



Secondary term formation in EU translations: a case of 'monitored laissez-faire'?

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Secondary term formation in the EU

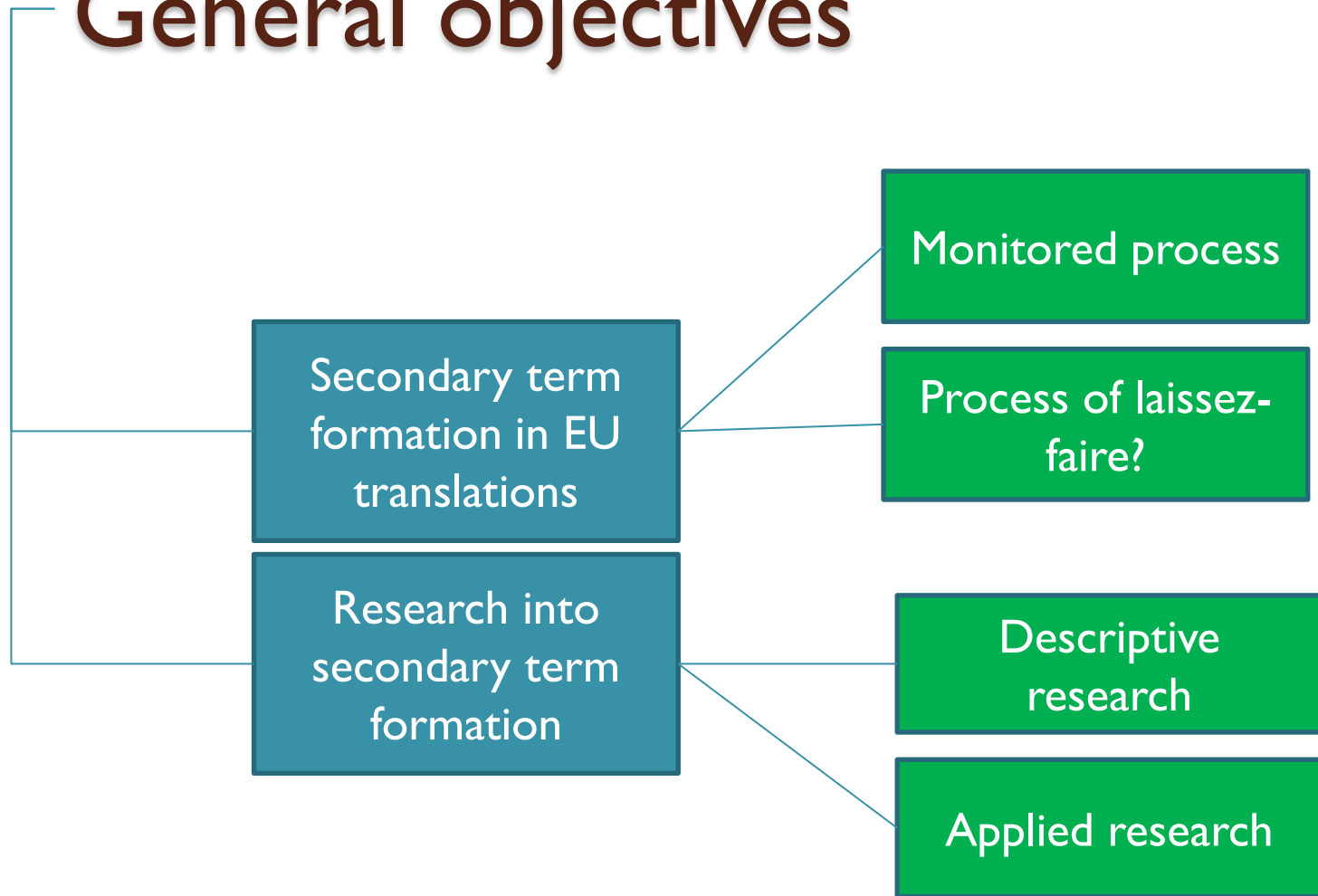
"Linguistic communities in Europe by and large consist of majority language groups, each having developed a standard language which is widely respected and used by the formally educated classes."

"The language is fully developed in all modes and for all techniques of expression and is therefore capable of hosting new concepts transferred from other linguistic communities."

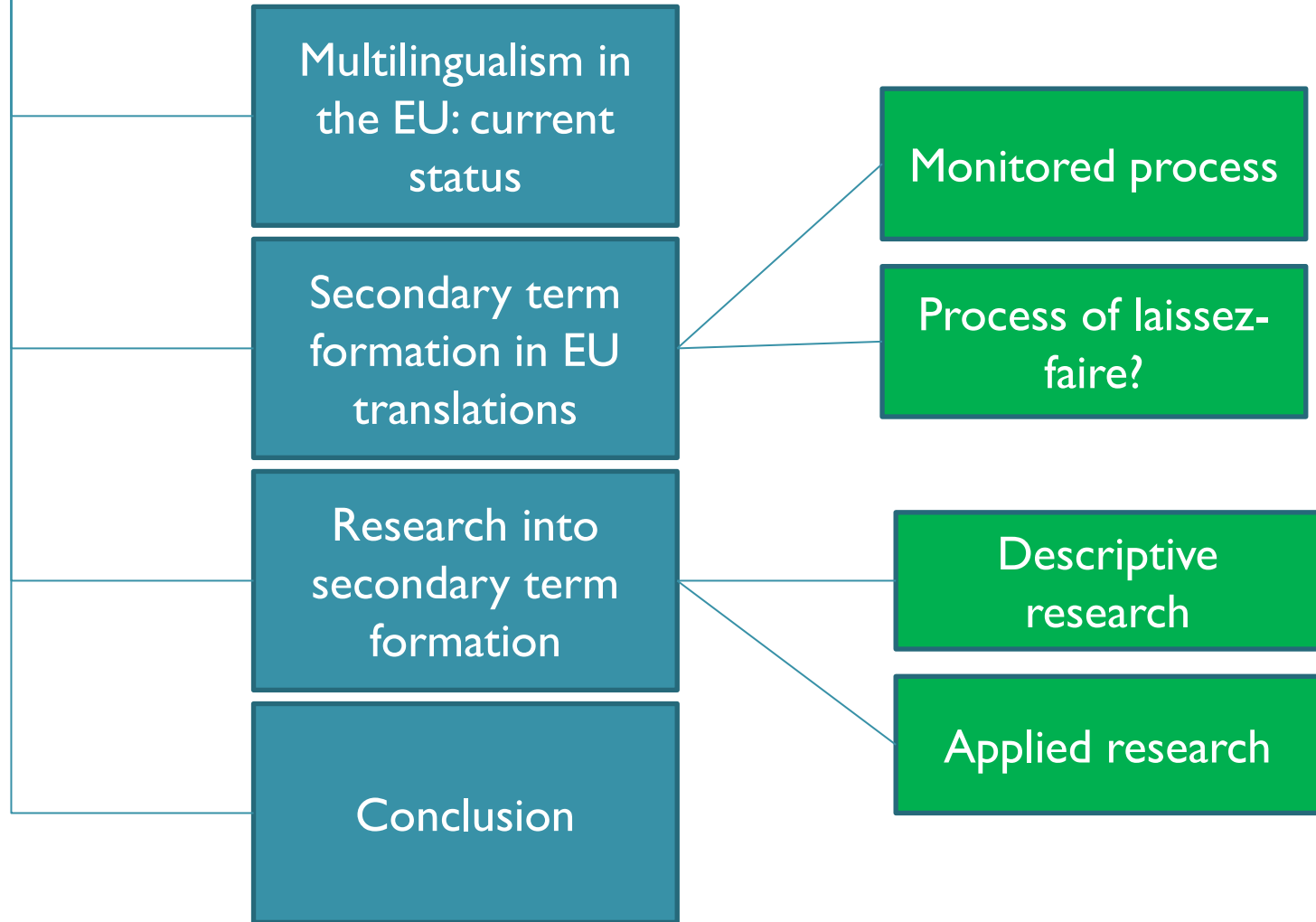
"The attitude to secondary term formation in these countries is consequently one of monitored laissez-faire, with occasional intervention, in the knowledge that the tradition of primary term formation in the national language is capable of finding its own mixture of acceptable borrowing, adaptation, etc."

