


Institutional Glossaries: Threshold between Normative and Descriptive Approaches

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Abstract: The development of a glossary has to account for possible different uses and users, and when it comes to an institutional terminological database, it has to ideally follow some standards in order to comprise applied description of terms and ensure normalization in a given field. Based on current discussions on institutional and specialized translation (F. Prieto-Ramos/ D. Guzmán 2021, F. Prieto-Ramos/ G. Cerutti 2023), and theory-oriented and a translation-oriented terminological approaches (M. Thelen 2015), the threshold between normative and descriptive approaches was discussed, regarding institutional glossaries, specifically comprising the domain of Aeronautical Meteorology, by analyzing the design and guidelines of six glossaries, published by supranational, non-governmental, and government institutions, and universities and commercial companies. As a result, it was verified that a more accurate terminological foundation is generally a concern of institutional entities, tending to a normative approach.

Keywords: terminology, institutional glossaries, aviation, aeronautical meteorology

Introduction

The development of a glossary has to account for possible different uses and users, and when it comes to an institutional terminological database a glossary ideally has to follow some standards in order to comprise applied description of terms or ensure normalization in a given field. Taking that into account, this paper draws on a preliminary analysis of some institutional glossaries of specialized nature, in Aeronautical Meteorology subdomain, sometimes intertwined with General Aviation or General Meteorology domains. For that purpose, six glossaries were analyzed for five defined categories: supranational institutions, non-governmental institutions, government institutions, universities and commercial companies.

As this study is preliminary, the discussions here will basically focus on (a) general description of the institution, and (b) design and patterns of such glossaries, as intended to meet the expectations of the institution target audience. In that way, by taking into consideration current discussions on institutional and specialized translation, as proposed by F. Prieto-Ramos and D. Guzmán (2021) and F. Prieto-Ramos and G. Cerutti (2023), and theory-oriented and a translation-oriented terminological approaches, as discussed by M. Thelen (2015), the threshold between normative and descriptive approaches was discussed, focusing on terminological procedures, in order to identify parameters as contribution to the ongoing development of an institutional specialized glossary in Portuguese for the Department of Airspace Control (DECEA), integrating concise and expanded definitions in the Aeronautical Meteorology field (R.A.J.R. Peixoto 2023).

The remainder of the paper will be organized as follows: corpus linguistics applied to institutional settings (section 2); Specialized Translation and Terminology (section 3); Methodology (section 4); Design of institutional glossaries and dictionaries (section 5); the threshold between normative and descriptive approaches (section 6); and Final Remarks (section 7).

1. Corpus Linguistics applied to institutional settings

Corpus Linguistics is a methodological approach that makes use of a corpus to investigate language and discourse. This approach may be broadly used to analyze discourse in general and also applied to analyze specialized language, based on systematic screening of language patterns found in a great quantity of texts (E. Tognini-Bonelli 2001). The mentioned analysis is applied to the identification of patterns at lexical, syntactic and semantic levels, as recurrent themes in specific fields. The creation of subcorpora makes this search even more refined, as texts could be grouped according to textual genres, different registers, etc

Within this context, the institutional discourse also has some specific features mainly targeting some audience, and providing an authoritative discourse, in alignment with the values and ideology of the institution. In that sense, even if it tries to be more objective, it certainly will tend to stress some specific positioning. It must be emphasized that an institution may be a public or private entity, and formal or informal/abstract (social construct), but carrying out activities that may be regarded as continuous, i.e. that is intended to remain active regardless of managers or owners. There must be some public intent concerning their actions, as they will be responsible for maintaining some establishment of social rules, seen as guidelines for the behavior of others in society. Some examples of institutions are universities, hospitals, corporations, government agencies, sports clubs, as well as marriage, family or religion, or human rights and democracy.

In fact, institutions are created to convey some legitimacy about their actions, through language, persuasion and influence, and mainly by shared senses (knowledge, culture and social norms). (J.P. Walsh/ G.R. Ungson 1991). The discussion about institutions, as referring to concrete and abstract entities, is well developed by K. Koskinen (2008) in her classification, that takes into consideration values, beliefs and practices accepted by some community or society in general.

