In official collaboration with the **European Parliament**

Terminology Coordination Unit = Luxembourg
Press Unit = Bruxelles

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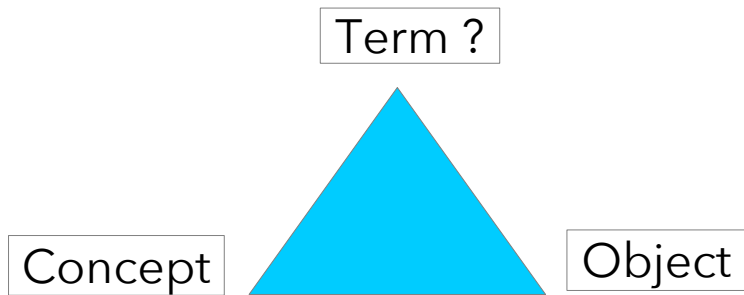
The Migration Crisis: relevance of the study

- It broke out in **2015** with the Arab Spring

- It is a topic at the forefront of media attention with consequent **overflow of new terminology** surrounding this subject

- The debate over migration involves a **policy of classifications** on an institutional, media and popular level

- **Translation** is crucially implied as it is recognized as the language of Europe

The Migration Crisis | Relevance of the study

People have always moved around the world,
migration has always been a factor in world's **history**

Although the concept of migration is as ancient as human beings are,
we still encounter **difficulties** in finding the right **terms**
to describe this **concept** and everything that relates to it.

Term ?

Concept

Object

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Aims

Provide an overview of how **migration terminology** has evolved from 1950 until 2016 in EU Institutions

Explore **term choice** and its **translation** in institutional texts
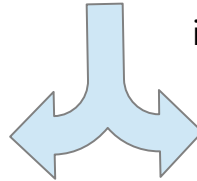- Legal Texts
- Press Releases

Corpus Linguistics

Investigate how **terms** are coined and coordinated

Investigate the role of the **trans-editor** in EU Institutions

Discover the role played by **translation** in the communication process

Ethnography

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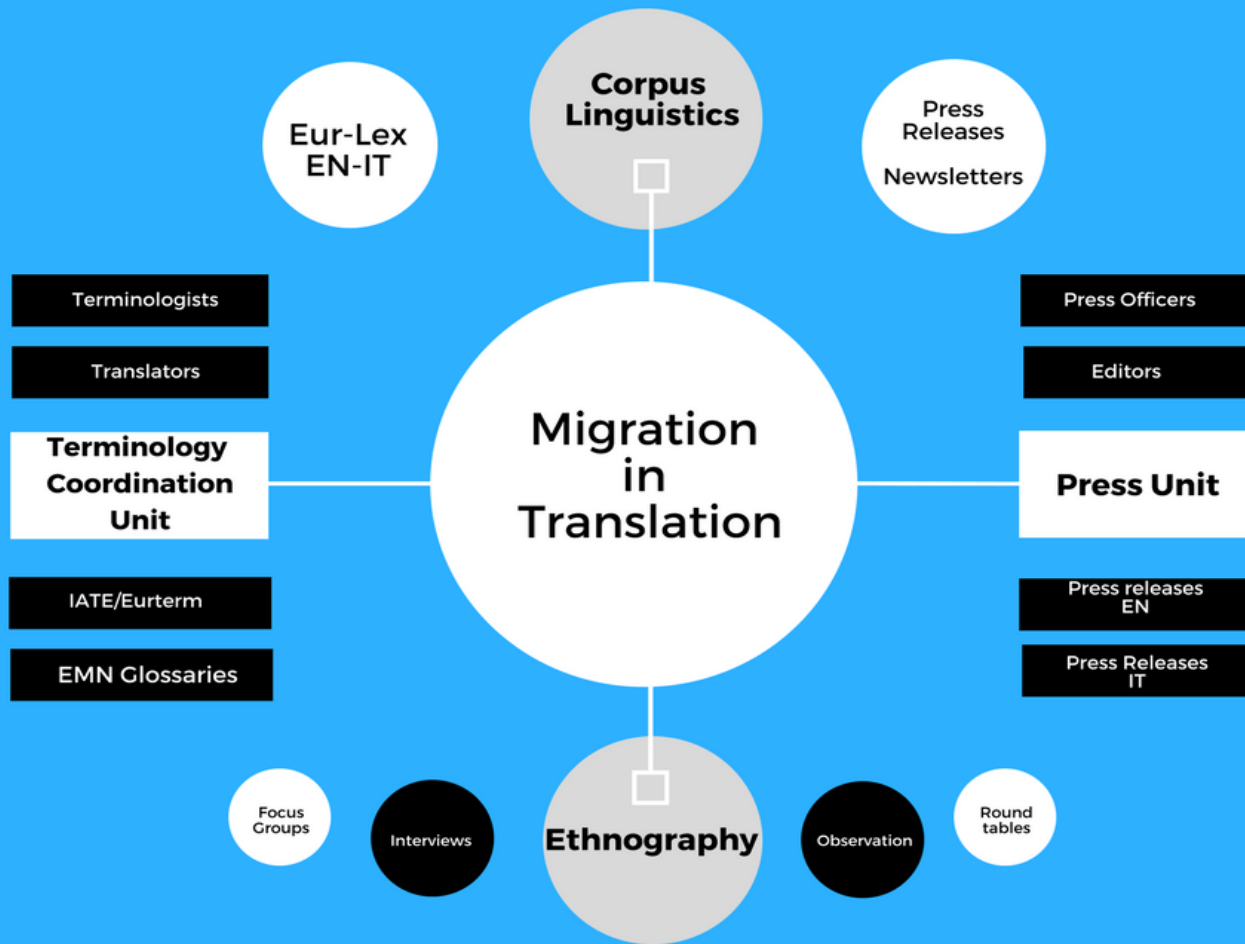
Methodology

