

TERMINOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES AND THE TERMINOLOGY MARKET IN EUROPE

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Where and whenever specialized information and specialized knowledge are being prepared, represented, processed, transformed and transferred, terminology is accorded a crucial role. There is, therefore, hardly any area in an enterprise or other specialized organization, where terminology is not used.

1. Lack of awareness and fragmented situation

On the one hand terminology is of fundamental importance as it represents specialized knowledge at the level of concepts (which are the basic units of subject-field related thought/cognition, knowledge and communication), so that terminological data are the main 'contents carriers' to record, order, store, manage, represent, retrieve, disseminate, communicate or transfer specialized information and knowledge. On the other hand there is comparatively little awareness for this importance even in the quarters of the specialists being the primary creators and users of the terminology of their respective subject-fields.

This is partly due to the fact that terminologies are created as a rule by domain experts of various levels in a multitude of subject-fields in an 'evolutionary' rather than systematic way. This results in a highly fragmented and sectorized situation with respect to most terminological activities and applications. The emergence of a terminology market for terminological products and services will certainly improve this situation, but it also needs terminology infrastructures to support the creation and distribution, re-use and use of terminologies - especially in multilingual and multicultural Europe.

1.1. Economic and social impact of mother-tongue use

There seems to exist a vexing relationship between the possibility to use one's mother-tongue and the well-being of the respective language community. People whose mother-tongue is not (or not sufficiently) developed from the point of view of specialized language or who are denied to use their mother-tongue in education and training, for accessing information or in their daily work situation tend to be/feel disadvantaged. Especially smaller language communities (incl. linguistic minorities of all sorts) have to balance many linguistic disadvantages by making more efforts than the surrounding larger language communities in order to prevent marginalization with respect to scientific-technical and economic-industrial development - which ultimately may lead to socio-economic decline. In most cases the limitation of the use of a language to areas such as

culture and folklore results in the - almost irreversible - loss of its applicability in specialized communication. This calls for a distinct consciousness for the need of terminology planning in many/all language communities and concrete legal and administrative action to support it.

1.2. Situation of specialized languages in Europe

In today's European Union (EU) there are only a few language communities whose mother-tongue is discriminated or even suppressed, but many whose language situation can be called disadvantaged for various reasons. An unorthodox analysis of the 'linguistic map' of Europe shows that from the point of view of language variety Western Europe must be considered rather 'poor' compared to other continents. Nevertheless the language distribution is far from being simple and without problems. According to recent figures about 55-60 languages are used as mother-tongue by language communities of more than 50,000 speakers (including non-European languages of foreign workers or refugees, while not taking into account the Caucasus region, which is a linguistic cosmos of its own). If only languages of more than 500,000 mother-tongue speakers are considered, the figure drops to about 45 languages. Some of these language communities do not much care about specialized languages, matched by a few language communities of sometimes less than 500,000 speakers undertaking serious efforts to develop their language as a tool of modern communication.

In the EU more than 260m citizens use one of the major four languages of more than 50m mother-tongue speakers each: German (90m), English (61m), French (58m) or Italian (55m). Some 80m people use one of the other 7 official working languages of the EU institutions as mother-tongue: Spanish (25m - if deducting Basque, Catalan and Galician speakers), Dutch (21m), Portuguese (10m), Greek (10m), Swedish (9m), Danish (4m) or Finnish (4m). Additional 20m EU citizens use one of more than 10 languages with more than 50,000 speakers. Together there are more than 30 officially recognized language communities in the EU, further 10 are seeking official recognition, not to mention all sorts of 'minority languages'. The ratio of small languages to large language communities, therefore, is about 35% (comprising Spanish and Portuguese as small languages). In this connection it is difficult to judge the situation of people speaking a minority language somewhere, which is a large language elsewhere. Every further extension of the EU will push the above-mentioned ratio towards 50% and beyond, which would mean that half of the future EU population will belong to a potentially disadvantaged language community.

