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THE NEW ONLINE ENGLISH-GEORGIAN MARITIME DICTIONARY PROJECT. CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES.

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Abstract

The New Online English-Georgian Maritime Dictionary project (NEGMD) concerns two main issues: the compilation of dictionary itself and the creation and adoption of Georgian maritime terminology. Optimizing Georgian maritime terminology would greatly add to the development of the whole maritime field of Georgia and it will be especially important for the education of highly qualified seafarers in our country, who will be occupied at sea or on shore-based maritime jobs. The aim of our report on the NEGMD is to present the current status of the project, to show its specifics and the guiding principles during the compilation of the entries of this dictionary and also to present reasons illustrating the urgency of this project.

The creation of an optimal Georgian maritime terminology and the compilation of the NEGMD will increase the motivation of students of maritime education and training (MET) institutions in Georgia to study, will improve the quality of the curriculum at maritime higher education institutions of Georgia and will contribute to adoption of Georgian Maritime terminology in the field of Maritime Education and Training and also in other maritime fields in Georgia.

Key words: dictionary compilation, dictionary entry, corpora, term derivation, term definition

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we will present a progress report on the planned new online English-Georgian Maritime Dictionary project. We will discuss the challenges we will have to face when compiling the NEGMD and we will outline the perspectives the dictionary will offer when compiled. The present report has three purposes: 1) compilation of new maritime dictionary, coinage of Georgian maritime terms and 3) consequent creation of corpus of maritime texts in Georgian. The compilation of the NEGMD is of paramount importance to the development of the maritime semantic field. It will lead to the extension of Georgian maritime terminology, because lexical and terminological gaps in Georgian will be filled. The NEGMD will contribute to strengthening the country's position in the international maritime arena.

The issue of compiling the NEGMD was first raised at the Maritime Administration of Georgia, where we as alumni of the World Maritime University did our internship. We followed up on this by presenting the paper "Why It Is Necessary to Create and Adopt Georgian Maritime Terminology" at the international conference "International Terminology: Translation and Standardization", held at Tbilisi State University in October 2018. The paper was given project status and in January 2019 we applied for an ELEXIS travel grant and we were invited for a research visit to the Dutch language Institute (INT) based in Leiden, the Netherlands. Under the professional guidance of the INT, specific research questions and the methodological concept of the dictionary project were addressed. Thanks to the help of INT, the project has been given sufficient basis for launching.

2. OUTLINE AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. THE OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

The NEGMD project is very important for Georgia as a sovereign country, for Georgian linguistics and lexicography and for the Georgian maritime semantic field. Georgia is a sovereign country now, and terminology is one of the means of establishing the country as an independent state. Although maritime terminology is the most globalized semantic field in the world, each country, especially maritime nations like Georgia, must have their own maritime terminology. It is especially important for reaching the following aims:

1) Stimulation of developing Georgian maritime terminology;
2) Application of the developed maritime terminology in textbooks, maritime documentation and materials;
3) Economy of space and facilitation of understanding among specialists and students of the maritime field;

4)   Improvement of the system of maritime education and consequently of the national maritime industry;

5)   Contribution to the lexicography of the Georgian language;

6)   Development of lexicography of the maritime semantic field;

7)   Establishing a basis for a Georgian maritime corpus with further integration of the Georgian maritime corpus in the general corpus of the Georgian language;

8)   General contribution to Georgian linguistics.

With the work on the NEGMD we have three objectives: 1) the dictionary; 2) coinage of Georgian maritime terms; 3) an organized corpus of maritime texts and materials in Georgian. The last goal is not foreseen in the near future, because it is only gradually that new terms will find their way into textbooks for maritime educational institutions, and from there to maritime students.

Prior to the project, we formulated the following research questions, most of which were answered during the research visit to the Dutch Language Institute (INT) in June 2019:

- Compliance of term definitions with the ISO 704 standard;
- Application of Sketch Engine Tools for extracting relevant sample sentences from the English and Georgian corpora;
- Application of QTerm, MultiTems databases to compile terminological databases;
- Familiarization with dictionary writing systems including LEXONOMY to start the dictionary compilation;
- Receiving instructions regarding terms' definitions;
- Receiving instructions regarding entries' compilation.

For the project it is important to invest time in establishing a balanced corpus for this specific domain, as a lot of documents are not available in digital form or are copyright protected. The materials available at the library of the Maritime Academy we are currently working for are also relevant to illustrate the usage of maritime terms in Georgian.

Since the dictionary is a kind of terminological project and as terms and concepts are two intertwined phenomena, we would like to focus our attention on the essence of terminology. In the words of Geeraerts: "Terminologies – the lexical components of specialized languages – emerge from theoretical and technological innovation: new scientific insights and novel tools enrich the conceptual and practical environment of the specialists, and in the process expand their vocabularies". ("Handbook of Terminology", vol. I, Foreword, 2015:14).

In order to compile a dictionary that will comprise various kinds of information, including definitions of terms, corpora examples, encyclopedic information, related words, etc., it was necessary to conduct some research and to seek advice from specialists experienced in similar work. As the dictionary is intended to have both terminological and lexicographic features, the opinions of terminologists and lexicographers are important and need to be taken into consideration. In addition to dictionary compilation, the purpose of our work is to conduct research in order to fill the lexical/terminological gaps in Georgian maritime terminology. Filling lexical/terminological gaps is very important as the NEGMD will not be complete before all necessary Georgian maritime terms have been developed. Although this work can be conducted simultaneously with the process of dictionary compilation and, consequently, new Georgian maritime terms can be developed and included in the dictionary, adoption and assimilation of terms in the language is a matter of time, and certain efforts are to be made by Maritime Education and Training (MET) institutions of Georgia to speed up the process.

2.2. THE METHODOLOGY USED

Before we discuss our project, we would like to make a distinction between terminological and lexicographic approaches of dictionary compilation. Kageura (2015) argues that there is a general understanding that terminographical work focuses on concepts, definitions and designations (although many terminographical practices are not necessarily limited to these aspects" (ISO 704, 2009). "Lexicography", however, deals with words or lexical items in general and with a full range of linguistic information related to words, including grammatical features such as POS, meanings, usages, discourse types, register, etc. depending on the type of dictionary ("Handbook of Terminology", vol. I, 2015:96).

The terminological approach involves moving from a concept to a term, whereas the lexicographic approach implies moving from a word to a meaning. The unique characteristic of a term is that a new concept leads to a term. Lexicographers describe how people use the words; terminologists try to establish how words should be used. We could add here that terminology has a more prescriptive character, whereas lexicography is characterized by a more descriptive approach. Ten Hacken (2000:22) says: "On the basis of study of terms, Temmermem (2000) argues that terms are not crucially different from words in the sense that both are based on prototypes. This implies that terminological definitions should be interpreted in the same way as lexicographic definitions".

For the compilation of the NEGMD we have chosen to use a combined approach that implies processing terminology while taking the lexicographic approach. During this practical work we checked the compliance of terms' definitions of the dictionary with corresponding requirements of the ISO standard 704 (2009), with terminologists at the INT and continued the work on the compilation of dictionary entries, having taken recommendations from essential sources, comments and remarks of the specialists into consideration.

Although the NEGMD has a terminological character, we also apply some lexicographic tools and a lexicographic approach when compiling dictionary entries. Thus, we define the term in both English and Georgian and we also provide samples from English and Georgian corpora, thus taking the descriptive lexicographic approach.

As for the selection of terms, we are guided by the following principles: firstly, we try to consider general maritime terms; then we gradually move to more specific terms and later we try to select terms from all maritime sub-branches trying to keep the balance between different maritime sub-branches, such as, General Maritime English (GME) followed by Specific Maritime English (SME): Navigation, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Logistics, Maritime Law, Maritime Economics, etc.

As the NEGMD is a dictionary of maritime terminology, its macrostructure will mainly contain nouns. Possible verb-forms and other related words belonging to different parts of speech will be included in the "Related Words" section of the dictionary/terminological entry. Kageura (2015: 83) says that "Terms" are by definition content-bearing elements, as they represent concepts inside a domain. From the viewpoint of parts of speech, terms are mostly nouns. Although, sometimes verbs, adjectives or adverbs can be considered as terms they constitute a much smaller part than nouns". For example, the adverbs "offshore" and "inshore" are frequently used in maritime language and therefore represent separate terminological entries in our dictionary.

It is worth noting that the initial selection of terms to be considered for our dictionary is based on the principle of induction. Thus, we started with terms of General Maritime English, then moved to basic nautical terms, then we collected general terms from the maritime sub-fields of marine engineering and marine electrical engineering, logistics, etc. In the future we are going to cover terminology from all maritime sub-branches including the most specific terms of maritime fields and its sub-fields considering different terminological lemmas. We would characterize this work as a "layer on layer" approach, involving different levels of maritime terminology. In order to illustrate usage of the term in the language we select sample sentences from corpora of English and Georgian languages. During the process of sample sentences selection, we are guided by such principles as: concordance, sorting, sampling and filtering. Thus, we consider not only one maritime sub-branch but will try to cover all sub-branches simultaneously starting from elementary maritime terms belonging to General Maritime English (GME) identifying concepts from all maritime sub-branches and then moving to more specialized terms of different fields of Specialized Maritime English (SME), in parallel considering and working on entries covering all maritime sub-branches.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

3.1. THE THEORETICAL BASIS OF THE PROJECT

During the work on the dictionary we are guided by different sources such as the ISO standard 704 "Terminology Work. Principles and Methods", also taking into consideration recommendations regarding the compilation of specialized dictionaries given by L'Homme in her article "The processing of terms in dictionaries":

Recommendations for the compilation of specialized dictionaries:

- Dictionaries should consider user needs and include highly specialized but also less specialized items;
- Terminologists or specialized lexicographers should make more use of evidence found in corpora as a basis for making decisions about terms;
- Dictionaries should include more data on terms (e.g., collocations, valence patterns, images);
- Bilingual and multilingual dictionaries should account for inter-linguistic differences;
- Dictionaries should describe relationships between terms;
- Specialized dictionaries should contain encyclopedic or pragmatic information;
- Definitions should be structured in order to display key conceptual components" (L'Homme 2006:182).

When developing Georgian maritime terminology, specialists are to be guided by Georgian language rules, taking into consideration international norms to reach "balance" on the basis of such a combined method. Coinage of new Georgian maritime terms is the task of Georgian terminologists, yet the definition of terms mentioned by Roldan-Vendrel in the article "Emergent neologisms and lexical gaps in specialized languages" would be relevant to reach this aim:

"The structure of the definitions of the terms should:
   i. Describe the notion in exclusive reference to a specialized domain;
   ii. Distinguish that notion from others that may be interrelated within the language system;
   iii. Establish the semantic features according to which the relationships of antonymy or complementarity will be set;
   iv. Build a link between the term and its superordinate and subordinate terms;
   v. Expose the relationships of hyperonymy, hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy, complementarity, etc. that may exist between them (Roldan-Vendrel 2012:21).

Fernandez (2009:15) refers to the following characteristics of terminology stated by Cabre: "Terminology is itself interdisciplinary, especially in its most recent manifestations. It integrates contributions from several of the language sciences, namely:
   I. Knowledge theory: the relations between concepts and their possible nomenclature;
   II. Communication theory: the types of communicative situations that can emerge and their characteristic discourse;
   III. Language theory: how terminological units are related to natural language (Cabre 2003).

Since our dictionary is a terminological dictionary it is expedient to consider the essence of terminology in general. In this respect we would like to add some definitions of terminology and terms. Depecker (2009:v) says that: "Terminology science is to make the link between "sign", "concept", and "object" clear. The aim of terminology work is to ensure that a "sign" designates a precise "concept" and that the "concept" fits the "object" it describes" ("Handbook of Terminology",vol. I, 2015:67). For the NEGMD we consider a concept as a unit of knowledge, and then move from the concept to the term. Therefore, each dictionary entry has only one meaning, since terms are monosemantic. In the ISO Standard 704 it is stated: "For a standardized terminology it is desirable that a term be attributed to a single concept" [2009:38]. Although monosemy of terms is sometimes discussed, as in Steurs (2009): "Although, one-to-one relation between concept and term in a clearly delineated specialist domain is preferable, very often, polysemy and dynamic changes in the meaning-form relation are witnessed". Regarding terminology work the ISO Standard 704 very precisely states: "The goal of terminology work as described in ISO 704 is clarification and standardization of concepts and terminology for communication between humans".

3.2.THE PRACTICAL BASIS OF THE PROJECT

NEGMD is a compilation of information currently available in the relevant English and Georgian sources. Entries of the NEGMD include the following information: English term, transcription, audio file, translation of the term, definition of the term in English, definition of the term in Georgian, illustration of the term in a relevant context (samples from the English language corpus), illustration of the term a relevant context (samples from the Georgian language corpus), related words section, graphical depiction of the term in the form of pictures or drawings/figures. We think that if dictionary entries are compiled in this way, it will increase learner's interest and motivation to study better. The illustration of the usage of terms in the context will facilitate correct understanding and internalization of the term by the student. We decided to include corpora examples as "The lexical and syntactic environment in which a word appears turns out to be the most reliable indicator of the meaning it conveys in any particular instance (when several readings are theoretically possible)" (The Oxford Guide to Practical Lexicography, 2008:294. In the case of the dictionary/terminological entry as "related words" we are guided by the following criteria: a) grammatical relation, e.g. mentioning relevant verb-forms and b) synonymy relations, i.e. lexical identity, etc.

During dictionary compilation we are mainly guided by the following principles:

1) To bring one definition of a term in order to protect the principle of terminology monosemantic nature;
2) To select the definition that meets demands of students and specialists of the field at the same time;
3) To select corpora examples that illustrate the usage of a term in a best possible way;
4) To show semantic and grammatical paradigm of a word in order to enrich the knowledge of the dictionary user as terminological dictionary is mainly composed of noun-terms.

One of the most important issues to be taken into consideration during dictionary compilation is establishing the profile of the future user of the dictionary i.e. "User's Profile", confer Atkins and Rundell (2008: 486), who urge "First, catch your user. The user profile critically affects both what goes into the entry and how it is presented". Our dictionary is aimed at different audiences involved in the maritime field, from students of Maritime Education and Training (MET) institutions to qualified specialists in the field, employed either on board ships or on shore-based jobs. Our dictionary bears features of both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, as it offers translation of the terms and its definitions both in English and Georgian. Therefore, it can be used both by Georgian users and English-speaking users as the dictionary comprises definitions and corpora examples both in Georgian and English. Due to variety of information it includes, the

dictionary can be classified as learner's dictionary and scholarly dictionary at the same time. Thus, our aim is to design a dictionary that will enable the users to decode and encode meanings of words.

Terms are monosemantic, but in some cases we also deal with homonymy, as is the case with the word "port". Thus, in the NEGMD we have three terminological entries related to the word "port":

I. port n

[pɔːt]

საზღვაო ნავსადგური, პორტი

place on a coast or shore which boats use to load and unload or shelter from storms

პორტის აკვატორიის ნავმისადგომის მიმდებარე ნაწილი (ჩვეულებრივ, აუზის სახისა, რომლის ორ ან სამმხრივ განთავსებულია ნავმისადგომი ნაგებობები), სადაც სატვირთო ოპერაციები წარმოებს

II. port n

[pɔːt]

გემის მარცხენა მხარე, მარცხენა ზორტი

left side of a ship, looking forward; larboard. to port: on or towards the left side of a ship, etc. *opposed to starboard*

ბაკბორტი, ბაკბორდი, გემის მარცხენა მხარე (ზორტი) თუ მას კიჩოდან ცხვირისკენ ვხედავთ

III. port n

/pɔːt/

სარკმელი

opening in engine cylinder through which gases enter or leave a cylinder

შემშვები ან გამომშვები ნახვრეტი, ხვრელი, არხი (ძრავასი, ტუმბოსი და ა.შ.)

At present stage of compilation, we select terms given in the textbooks' glossaries of different maritime sub-branches as a term bank. Maritime dictionaries of other languages can also be used as term banks in the future.

3.3.CREATION/COINAGE OF GEORGIAN MARITIME TERMINOLOGY

Lexical and terminological gaps constitute a major problem of Georgian maritime terminology. Thus, one of the aims of our project is to stimulate and speed up work on coinage of missing maritime terms in Georgian. Some English Maritime terms have equivalents in Georgian, whereas some do not and this is the problem we intend to solve by addressing issues that have been discussed in the present report.

For example, if we take such terms as:
- Draft, draught – the distance between waterline and the lowest point of the vessel (keel) – (Georgian) გემის წყალშიგი
- Displacement – the amount of the water that is displaced by the ship when it moves forward – (Georgian) წყალწყვა
- Air draft – the distance between waterline and the highest point of the vessel (mast, etc.) – (Georgian) - …… (lexical/terminological gap).

The first two terms have equivalents in Georgian but the third one "air draft" does not. The meaning of the term can be rendered to Georgian students only via definition. When we included the term "air draught" in our dictionary, we just omitted its Georgian meaning, giving definitions in English and Georgian and relying on corpora of these languages. The Georgian equivalent of the maritime term "air draught" will be given in the dictionary when competent specialists fill this "lexical/terminological gap" in Georgian. Before this task is fulfilled the entry looks in the way given below:

air draft col

-

distance from the surface of the water to the highest point on a vessel

მანძილი წყალხაზიდან გემის უმაღლეს წერტილამდე

Corpus examples

The vessels will be modified with 5m air draft to cope with working under jetties and will also feature rope guards to protect the vessel and selected electronics.

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In the case of new maritime terms, Georgian students should be offered meaning equivalents to terms already existing in English and other languages. Neologisms and neoterms[1] are means to solve this problem in Georgian. Usually, neologisms enter languages to designate new concepts and this is conditioned by technological progress and new achievements or innovations in the field. Specific to the development of Georgian maritime terminology is the fact that new terms have to be invented both for new and already existing concepts. This is very important, confer Cabre (2012:1): "Neologisms represent the constant changes of a society and are a clear indication of the vitality of a language".

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[1] "A neoterm created to designate a concept is a type of neologism and is called a neoterm. Although most neoterms designate new concepts, some designate established concepts" [ISO 704 (2009:34)].

ISO 704 (2009:51) states that "the following term formation methods apply to the English language and may also apply to other languages:

- - Creating neoterms;
- - Using existing terms: (adding one or more morphological elements or affixes to a root or a word);
- - Translingual borrowing;
- - Derivation, compounding (complex terms, phrases, blends) abbreviations.

In ISO 704 (2009:38-39) we read: "The following principles should be followed in the formation of terms and appellations: transparency; consistency; appropriateness; linguistic economy; derivability and compoundability; linguistic correctness; preference for native language".

The creation and coinage of Georgian maritime terminology require us to define methods of creation and development of Georgian maritime terminology, such as: transliteration, derivation, loans: direct loans, loan translations, calques, neologisms, adoption of international terms. There are different methods of terminology derivation. Sometimes even calques can be used. Considering that English is recognized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as the official language of maritime industry we would like to recommend using English calques. In this way internationalization of English maritime terms will take place. It is also important to ensure the co-existence of national terms and terms that enter the language in the above-mentioned ways. Thus, the issue of creation and derivation of new Georgian maritime terms is of importance as there are a lot of "lexical/terminological gaps" in maritime Georgian. For new maritime terms Georgian students should be offered meaning equivalents of maritime terms already existing in English and other languages. We will have to deal with neoterms. While creating Georgian maritime terminology, specialists have to be guided by Georgian linguistic rules. In ISO 704 (2009:41) it is stated in this respect that "when neoterms or appellations are coined, they should conform to the morphological, morphosyntactic and phonological norms of the language in question". For example, in English we often see terms created on the basis of "noun + noun" model/formula but it does not mean that if some lexical calques are permitted, grammatical calques should be allowed too. Otherwise it may lead to deforming the language.

The development of new Georgian maritime terms is to be solved in a nationwide cooperation between specialists of different organizations, confer Fernandez (2009:18): "The first consequence of this quiet revolution in terminology is the need for much more flexible communication between descriptive terminologists, lexicographers, disciplinary specialists and the standardization organizations". The State Chamber of Language of Georgia and relevant linguistic institutions will be responsible for the organization and coordination of this work.

During the work on the NEGMD project "lexical/terminological gaps" in Georgian maritime terminology will be revealed and thus this project will stimulate the creation of Georgian maritime terminology that implies several organizational issues, such as: revision of existing maritime dictionaries, choosing the right policy for the creation of Georgian maritime terminology, choosing the methods of creation of maritime terminology and establishing a project team.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The NEGMD project will contribute to both the maritime semantic field and Georgian linguistics. It will bring the following benefits: stimulation of creation/coinage of Georgian maritime terminology, application of the newly formed maritime terminology in textbooks, maritime documentation and materials, economy of space and facilitation of understanding among specialists and students in the maritime field, improving the system of maritime education and training and, consequently, of the national maritime industry, contribution to the lexicography of Georgian; creation of the lexicography of the maritime semantic field, constructing the basis for establishing Georgian maritime corpus with its further integration in the corpus of the Georgian language; in this way making general contribution to Georgian linguistics.

The general objective of our project is to improve the system of Maritime Education and Training (MET) of Georgia, thus expanding the Georgian maritime field. The project will take several years, but as it can be launched on the Internet as soon as a certain number of terminological entries have been compiled, it will be available for those involved in the process of studies at MET institutions and for maritime professionals of Georgia way before its completion.

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