Corpus Linguistics and Ethnography

Combining the study of **texts** with the study of **people**

Finding possible <u>correlations</u> between

translation products and **processes** (Koskinen 2008)

Step 1

Collection of "Migration" terms in EU Glossaries
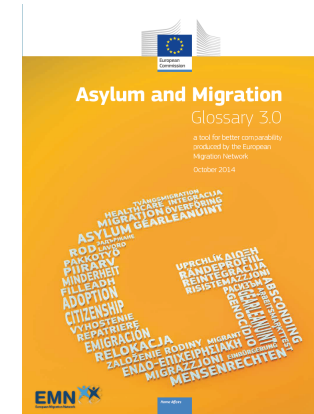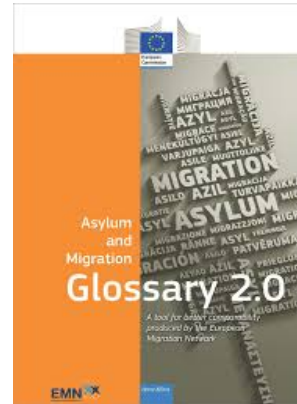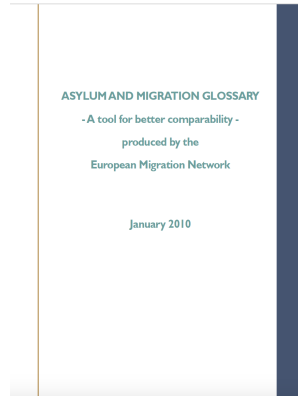
54 Terms related to "migrants" in EU Institutions

For every term:

- birth and life cycle
- patterns of use
- degree of equivalence in Italian
- trends

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Step 2

Investigate terms in all types of legal documents in the **Eur-Lex EN 2/16** corpus contained in **Sketch Engine, from 1950 until 2016.**

Why Sketch Engine?

It already contains the corpus needed for the analysis
+
Very user-friendly

Step 3

Compilation of a corpus of **EP press releases** 2010-2016

"The selection criteria of a text corpus are determined
by the **needs** and **goals** of the project" (Bowker and Pearson 2002: 45).