Various references consulted with regard to language statistics are by no means consistent. Therefore, individual figures may be questioned, which, however, has no substantial effect on the overall picture presented here. The figures, on the one hand, represent the richness of the European cultural heritage, but should not, on the other hand, be a source for complacency, if we consider the potential for conflict. It definitely needs a framework of measures at European, national and language community level in order to prevent the smaller language communities from dropping into a really disadvantaged situation.

2. The 'Terminology Market'

Not the least due to the European Commission's emphasis on multilingual aspects in all Community R&D Programmes a terminology market - deserving to be called so - is gradually emerging.

2.1. Terminology products and services for whom?

Terminologies emerge among others

- in science and technology in the course of scientific and technical development,
- in crafts and arts in the course of new techniques and skills,
- in public administration and in society in general in conjunction with new conceptions and approaches.

They are created primarily by domain experts of various levels in a multitude of subject-fields in an 'evolutionary' rather than systematic way. The expert communities, comprising the primary creators and users of their domain specific terminologies, thus also cause the well-known communication problems, such as homonymy and synonymy, which some of them try to figure out by means of descriptive or prescriptive terminology work. Terminology work, therefore, is carried out in a large number of subject fields usually by groups of experts. In addition, it should be remembered that it is a time-honoured scientific tradition to define what one is talking about in scientific and technical texts (a general rule for instance in standardization) - a good tradition often neglected today in scientific discourse.

Since science and technology increasingly influence more and more all walks of life and society, deficient terminologies are not only causing communication difficulties in the respective peer groups, but also have negative repercussions on many people who have to use specialized terminology

- at their work places,
- as consumers,
- as citizens, and

more and more even in intra-family communication. Potentially and increasingly everybody is or could become a more or less frequent user of any specialized terminology regularly or occasionally in his/her life.

The gradually emerging 'terminology market' will offer terminological products and services - which in fact are a particular family of information products and services - to a variety of consumers and clients, such as

- terminology creators (e.g. researchers, technicians, administrators, etc.),
- terminology data producers (e.g. terminology database creators, specialized lexicographers, etc.),
- terminology data distributors (e.g. dictionary publishers, online information services, etc.) and
- terminology users in general.

Terminology creators, data producers and data distributors in most or many cases can also become re-users of existing terminological data.

2.2. Terminology products

Terminology products comprise

- different kinds of terminological data in different forms for different purposes and different user groups,
- terminological tools for various purposes.

Terminological information (if terminology documentation is included) comprise three distinct types of data, viz:

- terminological data proper (i.e. information on domain-specific concepts and their representation by linguistic and non-linguistic symbols supplemented by a variety of associated data),

- bibliographic data on a variety of different publications in the field of terminology,
- factual data on institutions, experts, programmes, events and other activities in the field of terminology.

Each type of data requires a different type of database system (comprising a set of distinct databases each for different types of data). A comprehensive terminology information and documentation centre like Infoterm has dealt with all three types of database systems modelled on the basis of well-defined data categories (according to the 'objects') for different purposes. The data as well as the respective software can be used as 'products' and as basis for a variety of 'services'.

The volume of the above-mentioned types and categories of data may be estimated as follows:

- terminological data proper - about 50m records across all subject-fields (potentially in some 200 languages which are of relevance or potential relevance in terminology) - the increase is about parallel to the increase of specialized knowledge,
- bibliographic data - about a quarter million records (of which an estimated 200.000 are about technical dictionaries and lexicons) - the annual increase can be estimated about 10%,
- factual data - about 50.000 records (80% of which concern terminology committees, commissions and working groups as well as terminological institutions at international, regional and national levels) - the increase is difficult to estimate, but the biggest problem here is fluctuation!

Terminological data proper

Terminological data can be offered

- in conventionally published form,
- as an electronic publication (only data as such in a given format or in combination with a software),
- through online information services.

In palm-top computers or smaller pocket-size dictionaries the terminological data may be implemented in inseparable combination/integration with the respective software or even hardware.

Terminological data can be acquired by customers on the terminology market for internal use only or for re-use, in the course of terminology data interchange, etc. on a variety of different data carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, etc.). Different user groups need terminological data of different degrees of complexity and granularity for different purposes.