Then, by considering this institutional setting and specific features of the discourse produced by institutions, corpus linguistics research could be an asset to enable investigation of those features, also as part of a continuum of more marked and less marked patterns (F. Prieto-Ramos/ D. Guzmán 2021, F. Prieto-Ramos/ G. Cerutti 2023).

When it comes to producing translations and trying to comply with international standards and democratic access to contents (S. Sarcevic 2018, C. Schaffner/ L.S. Tcaciuc/ W. Tesseur 2014), language policies chosen according to a cost-benefit analysis also play an important role in decision making, as it will be discussed in the next topic.

2. Specialized Translation and Terminology

Scientific knowledge is organized in a very structured way, generally aligned with an Aristotelian way of thinking, i.e., aggregating general and specific characteristics. As explained by R.A.J.R. Peixoto (2020: 4):

The traditional “formula” originated from the Aristotelian proposition *genus + differentia*, still largely used as the terminological basis for technical-scientific fields, as some sort of “more accurate definition”. *Genus* corresponds to a hypergroup, containing the essential characteristics; and *differentia* are, precisely, the specific characteristics that would “ultimately” define the concept. Although more contextual approaches have been proposed, as in the case of Cabré (1999), stricter formats of definition are still relevant, mainly for mathematical and computational applications (Cf. SAGER; L’HOMME, 1994).

In his context, specialized translation and terminology is paramount to diffuse and popularize scientific knowledge (P.A. Fuertes-Olivera/ S. Tarp 2014), also enabling self-education of scientists. In the words of P.A. Fuertes-Oliveira and S. Tarp (2014: 19), “lexicographical works have constituted themselves into a mirror of the rapid development of science, law, economy, industry, culture, and other social phenomena.” As such, it is expected that those resources are updated and evolve accordingly, incorporating new ways of thinking and renovated approaches, as corpus linguistics, mentioned in the previous section, might bring. For that, it is highly necessary that the terminologist is a professional with high level research skills (M. Thelen 2015), especially in the field of linguistics, with experts in specialized fields being informants contributing to clarify specific theoretical points of view when necessary. A terminologist, a professional that tends to be overlooked, is well prepared to deal with specialized texts, as to extract specific terminology relevant for that field of knowledge. This requires dedicated methods and practices that would only be acquired after a long time in a sort of trial-and-error approach.

By taking this into consideration, M. Thelen (2015) contrasts Theory-oriented Terminology and Translation-oriented Terminology (or Ad-hoc Terminology), as to emphasize differences in those two processes, and explain how an efficient terminological work must establish relations between concepts, between concepts and terms, and between terms, and not to be restricted to decoding/encoding meanings. By integrating theoretical perspectives, a terminologist is able to “localize” meanings according to specific audiences, and produce content that best represents the objective of an institution, for example.

In other words, it is necessary to analyze functions and expectations of an institution, and not to work with technical and scientific texts as if they were an end-in-themselves. An institutional glossary, therefore, has to account for different specialized uses of the same user as well, as a specialized field might have several imbrications with other fields.

In the case of Aeronautical Meteorology, R.A.J.R. Peixoto and J.M.M. Pimentel (2020: 10) show a graphic that depicts those intersections as follows:

