

Discourse and terminology matter: Investigating specialised communication and translation

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Specialised language, as a communicative medium used by professionals in the transfer of knowledge, features domain-specific terminology and bears particular discursive characteristics. As such, it is of interest to both translation researchers and discourse analysts. In discourse studies, the focus is on the ways of talking about things i.e. particular discourses. To this end, a variety of approaches can be adopted (Conversation Analysis, Critical Discourse Analysis, genre analysis, narrative analysis, ethnographic approaches, etc.) to examine a variety of elements of specialised communication, such as lexico-grammatical features, structure and text-patterning, text genres and typology as well as the context of their production, which construct these particular discourses. Within specialised discourse analysis, a number of studies have been conducted with a view to tapping into the intricacies of the linguistic construction of particular professional realms and providing authentic resources for LSP. Such resources may also be of potential interest to translators. When studying specialised translation, the issue of terminology and terminological equivalence is tackled differently, depending on the field (law, business, medicine, science, technology, etc.) with different approaches employed (cognitive, frame-based, sociocognitive, communicative, corpus-based, etc.).

The aim of this session is to encourage the discussion of the complex nature of specialised texts and the dialogic relationship between terminological and discursive features, and how they are employed in specialised knowledge representation and specialised translation. We postulate that the knowledge of both facets is crucial for specialised communication and successful translation.

We invite contributions addressing the following issues in discourse, specialised translation and terminology research:

- dialogic relation between discourses and their contexts

- discourses and discursive constructions in specialised communication
- lexical, syntactic, stylistic and structural features of specialised discourses
- specialised discourse vs. jargon vs. restricted code
- use of professional texts in teaching terminology and LSP
- terminology in professional contexts
- discourse approaches to specialised texts
- terminological equivalence in specialised texts
- corpus approaches to discourse, specialised translation and terminology
- cognitive approach to terminology and specialised translation

We hope this session will be relevant to researchers (and their audiences!) – discourse analysts, translators, interpreters, applied linguists, etc. – studying an array of specialised backgrounds, who examine particular discourses used therein, and their translations. We intend to debate how discourse analysts' research may be relevant to translators and vice versa.

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