YEAR	PRESS RELEASES EN	PRESS RELEASES IT
2010	3	2
2011	4	3
2012	3	2
2013	6	6
2014	7	7
2015	20	20
2016	22	22
TOT	65	62

Step 4

Investigation of terms equivalence EN – IT

Opinion,51...	whereby family members join non-EU **immigrants** legally resident in a Member State of the EU	Opinion,51...	`<p>` 3.2.2. Deve anche rimanere possibile in misura illimitata il ricongiungimento familiare per un cittadino di paesi terzi che soggiorni legalmente in uno Stato dell'UE, conformemente alle condizioni e alle definizioni degli strumenti CEE sulla libera circolazione. `</p>`
Opinion,51...	out of the application of workers' rights to **immigrants** should be harnessed and used as a basis for	Opinion,51...	`<p>` 3.2.7. Si deve trarre profitto dalle esperienze raccolte a livello nazionale quanto alla regolarizzazione del soggiorno delle persone nelle regioni di frontiera. Questo approccio positivo nel senso dell'applicazione dei diritti dei lavoratori anche agli immigrati deve costituire il fondamento delle normative dell'Unione. `</p>`
Opinion,51...	application; protection of the rights of **immigrants** . `</p><p>` 7.3. This common experience should form the	Opinion,51...	`<p>` 7.2. Le linee direttrici per una futura politica di immigrazione sono l'arginamento dell'immigrazione, eliminando le cause a livello dei paesi d'origine, e un sistema di controlli ricorrendo a criteri di accesso non discriminatori, e applicabili a posteriori, incluse le misure che ne garantiscano l'applicazione equa ed umana, nonché il riconoscimento dei diritti per gli immigrati. `</p>`
Opinion,51...	of the policy of protecting the rights of legal **immigrants** . `</p><p>` 7.5.1. The Commission Communication makes it	Opinion,51...	`<p>` 7.5. Criteri di immigrazione validi su scala comunitaria rappresentano nel contempo una conseguenza logica essenziale della politica intesa a garantire diritti agli immigrati riconosciuti legalmente come tali. `</p>`
Opinion,51...	between people of the host country and **immigrants** . The instruments available within the	Opinion,51...	`<p>` 7.5.5. Anche le diverse categorie della società devono partecipare all'azione volta a far prevalere l'aspetto umanitario, la parità dei diritti e la tolleranza reciproca tra cittadini dell'Unione e immigrati. Gli strumenti esistenti nell'ambito dell'Unione europea vanno utilizzati in modo più dinamico ed eventualmente concentrati, focalizzando tutte le forze. `</p>`

Ethnography

Koskinen (2008: 5) calls ethnography "a **weaving method"**,
where the end **product** is analysed as well as the **process** behind it.

Analysis of the "**unknown agents**" (Schäffner, 2011)

Ethnographic methods: fieldwork, notes, interviews , focus groups, roundtables

Ethnography

3 Phases (Blommaert & Dong, 2010)

1. Prior to fieldwork: corpus analysis
2. During Fieldwork: Study Visits, e-mail correspondence + travels to BXL and LUX
3. After Fieldwork: analysis and re-elaboration of collected data

