

The Taxonomy of the Common Agricultural Policy Language. An Attempt at a Generalizing Approach

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Abstract. An attempt at grasping the terminologic dimension of a specialized language involves not only the lexicologic investigation of the rules and models for building these terms, but most importantly, their integration and employment within the system of the language at a semantic level, as well as in relation to the context and background of this specialized language. As such, a concept can clearly be seen as distinct (in relation to other terms of the field), can be placed in a system that allows for the identification of the relationships with other elements of the system, while monitoring any shift or change of the term, according to the evolution of knowledge in the specialized field. The paper aims at investigating a pattern of the evolution of specialized terms within the economic and agricultural specialized language of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU with an emphasis on monosemantic terms- as most specialized terms are-, as well as rare examples of polysemantic specialized terms. This analysis attempts at revealing the evolution of the field of the agricultural policy reflected through language, as well as a tendency towards the europenization of terminologies residing in the employment of universal European terms that do not vary from one language to another. According to the sociological point of view, this is one dimension of a greater process of the europenization of law, policy, economy, society and the individual.

Keywords: terminologic evolution, europenization, taxonomy

INTRODUCTION

Europenisation must be regarded as a process where the influence of the European Union determines internal adaptation and change. Europenisation and everything it involves on a political, legal, economic, social and human level is the engine of change in Romanian society, in such fields as politics, economy and certainly land exploitation methods and the corresponding scientific and technical fields. In order to establish the right steps towards the europenisation of the agricultural policy, one should first engage in a context and factor analysis that contribute to this process of europenization and second the analysis of the transformation of agricultural policy elements and future forecasts. Since this is bound to be an extensive approach, the present paper solely aims at a part of the context and form analysis, namely the language of the Common Agricultural Policy. Its introduction in the Romanian law and specialized language of economy and technical field of agriculture involves the change of form and of institutional framework, as well as a transformation that engages the basic norms of society towards the deeper process of europenization. This analysis will attempt to be an analysis of change, reflected the evolution of language that enriches with new terms that are necessary for communication in a European context.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The terminology of specialized fields and languages, as the economic and agricultural ones are, proves of the utmost usefulness. The assigning of meaning and terms into functional variants and different terminologic microsystems contribute to the avoidance of confusion between terms and an attempt at achieving accuracy in a specialized field that is most of the times bound to function within certain limits (Nistor, 2002). The terminologic taxonomy can be seen as one of those functional microsystems that serve to clarify terms and try to define the field they belong to. The task of classifying special terms, either scientific, economic or technical ones, is easier as there is a pronounced tendency towards a single meaning (one signifier-one signified, one sign-one meaning) (Bucă and Evseev, 1976). This single meaning of terms is imposed by the tendency towards accuracy, logic coherence and becomes apparent in the case of scientific terms, newly-created words or borrowed words, as well words at the periphery of language.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Starting from the assumption that the majority of special terms have a single meaning, this paper will investigate the exceptions, the polysemy of specialized words. This arises in the case of legal and economic terms (by shifting from one social group to another and thus gathering new meaning, employing a new term from common language into the specialized one, change of meaning etc).

Such an example is provided by the word screening, which is employed in medicine, psychology and movies, with the meaning of a systematic examination to detect undesired substances or attributes, or the presentation of a movie. The same term is employed in the specialized language of the European Union, when the community acquis is under debate, even in the case of the Common Agricultural context. In this case, screening refers to the analytical examination of the community acquis- a stage in the preparation of accession negotiations by examination of the Commission and each candidate country on the community acquis for a better understanding and proof of their ability to apply the acquis (Bărbulescu and Răpan, 2009). This is a clear case of a shift, migration of a term from the common language, or other specialized languages to the more recent field of European law. This term also brings into discussion the europeanisation of terminologies as it was considered there is no need for a translation of this term and its usage in English becomes certified, acknowledged, natural and problem-free, at least for specialists. If problems arise, one can relate to other fields to grasp the approximate meaning of this English term in a European context and thus avoid confusion and misunderstanding at least at a basic level.

