How translators and interpreters cope in different ways with lexical/terminological uncertainty when they deal with English as the *lingua franca*: a rationale for specific terminological training

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In many European countries, English is used in addition to the local language (Motschenbacher, 2013). We’ll focus on how this phenomenon reveals itself on a terminological level in the translation and interpretation professions and how it is responded to, taking into account the fundamental differences in the practices of both professions.

An important difference regards the nature of the communication setting: while translators more frequently work in a setting of peer-to-peer communication, interpreters, on the other hand, work in both peer-to-peer and “expert–non-expert” settings. Interpreters are often faced with uncertainties concerning what to do with certain terms in English, the *lingua franca*, because they do not know them, or because one of their clients does not understand them. Translators are also evidently faced with uncertainties, for example regarding term variation (Cabré 1999) and how to manage the increasing presence of Anglicisms (Alcaraz Ariza, 2000; Furiassi 2012).

Indeed, research into translation-orientated terminology recognizes a growing indeterminacy at different levels (Antia 2007).

Uncertainty requires a multidisciplinary approach (O’Brien, 2011): the typical response to uncertainty and indeterminacy is to use a strategy of *problem-solving* (Lörscher 1996; Tirkkonen-Condit, 2000; de Groot, 2000; Sánchez-Gijón, e.a. 2009; Montero Martínez & Faber Benítez, 2009; Angelone, 2010). The overall strategy of the interpreter makes use of the combined actions of his own memory, the speaker’s interventions and purely ad hoc translation methods (Gile 2002; Gile 2009; Kalina, 2005; Rodríguez & Schnell, 2009). Translators on the other hand can arm themselves against uncertainties, not by consulting their own memory but by making use of complex terminological management tools, databases and extensively described methodologies such as ISO.

Academic curricula train graduates to cope with the multitude of uncertainties they encounter, such as the increasing use of English in other languages. Students learn how to efficiently manage the terminological challenge, that is, how to adjust their translation solutions to match the translation or interpretation context, whether it is a peer-to-peer or expert–non-expert setting. We'll discuss our concrete treatment of Anglicisms for translators and interpreters using existing medical glossaries.
Bibliography


Hildegard Vermeiren holds a Ph.D. in Romance Literature and Linguistics. She is a lecturer at the University of Ghent, where she teaches Interpreting, Deontology, Audio description and Latin American Cultural History. She is a conference interpreter and translator. Her research interests are oriented towards the interpreting profession. She is currently working on “Coping with uncertainties in interpreting assignments” and “Terminology for (conference, liaison) interpreters”.

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