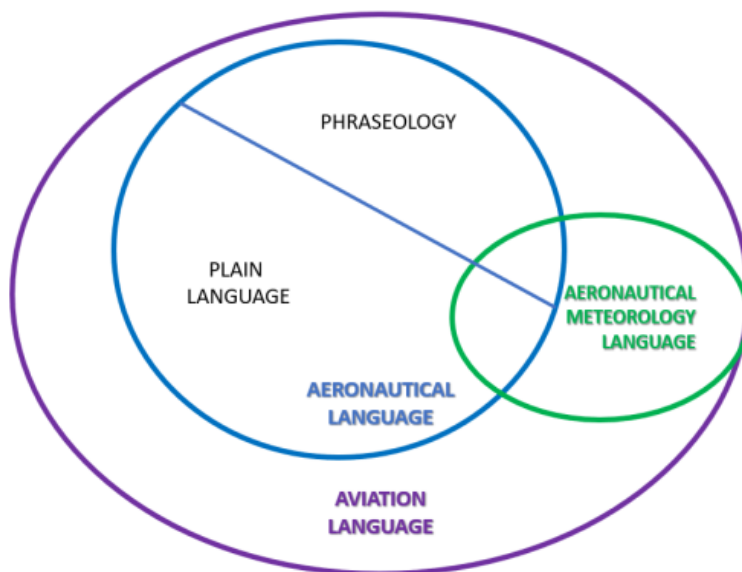


Figure 1. The hybrid field of Aeronautical Meteorology language by R.A.J.R. Peixoto and J.M.M. Pimentel (R.A.J.R. Peixoto/ J.M.M. Pimentel 2020: 10).

Within this context, some institutional glossaries will be analyzed, as explained in the next section.

3. Methodology

In order to analyze patterns and specificities of institutional glossaries, six terminological databases comprising the aeronautical meteorology domain were screened for five institutional categories defined, as follows:

INSTITUTION CATEGORY	GLOSSARY OR TERM BASE
SUPRANATIONAL	United Nations Term base (UNTERM) Skybrary database
NON-GOVERNMENTAL	American Meteorological Society (AMS) glossary
GOVERNMENT	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) glossary
UNIVERSITIES	COMET glossary
COMMERCIAL COMPANIES	NovaLynx glossary

Table 1. Analyzed Glossaries and Term Bases (Author’s own elaboration).

It should be stressed that the chosen glossaries are mostly in English (excepting for one in Spanish), since there are more databases in this language, providing more input for analysis.

Based on those publicly available glossaries, their designs and terminological procedures were compared, as to account for different uses and users in a given specialized field at an institutional setting. In sum, the discussions basically focused on (a) general description of the institution, and (b) design and patterns of such glossaries, as intended to meet the expectations of the institution target audience, as to identify a possible threshold between normative and descriptive approaches.

In the next section, the main aspects of those terminographic products will be addressed.

4. Design of institutional glossaries and dictionaries

In this section, the general design of each analyzed glossary will be presented in a sort of overview chart, then some of those characteristics will be more fully debated. As indicated in the Introduction and more detailed in the previous section, five categories were defined and six glossaries were analyzed.

Concerning the glossary of the first supranational institution, the United Nations (UN), it should be noted that it has an international scope, with many Member States and many specialized fields, generally with a specialized agency dedicated to it. As it is an institution founded in 1945 and with a significant role in trying to harmonize actions of different countries, the regulations and standards published by the UN serve as reference for both Member States and non-Member States. Particularly in the case of Aviation, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has the role of standardizing air navigation procedures; and in the field of Aeronautical Meteorology the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is responsible for applying specific procedures to aviation, through their Aeronautical Meteorology Commission (AMC).

A first profiling of the glossary published by the UN is provided below:

AUTHOR / YEAR	(1a) The United Nations / 2015?
Profile	Supranational institution with an international scope
General characteristics	Multilingual term base, in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), in addition to information of some terms in German and Portuguese, for historical reasons. It is a unified term base, incorporating terminology from UN duty stations (New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi) and UN agencies (IMO, ITU, WHO, WMO and UNESCO). Fields: DETERM, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, GLOBAL, IMO, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHQ, UNOG, UNON, UNOV, WHO and WMO
Types of terms	Official country names, phraseology datasets and a collection of geographical and proper names
Structure of definitions	Acronym, Terms, Source, Definition
Mode of availability	Online
Target audience	United Nations staff, Member States and the general public
Number of terms	Over 85,000; term base updated daily

Table 2. Design overview of the Glossary developed by the United Nations (Author's own elaboration).

This database is actually a collaborative system that comprises terms that were included throughout the years. At first, they were collected and organized by each duty station and specialized agency, then in 2015 it became unified (for harmonization purposes, according to Resolution 70/9), but still mentioning term entries as originally inserted by a given institution (duty station or specialized agency). Then, different definitions for the same term are included as independent entries, and it properly cites the source where the definition comes from. When a term is searched, more than one term may be listed, as in the case of 'cloud', for the Term 'stratiform cloud', when the Note 'other than Stratus' is inserted. When a word is searched in 'All words', any isolated word or phrase is listed in the results, so typical expressions can also be analyzed, such as 'sea of cloud'. This complex database has a User Guide to help refining searches, and provides guidance on (I) Searching for terms, (II) Using Advanced search, (III) Adjusting Settings, (IV) Viewing and refining results, (V) Providing feedback and sharing record, (VI) Accessing resources, and (VII) Reporting technical issues.

The second supranational institution glossary analyzed was Skybrary, published by Eurocontrol. The main information regarding this glossary is provided in the following chart:

AUTHOR / YEAR	(1b) EUROCONTROL (along with other partners) / 2011?
Profile	Supranational institution with a continental scope
General characteristics	Monolingual glossary, in English Encyclopedic information: terms are included with expanded explanation, as if it were a specialized Wikipedia entry Main fields: Operational Issues, Human Performance, Enhancing Safety and Safety Regulations
Types of terms	Terms, acronyms, and nominalized expressions
Structure of definitions	Definition, Description, Information on specific cases (such as Accidents caused by blizzards), Related Articles, Categories
Mode of availability	Online
Target audience	Flight Operations and Air Traffic Management personnel and general audience
Number of terms	Over 1,880 ('Weather' comprises 282 terms)

Table 3. Design overview of the Glossary developed by Eurocontrol (Author's own elaboration).

This database is organized as wikis, and classified as an electronic repository of safety knowledge related to flight operations, air traffic management (ATM) and aviation safety in general.

Four main Fields are defined, with their subdomains: Operational Issues, comprising Air Ground Communication; Airspace Infringement; Wildlife Strike; Controlled Flight Into Terrain; Fire Smoke and Fumes; Ground Operations; Airworthiness; Level Bust; Loss of Control; Loss of Separation; Runway Excursion; Runway Incursion; Wake Vortex Turbulence; Weather; Emergency and Contingency; and Unmanned Aerial Systems; Human Performance, comprising Human Behaviour, Design Philosophy; Human Performance Modelling; Organisation and Human Performance; Human Factors Training; Aeromedical; and OGHFA; Enhancing Safety, with Cabin Safety; Flight Technical; Safety Management; Safety Nets; Theory of Flight; Safety Culture; Just Culture; ICAO ADREP; CAST Safety Enhancements; Accident Investigation; Helicopter Safety; SM ICG Safety Management Products; and Safety Regulations, with Rules; Certification; Personnel Licensing; Monitoring & Oversight; Single European Sky; ESARRs; Human Error in Aviation and Legal Process. From those fields, the first one (Operational Issues) has over twice as many terms as the second largest one (enhancing safety), 1,077 vs 471, and in the first group, Weather has the highest number of terms (282). These fields are displayed in a more user-friendly way on the platform.

This database is of encyclopedic nature mostly due to the fact the user may also browse for facts instead of only terms. For example, you could search for accident / incident data, to be shown as in a timeline or viewed on a map; and reports and statistics may also be generated. It is interesting to note as well that Skybrary (Eurocontrol 2011) has some information of managerial nature, as entries within the 'just culture' concept, which

has been defined as a culture in which front line operators and others are not punished for actions, omissions or decisions taken by them that are commensurate with their experience and training, but where gross negligence, wilful violations and destructive acts are not tolerated.