It is, therefore, highly economical to prepare multi-purpose terminological data for different purposes and users, whose needs are taken care of by appropriately tailored customer-specific user-interfaces. Terminological data can also be used very efficiently as the intellectual 'skeleton' (or infrastructure) around which the contents of domain-specific encyclopedias can be organized.

Terminological tools

Terminology application software provides the most common tools for the handling of terminological data in some way or other. **Terminology management systems** (TMS) are designed as dedicated tools to record, store, process and output terminological data in a

professional manner. There are different kinds of TMS for different purposes. **Terminology databases** consist of terminological data and a TMS to handle these data. **Terminology data banks** (TDB) are more or less sophisticated organizational structures established for the handling and maintenance of terminological data with the help of a TMS. TDBs can comprise several or many terminology databases.

TDBs are supported by a TMS often running on a mainframe, mini-computer or work-station, whereas today most of the PC-based TMS are applied by individual users, small co-operatives (integrated or not by an appropriate LAN), or larger departments (where the individual work-places are usually linked by a more or less sophisticated LAN).

On the one hand TMS are increasingly further developed into tools for various applications, such as

- computer-assisted translation,
- authoring,
- spare-part administration, etc.

On the other hand TMS modules of varying degree of sophistication are implemented into all kinds of application software.

In the future appropriately designed TMS or TMS modules will find big markets particularly in applications, such as

- co-operative writing (today a high percentage of the citizenship of developed countries works more or less intensively in some form or other as 'technical writers'),
- documentation (in the meaning of information & documentation as well as of archiving and filing), and
- co-operative terminology work.

If appropriate tools were available for computer-assisted terminology work, the preparation, processing and maintenance of terminological data could be carried out faster, more efficiently and according to modern quality management approaches. Needless to say that this would considerably help the terminology market to develop.

2.3. Terminology services

At present the following terminology services already exist or are foreseeable in the future:

- consultancy and training services,
- outsourcing,
- information services.

Consultancy services and training

Consultancy services and training are most often needed in conjunction with application aspects, such as

- application of terminological principles and methods (including especially the appropriate application of existing standards),
- selection and application of tools,
- terminology project management etc.

As a rule today's experts have not studied the basic theory of logic and epistemology underlying the science of sciences (or science theory - also comprising the basic theory of terminology). They, therefore, often need training in the theoretical and methodological basics of terminology science and terminography. Large organizations/institutions often need to include terminological methods and tools into their information management or quality management schemes. Government agencies and other public authorities in many countries want to implement knowledge transfer policies, which would largely benefit from the appropriate terminology planning methods. Institutions and organizations frequently also need advice with respect to legal problems (especially related to intellectual property rights) concerning the application of terminological data and tools.

It has to be mentioned, however, that with a few exceptions (e.g. China) these needs are still latent, decision makers not being aware of the usefulness and effectiveness of such services. Therefore, it is still a dormant market for lack of investment.

Outsourcing

Increasingly institutions and organisations of all sorts consider outsourcing a suitable method to cope with identified limited terminological needs. Outsourcing can refer for instance to

- **research and development on demand** concerning new tools or applications, adaptation of existing tools etc., such as
 - TDB design and implementation,
 - meta-browsers for information networks, etc.
- **terminology work on demand** with respect to
 - terminology preparation,
 - terminology maintenance (including among others revision and updating),
 - conversion or merging of terminological data,
 - evaluation of terminological data, etc.
- **maintenance and aftercare services** with regard to
 - TDB software maintenance and upgrading,
 - comprehensive data holdings maintenance, etc.

Information services

Increasingly terminological products and services will - similar to the general situation in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) - be available as one or attached to one of many kinds of information services available on the market. They will also increasingly be integrated into other ICT applications.

For the distribution of terminological data to different user groups with various user needs efforts should be made to establish market-oriented and fee-based information networks for providing

- terminological data proper as well as
- value-added terminological products and services

on a commercial basis. The clients thus will have to pay for terminological products and services. The more clients can choose among an ever increasing variety of terminological products and services the more affordable they will become.