In the field of terminology, there are also definitions that generate confusion in the case of the key terms that define the agricultural field in terms of space and the type of activity in this space, agriculture and agricultural on the one hand, farming and agrarian, on the other and finally rural. These general-yet specialized terms find new important dimensions in the European vocabulary of the Common Agricultural Policy. For example, if we make use of the English language as a basis for comparison, the Webster dictionary makes no distinction between such terms as agriculture, agricultural (RO-agricultură, agricol) on the one hand and farming, agrarian (RO-cultivarea pământului, agrar) on the other, defining them as synonyms, simply referring to the cultivation of land. E. Mewes largely clarifies this relative synonymy, as he reveals that the term farming includes the two branches of agriculture, namely plant cultivation and animal breeding, while agriculture has a wider meaning, with a reference to activities of industrialization, storing, transportation,

capitalization of agricultural products (Mewes, 1981). Although this distinction was set three decades ago, it serves well to make distinctions between the two and setting the semantic boundaries of the two terms.

The term rural is defined by the Webster Dictionary as related to the village, but also implies a dimension related to agriculture, as part of the semantic content of the term. To be more exact, the term rural involves an extension of its semantic content that goes beyond its purely technical dimension. In this respect, the rural goes beyond the agricultural or agrarian and includes the economic and social organisation of agriculture, the relationship of agriculture with the other economic branches, the market relation of the agricultural production and economic needs (Badouin, 1971). There are authors who define the rural and rural economy as especially related to agriculture, the rural area and the food sector. However, other authors consider that the food sector does not belong to the rural area (Lup, 2007), while the implementing of non-agricultural activities in the rural areas should be conducted with care, without affecting its fundamental characteristics (Otiman, 1997).

In the case of the Common Agricultural Policy language, the terms agricultural and agrarian subscribe to the conceptual and terminological dimensions that were previously mentioned. As such, agrarian, farming refer to land cultivation and subsequently to animal breeding. It is worth mentioning that in the context of CAP language and mechanisms, these activities can define the conceptual area of the term agrarian only if they are conducted within an exploitation.

The term agricultural has also widened its semantic area in the EU context. In the case of the Common Agricultural Policy, agricultural also involves mechanisms related to the market and financial mechanisms, environmental coordinates, human and animal health, elements in the food sector. The conceptual area of the rural was also included in the conceptual area of the term agricultural in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The rural, as an important element of the Common Agricultural Policy, it conceptually enriched in the context of the European Union. Its dimensions go beyond agricultural and forestry activities that can be conducted in the rural area. Its conceptual area involves social dimensions related to the quality of life, economic dimensions related to the other economic activities in the rural area, except the agricultural ones and environmental dimensions, related to environmental preservation in this area.

Considering that the degree of organisation in the case of a special conceptual system of a specialized field is superior to that of general language (Nistor, 2000), in the case of special terminologies, the relations between terms and concepts are stronger than in the case of general language. The stability of the conceptual system is important in the attempt to emphasize a tendency towards the internationalization- in our case the europenization of terminologies, which means that the term has a universal European character and does not vary according to the language, as shown by the examples above.

CONCLUSIONS

Our findings reveal that there is a strong tendency towards the europenisation of language, as terms have widened their semantic area once the process of europenisation started, while their meaning only relates to the common European language of agriculture they belong to and is the same regardless of language.

The new European language and as such the new CAP language in Romanian is proof of the birth of a new policy, a new legal system and a new vocabulary in Romania, as well as a new dimension of exploitation and management in Romanian agriculture. Gradually, the access to this language will be easier, as information sources will be more numerous and

the Romanian citizen will be able to employ this language within specialized contexts. It can be concluded that the European language in the field of the Common Agricultural Policy is a reflexion of the europeanisation process in this field. When the Romanian citizen (either a specialist, farmer or decision-maker) will master this European language in a functional manner, although not completely, he can truly be a European citizen in his own right.

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