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**Volume 18**

Harold Somers (ed.)

_Terminology, LSP and Translation: Studies in language engineering in honour of Juan C. Sager_
TERMINOLOGY, LSP AND TRANSLATION
STUDIES IN LANGUAGE ENGINEERING
IN HONOUR OF JUAN C. SAGER

Edited by

HAROLD SOMERS

JOHN BENJAMINS PUBLISHING COMPANY
AMSTERDAM/PHILADELPHIA
Prof. Juan C. Sager (Photograph by F.W. Mullineaux)
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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 terminbank 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
Juan C. Sager — Biographical Notes

Blaise Nkventi-Azeh

UMIST, Manchester

Juan Sager was born in Argentina in 1929. He was educated at the University of Tucumán, Argentina and taught English as a foreign language at various institutions until 1959 when he travelled abroad to study at Notre Dame, Indiana and then Edinburgh. He held academic posts at Catamarca in Argentina, Notre Dame, the University of Maryland in Heidelberg and finally at the University of Salford, where he was instrumental in setting up the Department of Modern Languages. In 1973, he was appointed to the Chair in Modern Languages in the Department of European Studies and Modern Languages at UMIST where he immediately became the driving force of the department, and its head from 1980 to 1992.

Juan Sager’s achievements on the international scene are well known. He has played a major role in the development of the academic disciplines of Translation Studies and Terminology and has pioneered the study of Computational Linguistics in Britain. Although he never formally trained in computing, his vision is such that he foresaw the influence of developments at the intersection of Computer Science and Linguistics on the study of human language and the establishment of what was then coined Language Engineering. He created the Centre for Computational Linguistics at UMIST initially to foster and promote research in Machine Translation, Computational Lexicography and Terminology. The Centre later became the first ever to teach the discipline at undergraduate level. The BSc (Hons) in Applied Language Studies which he started in 1976 (and which was later renamed, more appropriately, Computational Linguistics and Modern Languages) pioneered subsequent developments of an even greater scope, and large numbers of students have since enjoyed the opportunity of language study fully integrated with knowledge and skills in information technology before moving on to develop exciting careers.
Throughout his long and varied academic career, Juan Sager has remained at the forefront of Applied Linguistics, Translation Studies and Terminology and is an active member of several learned societies in these fields. He was a founding member of the British Association for Applied Linguistics in 1964, a long standing member of the Modern Language Association, President of the Institute of Translating and Interpreting for the first three years following its creation, and Vice-President of the Institute of Linguists for five years. An active researcher and prolific writer, he has published books and articles in a wide range of fields, and continues to do so. In the past five years alone, he has published three single-authored books and was one of the founding editors of Terminology, the third journal to be launched under his guidance so far, after Multilingua and Meta. He has also acted as consultant to such prestigious bodies as the European Commission, the British Standards Institution, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), UNESCO and John Benjamins Publishing House.

His influence in Europe brought the EUROTRA project to his team of enthusiastic young researchers dynamised by the academic respect and personal affection he inspired in them. This ensured a leading role for UMIST and the Centre for Computational Linguistics in the largest ever Machine Translation project. Anticipating his retirement, he energetically set about strengthening the foundations of the department by securing another two chairs and coaching his colleagues to take over the responsibilities that he generously and so expertly bore for some two decades.

Juan Sager is held in great respect by the international community of researchers in Translation Studies, Terminology, Computational Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. He is also held in great affection by the large numbers of students and staff who have been lucky enough to work alongside him over the years, many of whom continue to seek his advice, reassurance and encouragement. Only a small number of his friends at home and abroad are represented in this volume, which is a small tribute to a man who has been mentor, colleague and friend to so many, and is an example to us all.
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This bibliography, compiled by Blaise Nkwenti-Azeh, lists the major works written by Juan Sager and his collaborators. Book reviews, working papers and internal research reports are omitted.

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I. TERMINOLOGY
Terminology today

M. Teresa Cabré
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona

1. Introduction

It seems that the acknowledgment of terminology as a serious discipline is gradually gaining ground. Spain, despite everything, has joined in with this process, although it is a difficult task to draw linguists’ attention to this field of knowledge and it is hard to encourage specialists from other subject fields to consider fundamentals beyond the pure and simple functional purpose.

In this article I aim, as the title indicates, to offer a critical overview of today's terminology focusing on three aspects: its conceptualization, the orientations or tendencies that are being developed and, finally, its multiple and diverse applications.

Before entering into a detailed discussion of this topic, let me emphasize the plurality of the three nouns that narrow down the scope of the title: conceptualizations, tendencies and applications. However bewildered those who only relate terminology to standardization may feel, I believe that terminology is above all representative of diversity. This diversity is at the root of the different conceptualizations of the discipline, the different subject fields that are part of it and the different functions it allows to be realised, let alone the varied number of practices it offers. There is also diversity of users who benefit from it and organizations that deal with it. Thus I am far from the rigid and a monolithic conceptualization of terminology that has been extended in the central European countries. Rather, I feel close to those who advocate a terminology which is diverse, adapted to a given medium and appropriate to specific goals. Further, I believe that what underlies terminology is nothing

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1. A preliminary version of this article was presented as an opening talk to the course “Terminology in the languages of Spain” run by Dr. José A. Pascual at the Menéndez Pelayo International University in Santander (Spain) in August 1995. This article was translated into English by Jordi Morel, a research assistant at the Institute for Applied Linguistics, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona.