

INTRODUCTION

The Interdepartmental Centre for Translation and Terminology of the University of São Paulo, Brazil (CITRAT) organised and hosted in July 17-27, 2000 the *International Winter School on Terminology*. Originally devised by the Ibero-American Terminological Network (RITerm), this event also got the support of the Postgraduate Programme in Portuguese Philology and Language (University of São Paulo) and of several other organisations: the Latin Union, the Institute for Applied Linguistics of the University Pompeu Fabra, Spain (IULA), the Committee for International Cooperation of the University of São Paulo (Coint), the Foundation for the Fostering of Research of the State of São Paulo, Brazil (FAPESP), the Supreme Council for Scientific and Technological Development, Brazil (CNPq), the Coordination Body for the Qualification of Human Resources in Higher Education, Brazil (CAPES), and the School of Communication Studies and Arts of the University of São Paulo (ECA-USP).

The general topic was *Diversification and unification in Terminology: the situation in the Mercosur*. Apart from reproducing the successful experiences of the summer schools at IULA, University Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona, Spain, the Winter School in São Paulo aimed to provide scholars and postgraduate students with an opportunity to make contact and discuss issues regarding the research in the field of terminology. It also aimed to offer each and every one of those engaged in terminology as part of their study or work – lexicographers, archivists, technical translators, just to name a few – a privileged discussion forum for the improvement of their competences.

The present issue of *TradTerm* reproduces some of the lectures given during the Winter School. The relationship between terminology and its bordering subject fields is dealt with in many articles: *Terminology and translation* (Francis Aubert, FFLCH-USP), *Terminology and archive science* (Maria de Fátima Tálamo, ECA-USP), *Terminology and neology* (Ieda Maria Alves, FFLCH-USP), and *Terminology and lexicography* (Maria Tereza Biderman,

UNESP). Other articles explore the subject by discussing the 'term': *Enquiring into the 'term': configurations* (Maria da Graça Krieger – UFRGS); or by discussing the 'concept': *Conceptual system and terminological system* (Maria Aparecida Barbosa, FFLCH-USP); or automatic term extraction: *Terminology extraction: elements for the construction of an extractor* (Rosa Estopà, IULA – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain); or terminography: *Diversification and unification in terminology: foundations for a terminography in the Mercosur* (Maria da Graça Krieger, UFRGS); or terminological variation: *An attempt at the elaboration of a variational terminological/terminographical model* (Pierre Auger, Université Laval, Canada) and *Aspects of general terminology and of variational terminology* (Enilde Faulstich, UnB).

This collection of articles will surely give the reader an idea of the diversity of subjects offered during the *International Winter School on Terminology*.

São Paulo, January 2002

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