(Sager 2001: 253)

General objectives



Outline of this presentation

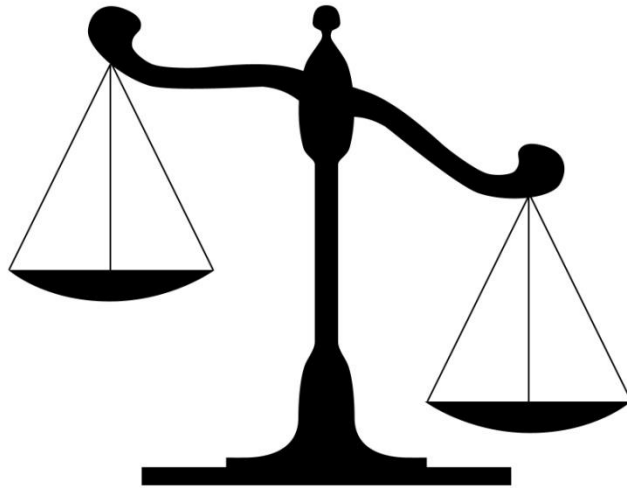


Multilingualism in the EU



- 23 languages (2011)
- ‘multiple authenticity’ (Wagner et al. 2002)

Multilingualism in the EU

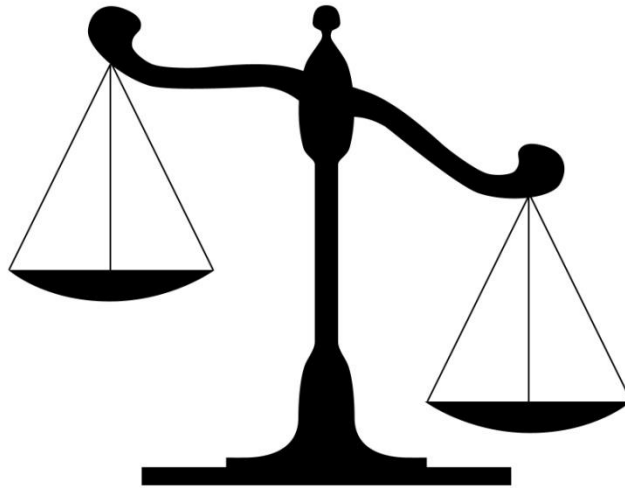


"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"

(George Orwell, *Animal Farm*)

- “EU’s multilingual drafting system is *not based on co-drafting*” (Somssich et al. 2010: 88)
- Impact of the drafting languages on the terminology in the other official languages

Multilingualism in the EU



- Situation in 2008:

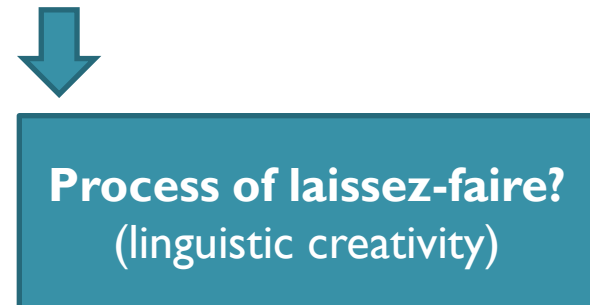
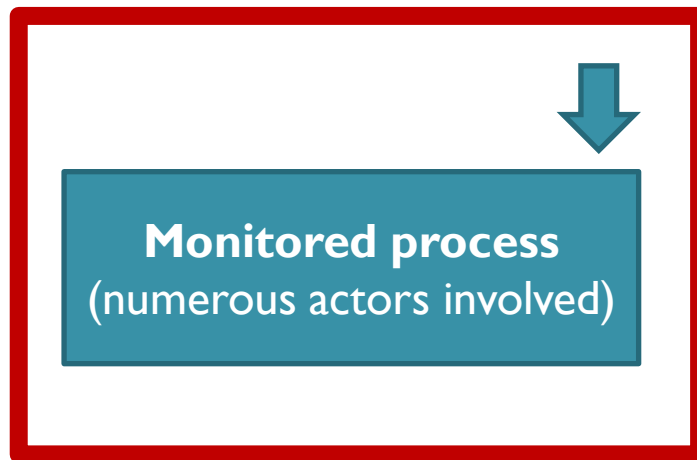
- **72% (English)**
- 12% (French)
- 3% (German)