3. The terminology infrastructure in Europe

Given the amount of terminological entries across science and technology and other subject-fields to be prepared in a multitude of languages this monumental task cannot be performed without the help of millions of experts who need to do this anyhow, if they want to work and communicate efficiently. In most cases today such terminology work is carried out in the form of thousands of small co-operative efforts scattered all across the globe and in many subject-fields with little inter-connection. It is performed as a rule in a non-commercial (let alone non-profit) framework.

In some cases terminological activities are carried out 'horizontally', i.e. across many or all subject-fields at the language level. In many or most cases, however, they are carried out 'vertically', i.e. within a given subject-(sub)field. In smaller language communities (or even larger language communities, which feel 'threatened' for some reason or other) the share of horizontal terminological activities/efforts will probably be bigger than in larger language communities with many developed specialized languages. In every language community it requires a public or semi-public or at least partly public infrastructure

- to promote, organize and co-ordinate terminological activities by domain experts taking into account multiple user needs,
- to provide the information on terminological activities, institutions, publications and services available,
- to promote co-operation and co-ordinate activities in order to find solutions to common problems.

The future terminology infrastructure is composed of 5 main elements or aspects:

- terminology (planning) policy,
- (systematic) terminology creation,
- information and documentation in the field of terminology,
- terminology associations (primarily for individuals),
- purpose-oriented co-operation groupings in private industry or between private industry and public institutions (for the sake of creating and/or sharing terminological data).

Often two or more of these elements/aspects can or will be combined, in many cases they are or should be institutionalized in order to be effective.

3.1. Terminology policy

While terminology planning in large language communities would concentrate on the unification and harmonization of terminology usage, it would primarily focus on the conscious and purposive development of specialized languages in the smaller language communities. Of course differences in the level of development of specialized languages in different subject-fields have to be taken into account. The experiences with and results of existing terminology unification and harmonization efforts (not only at international level, but also in small language communities, such as Iceland) as well as the efforts of the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm), the International Network for Terminology (TermNet), the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer (GTW) and the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF), and - last but not least - the results of the work of the Technical Committee ISO/TC 37 "Terminology (principles and co-ordination)" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) - not to mention other terminology institutions and organizations which exist since many years - are of particularly valuable for the development of specialized languages and terminologies in smaller language communities whether in Europe or world-wide.

In some countries or language communities it may necessitate the establishment of a political or administrative institution or a council for designing and implementing a terminology policy. Given the linguistic situation in Europe there should be a terminology policy in any case in every language community that wants to develop its language into a tool of professional communication. Therefore, the author would like to call for a declared European terminology policy on behalf of the European Union with complementary policies at national or language community level in order to take the specific linguistic situation of every language community into account. These policies must, however, be supported by efforts from within the language communities, if they shall meet with the desired success. Given the sheer volume and complexity of the terminology problem, co-operation among the language communities with respect to the design and implementation of a terminology policy should be promoted and actively encouraged as much as possible.

3.2. Terminology creation activities

A systematic approach to organize the creation of terminologies should be taken especially by the smaller language communities, which would otherwise inevitably be swamped by foreign loan terms. Clear-cut objectives for this endeavour and the support by a declared terminology policy definitely help. Co-operation within the same language family (e.g. the Romance or Nordic languages) secures a certain parallelism in terminology development and helps to maintain a high degree of terminological homogeneity across languages, which facilitates specialized communication within the respective language family. Depending on the individual language situation co-operation between subject-field experts and terminologists (or LSP experts or applied linguists trained as terminologists) may prove useful or even indispensable.

In fact terminology creation centres exist in Europe in language communities such as of the Catalan, Basque, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish languages. Similar terminology creation institutions definitely are needed in some other language communities.

3.3. Terminology information and documentation centres (TDCs)

Beside Infoterm, which performs distinct functions as a clearing house and referral centre for information in the field of terminology at international, European and national Austrian level (and which is the oldest TDC), there are several TDCs in operation in France, Spain or in the above-mentioned language communities, where the role of a TDC is combined with that of a terminology creation centre. In several other language communities a TDC is in the process of being established, further ones without would greatly benefit from the existence of a TDC.

In smaller language communities a TDC will more possibly than not be a central institution covering the whole area of the language community. In larger language communities the respective TDC will probably be the focal point of a network of smaller TDCs with similar or different foci.