Concerning the glossary from a national institution, the following characteristics are highlighted:

AUTHOR / YEAR	(2) The American Meteorological Society / 2013
Profile	National
General characteristics	Monolingual glossary, in English Entries with extensive information, with more than one sense (numbered in the definition), with the possibility of searching exact terms or locating them in full texts
Types of terms	General terms, slangs, acronyms, regional variations, nouns, adjectives. Terms from complementary domains such as Mathematics and Statistics are also included when they are contained in other definitions
Structure of definitions	Term, definition (only one or more than one, numbered), related terms (as See term1, term2, term3) and a copyright note. Sometimes, if needed, references are also indicated at the end of the entries. Images are not included
Mode of availability	Paper and online formats. Nowadays, only the online version is updated
Target audience	Students, professionals, associates, academics, government representatives
Number of terms	Over 12,000

Table 4. Design overview of the Glossary developed by the American Meteorological Society (Author's own elaboration).

The first edition of this dictionary dates back to 1959, when it was only available in print, then the online version was made available as of 2013, based on the second edition of this glossary. Differently from glossaries of the first category, this one seems to emphasize that terminological accuracy is more critically evaluated, in the sense that the institution may be considered as an authoritative source. This perspective is objectively presented in their website when stating that: "Along with the print version it should be the authoritative source for definitions of meteorological terms for many years to come.". In other words, it focuses on research purposes, and also has peer review of definitions included in the database.

In case someone from the general public wants to add a term, there is a specific page where the person may enter the information (<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/publications/glossary-of-meteorology/add-change-or-update-a-glossary-term/>), informing Name (First and Last); Email; Term; Term's current definition; Proposed definition; Reasons for proposing this change or addition; References; and Additional content. This careful process also accounts for the fact that this institution publishes other types of scientific material, such as technical journals with articles; reviews; comment and reply exchange; and corrigenda, all written by the community. In page <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/publications/author-information/choosing-a-journal-and-submission-type/> many theme-related journals are indicated, also specifying the types of products on which they focus, so the tentative author may plan accordingly.

This line of acting also raises some more concern on Copyright issues, which is brought to discussion in a very detailed way in the Ethical Guidelines and AMS policies, in the following page <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/publications/ethical-guidelines-and-ams-policies/>. There, the Association provides information on the following Ethical Guidelines: Author Disclosure and Obligations; Obligations of Editors and Reviewers in the AMS Scientific Publication Process; and Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism. Also, the AMS Policies comprise Submission of Material Previously Submitted to Discussion-Type Journals; Full, Open, and Timely Access to Data; Software Preservation, Stewardship, and Reuse; Data and Software Policy Guidelines for AMS Publications (updated Dec 2022); Open Access for AMS Journals and BAMS Authors; Public Access to AMS Publications; AMS Licenses for Journal Article Reuse; and AMS Copyright Policy.

Within this context, the following copyright notice appears in all definitions (AMS 2013: online):

Copyright 2022 American Meteorological Society (AMS). For permission to reuse any portion of this work, please contact permissions@ametsoc.org. Any use of material in this work that is determined to be “fair use” under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Act (17 U.S. Code § 107) or that satisfies the conditions specified in Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act (17 USC § 108) does not require AMS’s permission. Republication, systematic reproduction, posting in electronic form, such as on a website or in a searchable database, or other uses of this material, except as exempted by the above statement, require written permission or a license from AMS. Additional details are provided in the AMS Copyright Policy statement.

Although this institution is of national scope, it has an international sphere of influence, especially for being founded in 1919, way before the UN itself. So, in the field of Aeronautical Meteorology, it has a sound background, resorted by other institutions in the world. One sign showing the intent of being a more internationalized institution is the fact they use the international system of units (SI), although other metrics are generally used in the United States.

It is also interesting to note that, in the AMS website, direct access to the COMET and NOAA glossaries are also provided. Those two glossaries will, by the way, be analyzed next.