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"

(George Orwell, *Animal Farm*)

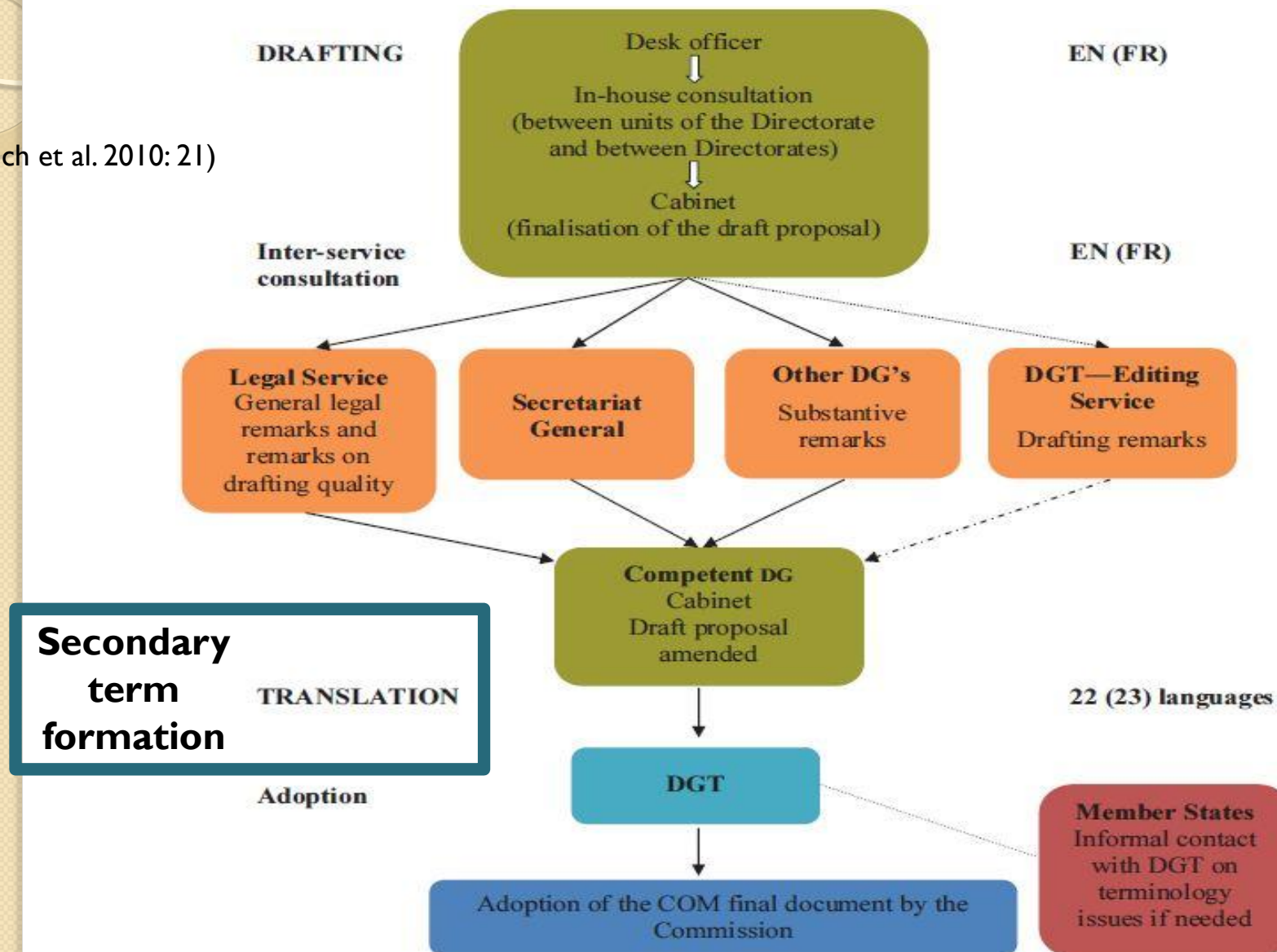
(Source:
<http://www.euractiv.com/en/culture/eu-translation-policy-stay/article-70516>)