The planned project for the establishment of the "European Network of Terminology Documentation Centres" (TDCnet) aims at linking up the existing and emerging TDCs in a physical network (in the form of an 'extranet' within the Internet) in order

- to increase the efficiency of operation of the individual TDCs via networking,
- to improve access to existing information and holdings,
- to assist the establishment of further TDCs, where they are needed.

3.4. Terminology associations

Terminology associations have been established at national or international level in order to meet immediate needs - especially those of individual users. At international level the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer (GTW) was established in 1986 in order to organize co-operation among those interested in improved terminology software. Its first main task was to organize the first International Congress on "Terminology and Knowledge Engineering" (TKE'87) in 1987, which marked the beginning of a series of successful TKE Congresses. Between the Congresses the activities focus on pre-normative research and development in working groups. The International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF) was founded in 1989 in order to provide a forum for the exchange of experience of teachers and researchers in the field of terminology. A number of training courses were organized in countries having a particular need for terminology training, and for the training of terminology teachers and trainers - not to mention the annual International Terminology Summer School. Nordterm in the Nordic countries also provides a similar framework for the exchange of experience and organization of teaching and training opportunities in terminology science.

At regional level the Réseau international de terminologie et de néologie (Rint), the Red Iberoamericano de Terminología (RITerm) and the recently (1996) founded European Association for Terminology (EAFT) are organizing co-operation in the field of terminology for various purposes among related language communities. As a rule they comprise among others also national or language community specific associations in their ranks.

Such language community specific associations exist for instance in Germany (German Terminology Association - DTT), Italy (Associazione Italiana per la Terminologia - ASSITERM), Greece (Hellenic Society for Terminology - ELETO) or are in the process of being established in the Netherlands and other language communities.

3.5. Purpose-oriented co-operation groupings

Purpose-oriented co-operation groupings in private industry or between private industry and public institutions exist in some countries, such as Switzerland, France, Denmark and Germany. Given the multitude of problems still requiring a solution in the field of terminology, such purpose-oriented co-operation groupings with their very pragmatic approach and flexible structure can be extremely effective and should further be encouraged whenever suitable.

4. Outlook

The terminology infrastructure as well as the terminology market are still characterized by the co-existence of many loosely interconnected elements. But gradually the mosaic of these elements is becoming more complete, while at the same time turning into a dense networking of interacting structures and activities. Co-operation in terminology, which started at international level, by now has got organized within the framework of some language families in Europe. Within the various language communities there are very different language situations with respect to the evolution of a terminology infrastructure and the terminology market. Nevertheless a certain pattern seems to evolve - as was described above.

The development of the terminology market and the development of an infrastructure mutually support each other. Some tasks/activities, such as the collecting and 'housekeeping' of information, which are in the public interest, must continue to be funded by the community, whereas others increasingly are (and should be) financed by the users, especially those from the private sector.

Obviously the development is speeding up recently, but there is still a long way to go. Access to information in the field of terminology is still not as easy for the user as it would be desirable. Co-operation among the 'players' in the field still needs promotion and support. Quality of information and services has to be enhanced with a view to user needs - which also requires a higher concern for multifunctional data. The teaching and training situation is still characterized by many 'missing links'.

The planned European Network of Terminology Documentation Centres will be a cornerstone of the future terminology infrastructure in Europe. It will also support the further development of the terminology market by providing information on existing terminology resources, activities, experiences, services etc. and on the conditions of their availability.

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LABURPENA / RESUMEN / RÉSUMÉ / ABSTRACT

Terminologiaren azpiegitura eta merkatua European

Dirudienez, garapen ekonomiko positiboko hiztun-taldeak oztupoak ditu bere ama-hizkuntza erabiltzeko baldin eta hizkuntza hori ez bada behar adina garatua. Pertsona baten ama-hizkuntza ez badago behar bezala garatuta hizkera berezitan edo pertsona horri uzten ez bazaio hezkuntzan eta prestakuntzan bere ama-hizkuntza erabiltzen, eragozpenak izango ditu edo dituela uste izango du bai informazioa lortzeko bai bere eguneroko zereginetan.