THE NEXUS MODEL
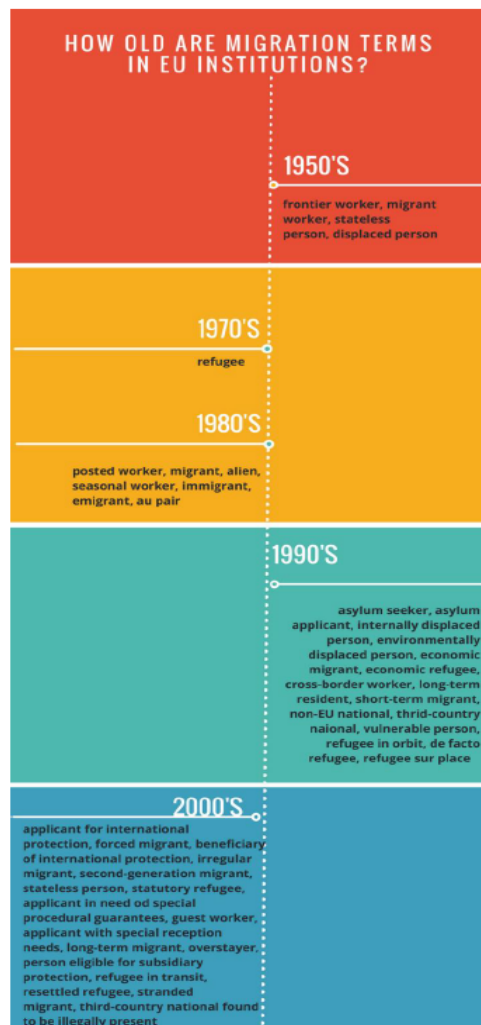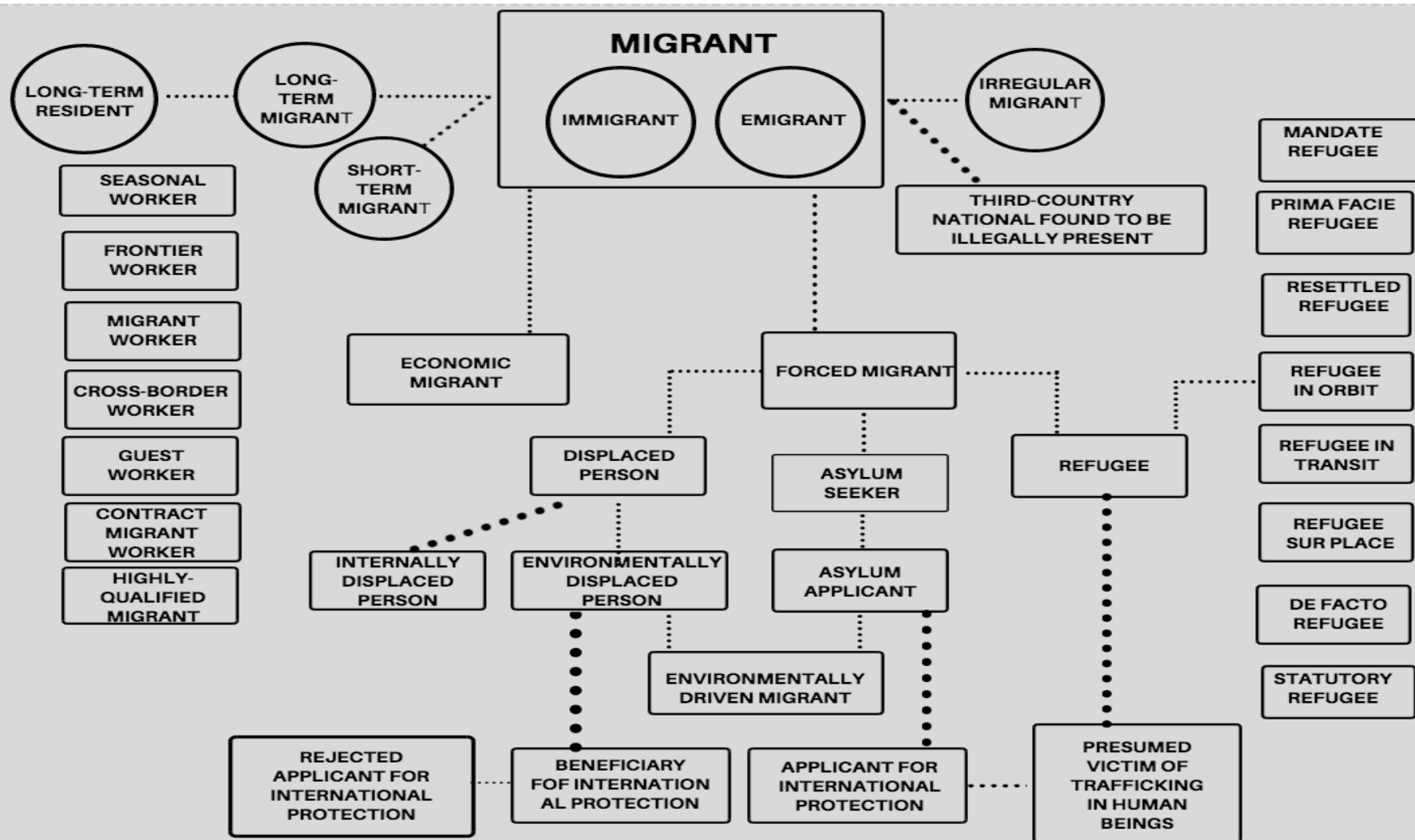
INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