Secondary term formation in EU translations



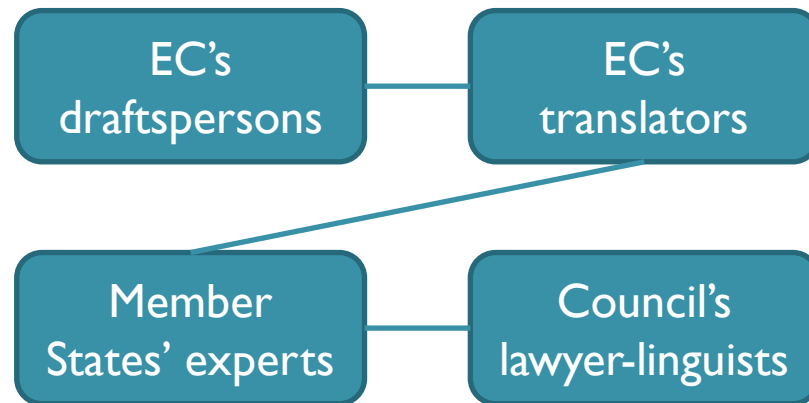
Drafting, translating and legal revision

(Somssich et al. 2010: 21)



Determining conceptual equivalence

- i.e. to ensure the same legal effect
- How is this achieved?
 - e.g. Informal contacts