Sarri askotan, hizkuntza zenbait arlotan baino erabiltzen ez bada, adibidez kulturaren eta folkloreak, galdu egiten da (ia erremediorik gabe) komunikazio espezializatu batean erabiltzeko gaitasuna. Alde batetik, Europako hizkuntzen mapak bertako kultur ondarearen aberastasuna erakusten du, baina, bestetik, egoera horrek sor ditzakeen arazoak kontuan hartuz gero, egoera ez da horren pozgarria. Behar-beharrezkoa da, beraz, Europa, nazioak eta hiztun-taldeak ados jarri eta neurriak hartzea, hiztun-talde txikien eta handien artean desberdintasun handia egon ez dadin.

Terminologiaren azpiegiturak eta bere merkatuak elementu ugari dauzkate komunean eta modu zehaztugabeen daude lotuta. Terminologiaren azpiegituraren eta bere merkatuaren garapenari dagokionez, argi dago hiztun-talde desberdinen barruan oso egoera desberdinak daudela. Hala ere, zenbait eredu forma hartu dutela dirudi. Honez gero, terminologiaren bost osagai finkatu dira, hala nola, terminologia planifikatzeko politika, terminologia eratzekeo egiturak, terminologiari buruzko informazioa eta dokumentazioa biltzen dituzten zentroak, terminologia elkarteak eta alor pribatuen, Kooperatibak. Terminologiaren merkatuak eta bere azpiegiturak elkarri laguntzen diote garatzen. Azken urteotan bata zein bestea oso azkar ari dira zabaltzen. Oraindik, ordea, zeregin handia dago.

Terminologiako Dokumentazio Zentroen Europako Sarea sortzeko proiektua etorkizuneko terminologia-azpiegituraren giltzarri izango da. Horrezaz gain, terminologiaren merkatua zabaltzen lagunduko du, baliabide terminologikoen jarduerak, esperientziak eta zerbitzuen berri emanez edo horiek guztiak nola lor daitezkeen azalduz.

Las infraestructuras de la terminología y su mercado en Europa

Según parece, existe una molesta relación entre la posibilidad de usar la lengua materna y el desarrollo económico positivo de la comunidad lingüística respectiva. Aquellas personas cuya lengua materna no está (o no suficientemente) desarrollada desde el punto de vista de la especialización o aquellas a quienes se les niega el uso de su lengua en materia de educación o formación, tienden a estar/sentirse en desventaja para acceder a la información o en su trabajo diario.

En la mayoría de los casos, el hecho de limitar el uso de una lengua a áreas como la cultura o el folklore tiene como resultado la pérdida -casi irreversible- de su aplicabilidad en la comunicación especializada. Por un lado, el mapa lingüístico europeo revela la riqueza de su herencia cultural, pero, por otro, si consideramos el potencial de conflicto que ello supone, no deberíamos alegrarnos. Es necesario establecer un marco de medidas a nivel europeo, nacional y de comunidad lingüística para evitar que las comunidades lingüísticas minoritarias caigan en una situación verdaderamente desfavorecida.

La infraestructura de la terminología, así como su mercado, se caracterizan aún por la coexistencia de elementos vagamente entrelazados. Obviamente, la evolución de una infraestructura terminológica y su mercado varía de una comunidad lingüística a otra en función de la situación de cada lengua. De todas formas, parece que se pueden distinguir ciertos modelos. Cinco elementos primordiales de la infraestructura empiezan a definirse: la política para la planificación de la terminología, estructuras para la creación de terminología, información y centros de documentación sobre terminología, asociaciones y cooperativas de terminología dentro del sector privado. En realidad, el desarrollo de un mercado para la terminología y el desarrollo de una infraestructura para la misma son

dependientes entre sí. No hay duda de que ambos se están desarrollando rápidamente en los últimos años, pero aún queda mucho por hacer.

El proyecto de una Red Europea de Centros de Documentación de Terminología será la piedra angular para una futura infraestructura de terminología en Europa. Será también el encargado de impulsar un mercado terminológico proporcionando información en torno a los recursos, actividades, experiencias y servicios existentes en torno a la terminología y también de la posibilidad de acceso a los mismos.