For the category government institutions, the glossary developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was analyzed, and their main characteristics are provided in the following chart:

AUTHOR / YEAR	(3) US Department of Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service National Weather Service Organization) / 201-?
Profile	National
General characteristics	Monolingual glossary, in English Some entries relate to more general uses, not only specialized uses, but they are considered important because they are recurrent in their publications. Main fields: Forecast, Past Weather, Safety and Information
Types of terms	Terms, phrases and abbreviations used by NWS
Structure of definitions	Concise definitions, maximum 10 lines in most cases, some tables in some entries
Mode of availability	Online
Target audience	Customers and the general public
Number of terms	Over 2,000

Table 5. Design overview of the Glossary developed by the NOAA (Author's own elaboration).

This institution focuses on forecasts, as well as other weather elements relevant for the population. The National Weather Service had the primary objective of sharing information with the general public, then they also started selling products.

In their website, the drop-down menu has four main categories, comprising specific weather phenomena, such as: Forecast, with Local, Graphical, Aviation, Marine, Rivers and Lakes, Hurricanes, Severe Weather, Fire Weather, Sun/Moon, Long Range Forecasts, Climate Prediction, and Space Weather tabs; Past Weather, with Past Weather, Heating/Cooling Days, Monthly Temperatures Records, and Astronomical Data tabs; Safety, with Tsunamis, Floods, Beach Hazards, Wildfire, Cold, Tornadoes, Air Quality, Fog, Heat, Hurricanes, Lightning, Safe Boating, Rip Currents, Thunderstorms, Space Weather, Sun (Ultraviolet Radiation), Safety Campaigns, Wind, Drought, and Winter Weather tabs; and Information, with Wireless Emergency Alerts, Brochures, Weather-Ready Nation, Cooperative Observers, Daily Briefing, Damage/Fatality/Injury, Statistics, Forecast Models, GIS Data Portal, NOAA Weather Radio Publications, SKYWARN Storm Spotters, StormReady, TsunamiReady, and Service Change Notices tabs.

The next glossary at stake is COMET, developed by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, in a joint enterprise with other universities.

AUTHOR / YEAR	(4) COMET (University Corporation for Atmospheric Research) / 2022
Profile	University
General characteristics	Bilingual glossary, in English and Spanish Fields: meteorology, hydrology and Earth science in general
Types of terms	Nouns and verbs
Structure of definitions	Equivalent in Spanish, Definition, Notes, Topic/Theme
Mode of availability	Word, available for download at a website (COMET)
Target audience	Students, teachers, researchers and translators working in fields such as meteorology, hydrology and Earth science in general
Number of terms	Over 15,000 (492 aviation_met)

Table 6. Design overview of the Glossary developed by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (Author's own elaboration).

The glossary entries are related to the fields of Meteorology (including such topics as NWP, satellite meteorology, fire weather, tropical forecasting, aviation forecasting), Climatology, Hydrology, Instrumentation, Oceanography, Mapping, Metrology, Statistics, Tsunamis, Volcanology and QMS, among others, including General Terms, as rain and humidity, and Specific Term, as gridded data and rill erosion. This English-Spanish glossary is made available in a .docx format, containing five columns (English/ Inglés; Spanish/ Español; Definition/ Definición; Notes/ Notas; Topic/ Tema. Concerning this last column, it must be stressed that the classification domain or subdomain is not used, but Topic/Theme instead.

Also, the terms listed in the glossary come from a variety of sources, such as the Diccionario de la Real Academia Española, the Larousse Diccionario ilustrado de las ciencias, María Moliner's Diccionario de uso del español, Alemany's Diccionario de Meteorología, the WMO's glossary and publications, and other web sources. In addition to that, some terms have their definition derived from glossaries published in COMET lessons and other materials, and this is indicated in the topic nomenclature (ending in "in _Gloss").

The last glossary analyzed in the one developed by Novalynx, with the main following characteristics:

AUTHOR / YEAR	(5) NOVALYNX / 201-?
Profile	National (based in California, US)
General characteristics	Monolingual glossary, in English Generally, shorter definitions, also indicating the origin of the term
Types of terms	Names, abbreviations, codes, names of institutions, chemical elements
Structure of definitions	Definition and mention to synonyms
Mode of availability	Online
Target audience	Mostly customers but also partner companies
Number of terms	1,060

Table 7. Design overview of the Glossary developed by Novalynx (Author's own elaboration).

