

Dóra Mária Tamás

Senior Terminologist at the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation Ltd. and
Lecturer at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics
(tamas.dora.maria@gmail.com)

Report on the Elexis Transnational Visit Grant at the Dutch Language Institute

(Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal)

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Project title: The Description of the Characteristics of Legal Terminology and Issues of Editing Legal Databases in Lexicography and Terminology

1 Introduction

I applied for a visit to Dutch Language Institute with the following goals in mind. The project proposal that I submitted to the call for ELEXIS grants for research visits included the plan to discuss and collect sources about the features of legal LSP and terminology, and to get familiar with the upcoming project of an electronical legal dictionary of the Institute.

Since I am working on my habilitation book, I was interested to get an insight into the research activities and experiences of the local experts. I was motivated to choose the Dutch Language Institute, because I was highly impressed by lectures held by Professor Frieda Steurs at an international conference in this field of my interest.

2 Aims of the Project

The goals of my visit were to gain knowledge and valuable experience through discussions in personal meetings with experts of the field and the collection of new relevant information and sources for my research and book editing in both areas, namely the features of legal terminology and the editing of legal electronical dictionary at the Institute.

3 Description of the Research Visit

My Research Visit has been prepared thoroughly with a valuable programme containing prescheduled meetings. On the first day of my visit, I was introduced to the staff and the main activities of the Dutch Language Institute. On the second day I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Ms. Theresa Munneke, the editor of Juridisch Woordenboek, the upcoming legal database containing the terms of the Dutch legal system, who explained in detail the editing principles, working methods, structure, content, classification, selection of sources and challenges, and included in her presentation even some specific examples. I had the possibility to pose questions and discuss all the interesting issues related to the digitalisation and editing of the legal dictionary. I have received the link to study the online version.

Following the interesting meeting, I had another worthy personal discussion organised with Mr. Tony Foster (Lecturer at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics, University Leiden), with whom we shared our views and experiences in the field of legal terminology and translations. It was interesting to learn about the difficulties and solutions from the point of view and for the Dutch legal language and terminology. The exchange of ideas helped me to strengthen and broaden my knowledge.

On the same day I gave a presentation about my personal experiences, i.e. studies, work, research and teaching activities, and my ongoing project. I have been working for 15 years at the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation Ltd., where first I was a translator of certified translations and court interpreter, and after I acquired my PhD in Terminology at ELTE University, I became a terminologist at the office, where I am currently responsible for IUSterm, an internal termbase for terms of law and public administration as a Senior Terminologist. I have also experience in teaching at university courses, which I started in 2013. The presentation was followed by an interesting discussion, which provided useful feedback for my project. After receiving precious information about useful sources, I was provided of an access to the university library. On the third day during my stay, I had the opportunity to attend an interesting workshop titled 'Is there a place for Google Translate in higher education?' organised by the University of Leiden with a few presentations in English. After the symposium I spent my time at the University library. On the fourth day I met a colleague of the institute to discuss the characteristics and challenges of working out the terminology of education, which only at first glance seems to be a clary systemised terminology. We exchanged our experiences in this field. I had the possibility to attend the interesting presentation of Ms. Caroline Müller-Spitzer, a lexicographer from Germany, who was also a winner of the ELEXIS grant. I spent the rest of my time by searching for valuable sources at the University library. This was in line with my plan to have to possibility for individual research after receiving a brief guidance and

assistance: searching for the relevant literature in order to prepare a habilitation work about terminology with a focus on legal texts and termbases.

4 Concluding remarks

The visit has been useful and informative in all the aspects mentioned above. It has been very fruitful to me to have an opportunity to receive guidance, advice and consultations from the experts in the field of lexicography and terminology and other specialists from Dutch Language Institute.

I am very grateful to ELEXIS Transnational Research Visit Grant and Dutch Language Institute for having opportunity to visit Dutch Language Institute for one week. I can say that it succeeded beyond my expectations, and I believe that the experience and contacts I have gained from it will be worthy for my future work.

5 Acknowledgments

I would like to use this occasion to thank my hosts – all the staff of the Dutch Language Institute – for their hospitality and for making me feel at home during my stay in Leiden. Furthermore, I would like to thank all the editors and researchers for eagerly answering all of my questions and providing me with additional material on the topics I found interesting. In particular, I would like to express especially my thanks to Professor Frieda Steurs for her wise pieces of advice and interest shown in my work and research, and Ms. Carole Tiberius for assisting me prior to and during my visit as well as planning my activities. I very much trust that we will be able to enhance our cooperation and common work in the future. Finally, I am grateful to the ELEXIS project for making my research visit possible.