Infrastructures terminologiques et marché de la terminologie en Europe

Il semblerait exister un rapport troublant entre la possibilité d'utiliser sa propre langue maternelle et le développement économique positif de la respective communauté de langue. Les gens dont la langue maternelle n'est pas (ou pas suffisamment) développée du point de vue de la langue spécialisée, ou qui se voient refuser la possibilité d'employer leur langue maternelle dans le champ de l'éducation et de la formation, pour accéder à l'information ou dans leur situation quotidienne de travail, tendent à être/se sentir désavantagés. Dans la majeure partie des cas, la limitation de l'usage d'une langue à des domaines tels que la culture et le folklore débouche sur la - presque irréversible - perte de son applicabilité dans le domaine de la communication spécialisée. D'un côté, la carte linguistique de l'Europe révèle la richesse de l'héritage culturelle européenne, mais ceci ne devrait pas être, d'un autre côté, source de contentement, si nous en considérons la charge conflictuelle potentielle. Il y a nécessité, d'une manière bien déterminée, de mettre en place un cadre de mesures au plan européen, national et de la communauté de langue, pour faire en sorte que les plus petites communautés de langue ne se retrouvent dans une situation réellement désavantagée.

L'infrastructure en matière de terminologie ainsi que le marché de la terminologie s'est toujours caractérisé par la coexistence de nombreux éléments vaguement interconnectés. Il existe, certes, des situations de langue très différentes au sein des diverses communautés de langue par rapport à l'évolution d'une infrastructure terminologique et du marché de la terminologie. Toutefois un certain modèle semble évoluer. Cinq éléments principaux de l'infrastructure se cristallisent, à peine sortis des limbes: politique (planning) terminologique, structures de création de terminologie, information terminologique et centres de documentation, associations de terminologie et de coopération sous la houlette des secteurs privés. Très nettement le développement du marché terminologique et le développement d'une infrastructure de terminologie s'appuient mutuellement. À l'évidence le développement de l'une et de l'autre s'est accéléré récemment, mais il reste encore bien du chemin à parcourir.

Le Réseau Européen projeté de Centres de Documentation Terminologique sera la pierre angulaire de la future infrastructure terminologique en Europe. Il soutiendra également le développement à venir du marché de la terminologie en offrant de l'information sur les ressources existantes en matière de terminologie, les activités, expériences, services, etc. et les conditions de leur mise à disposition.

Terminology infrastructures and the terminology market in Europe

There seems to exist a vexing relationship between the possibility to use one's mother-tongue and the positive economic development of the respective language community. People whose mother-tongue is not (or not sufficiently) developed from the point of view of specialized language or who are denied to use their mother-tongue in education and training, for accessing information or in their daily work situation tend to be/feel disadvantaged. In most cases the limitation of the use of a language to areas such as

culture and folklore results in the - almost irreversible - loss of its applicability in specialized communication. On the one hand, the 'linguistic map' of Europe reveals the richness of the European cultural heritage, but should not, on the other hand, be a source for complacency, if we consider the potential for conflict. It definitely needs a framework of measures at European, national and language community level in order to prevent the smaller language communities from dropping into a really disadvantaged situation.

The terminology infrastructure as well as the terminology market are still characterized by the co-existence of many loosely interconnected elements. Of course there are very different language situations within the various language communities with respect to the evolution of a terminology infrastructure and the terminology market. Nevertheless a certain pattern seems to evolve. Five main elements of the terminology infrastructure crystallize out of the dawn: terminology (planning) policy, terminology creating structures, terminology information and documentation centres, terminology associations and co-operative led by the private sectors. Definitely the development of the terminology market and the development of a terminology infrastructure mutually support each other. Obviously the development of both is speeding up recently, but there is still a long way to go.

The planned European Network of Terminology Documentation Centres will be a cornerstone of the future terminology infrastructure in Europe. It will also support the further development of the terminology market by providing information on existing terminology resources, activities, experiences, services etc. and on the conditions of their availability.