TRANSLATION POLICIES

TRANSLATION AGENTS

TRANSLATION MANAGEMENT

TERMINOLOGY IN INSTITUTIONAL TEXTS

TRANSLATION BELIEFS

TRANSLATION PRACTICES

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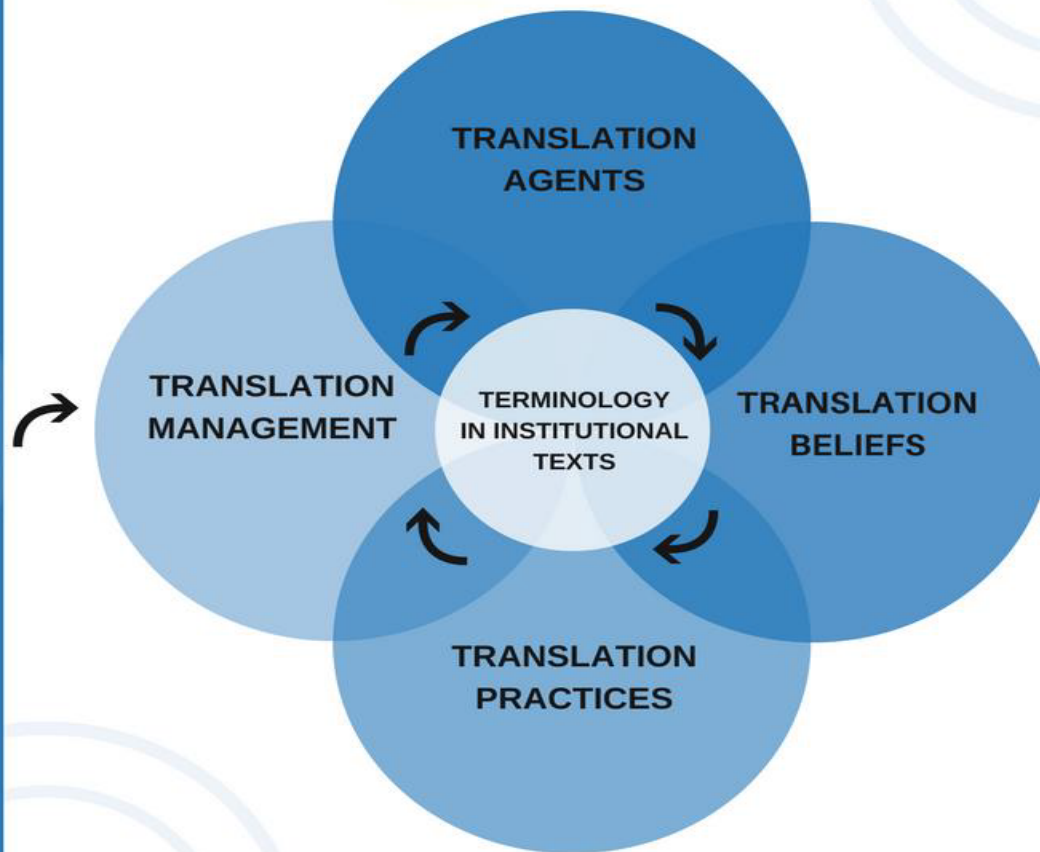
| TERM EN	ENGLISH DEFINITION (EMN 2014)	EUR-LEX EN 2/2016 Occurrences + time range	IATE Identification number
alien	In the global context, a person who is not a national (nativeor citizen) of a given State. In the EU context, a person who is not a national of a Member State of the European Union.	4457 hits 1st use: 1980 last use: 2015	ID: 880036 ID: 3556867
applicant for international protection	A third-country national or a stateless person who has made an application for international protection in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken.	334 hits 1st use: 2000 last use: 2015	ID: 3556787
applicant in need of special procedural guarantees	An applicant whose ability to benefit from the rights and obligations provided for in Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedures Directive) is limited due to individual circumstances.	27 hits 1st use: 2011 last use: 2013	NOT PRESENT
applicant with special reception needs	A vulnerable person, in accordance with Art. 21 of Directive 2013/33/EU, who is in need of special guarantees in order to benefit from the rights and obligations provided for in Council Directive 2013/33/EU.	12 hits 1st use: 2011 last use: 2013	NOT PRESENT

HOW OLD ARE MIGRATION TERMS IN EU INSTITUTIONS?

1950'S frontier worker, migrant worker, stateless person, displaced person

1970'S refugee

1980'S posted worker, migrant, alien, seasonal worker, immigrant, emigrant, au pair

1990'S asylum seeker, asylum applicant, internally displaced person, environmentally displaced person, economic migrant, economic refugee, cross-border worker, long-term resident, short-term migrant, non-EU national, thrid-country naional, vulnerable person, refugee in orbit, de facto refugee, refugee sur place

2000'S applicant for international protection, forced migrant, beneficiary of international protection, irregular migrant, second-generation migrant, stateless person, statutory refugee, applicant in need od special procedural guarantees, guest worker, applicant with special reception needs, long-term migrant, overstayer, person eligible for subsidiary protection, refugee in transit, resettled refugee, stranded migrant, third-country national found to be illegally present

1950 - 1974 Guest worker schemes + decolonization

1974 -1989 Oil Crisis and Migration Control

1990 – 2012 New trends in Migration towards and within Europe
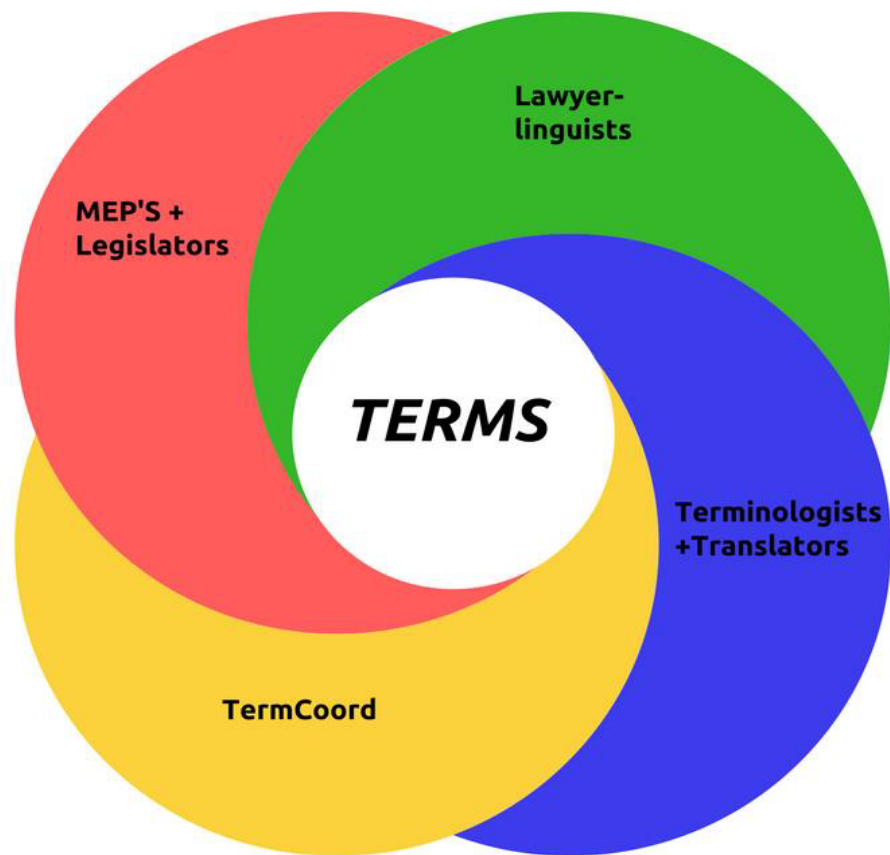
Overall...

Between 1990 and 2012 a considerable number of new terms were coined in institutional texts.

This made the representation of migrants more fragmented and organised into **different categories**.

On the one hand, this contributed on overcoming a **simplified representation** of migrants in EU Institutions.

On the other hand, this fragmentation caused **further confusion** and fuzziness, affecting migrants as well.

Corpus Results

- "**Migrants**": the term entered EU lexicon only in **1980s**

- "**Refugee**": **de-terminologisation process** = from specialised meaning to a more general one

- Towards the 21st century "migrant" used as an umbrella term was decreased in usage; "**asylum seeker**" took over since **1990s**

- Many cases of mistranslations in legislative texts, especially with the equivalent of "refugee" in Italian: "**Rifugiato**" or "**Profugo**"?

- "**Cittadino non comunitario**" (non-EU citizen) = deprecated after the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009 but still used in some texts

Ethnographic results

Translation is a **communication strategy** in EU Institutions

The **Status of Translation** is rapidly evolving in the EU Institutions. Translation beliefs and practices are highly **subjective**

Translation and Terminology played a role in the **humanisation** of migrants and refugees conceived as human beings

The evolution of migration concepts caused terminological discrepancies; EU Institutions need to employ **more terminologists** and train communicators to translate.

Debating over terminology is not only a question of political and institutional correctness but it has **real implications** for migrants themselves.

"**Bad Terminology is the Enemy of Good Thinking**"

(Warren Buffet)

Thank you!

Any questions?

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