The company is a leader in the industry of the design, manufacture, and integration of meteorological systems, offering customized weather stations that meet requirements of academic and professional purposes.

In their main menu, they mention products related to barometric pressure; evaporation; rain and snow; soil and plants; solar radiation; temperature and humidity; upper air and visibility; water level and flow; water quality; wind speed and direction; weather stations; data acquisition; enclosures and power supplies; towers and lightning protection; and their online store.

5. The threshold between normative and descriptive approaches

By taking into consideration M. Thelen's (2015) ideas on theory-oriented and a translation-oriented terminological approach, it is possible to understand how translation and terminology can be carried out differently, depending on the perspective of the terminology or professional carrying out terminological work.

While international organizations surely work as referral institutions, the perspective adopted by them, in terms of a normative or a descriptive approach, may vary depending on their target audience and language policies. In the first category selected for analysis, supranational institutions, the two entities had somewhat different approaches.

On the one hand, the UN Term Base still has some very normative perspective, as indicated in "reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality" in translation and interpretation. Their main purpose is providing high-quality language services for the intergovernmental meetings of the UN. However, this term base takes a stance as to be less normative and more descriptive, including definitions from other subfields as an independent entry.

On the other hand, Eurocontrol, manager of Skybrary glossary, was careful not to consider itself as the only source of authoritativeness in the field. It seems to have a more

institutional stance, particularly related to safety. In the website, a brochure on Terminology standards is also made available, and it indicates resources used to identify safety management related terms.

In the non-governmental category, the American Meteorological Society states that it intends to be an authoritative source in the field, something that is backed up by years and years of research in the Aeronautical Meteorology field, as an institution dedicated to it since 1919. This glossary, along with the Skybrary glossary, seem to take into account the idea of a continuum proposed by Prieto-Ramos and Guzmán (2021) and other institutional standards (F. Prieto-Ramos/ G. Cerutti 2023).

In the national category, NOAA glossary had a more restricted application, also aligned with the NovaLynx glossary, in the Commercial Company category. They both presented information that addressed the purpose of selling products as well, i.e., helping customers to understand the different products offered.

As for the university category, COMET glossary focused on equivalents and short definitions. Even though it was a glossary project sponsored by universities, it was not as comprehensive as the glossary provided by the American Meteorological Society, for example.

Conclusion

As a result, it was verified that a more accurate terminological foundation is generally a concern of institutional entities, but they can put this objective into practice by following a more normative or a more descriptive approach. Glossaries published by Eurocontrol (Skybrary) and by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) seem to have been designed very carefully, in terms of terminology and also technical standards. They are very comprehensive, but Eurocontrol, a supranational institution, seems to follow a descriptive approach, while AMS proposes a normative approach, stating its authoritativeness in the field.

Even though they are both very specialized institutions, Eurocontrol may be more aware of possible variations from country to country in Europe, while the AMS is more attached, primarily, to US standards, although it is also careful to draw distinctions on peculiarities in other countries.

The other three categories had a somewhat similar approach and very concise structure, tending to a normative approach. While COMET glossary was expected to be more descriptive, and the national glossary NOAA showed an additional commercial purpose, NovaLynx glossary structure was very objective in terms of the profile of the institution.

In sum, the analysis of these terminographic products showed how institutional glossaries are designed according to expectations of public institutions, be it at the national, supranational or non-government levels contents (C. Schaffner/ L.S. Tcaciuc/ W. Tesseur 2014), and also universities and commercial companies, and subtleties may apply according to the scope planned for the institution.

It should be stressed, however, that analyses carried out here do not intend to be exhaustive. It would be profitable to expand this investigation, especially regarding international institutions, relating rationales of institutional translation, and issues of representativeness and legitimacy.

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