- e.g. ELISE tool

Secondary term formation in EU translations

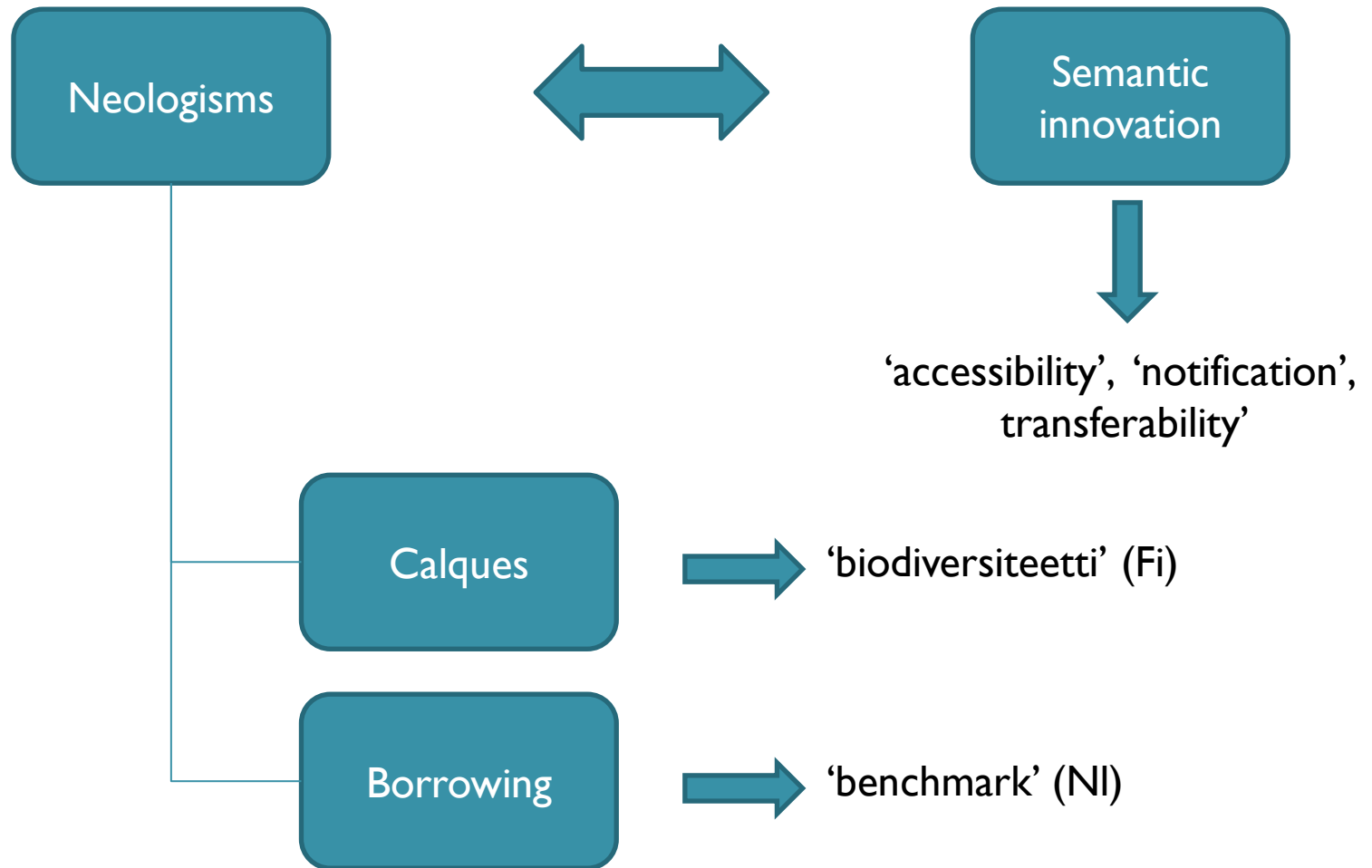


Monitored process
(numerous actors involved)



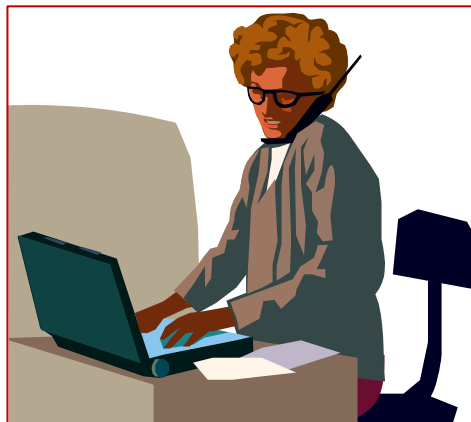
Process of laissez-faire?
(linguistic creativity)

Some familiar translation techniques



Some influential factors

General term
formation
criteria



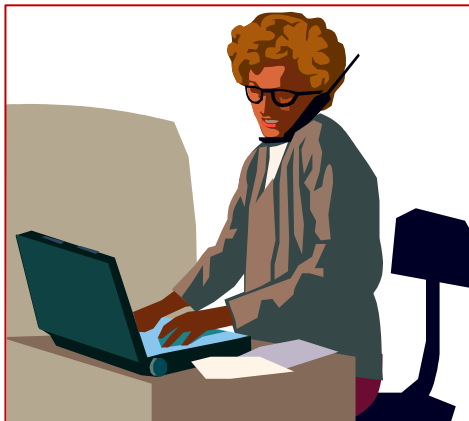
Tsakona (2007):



- linguistic norms
- register compatibility
- reversibility
- semantic transparency
- etc.

Some influential factors

EU guidelines

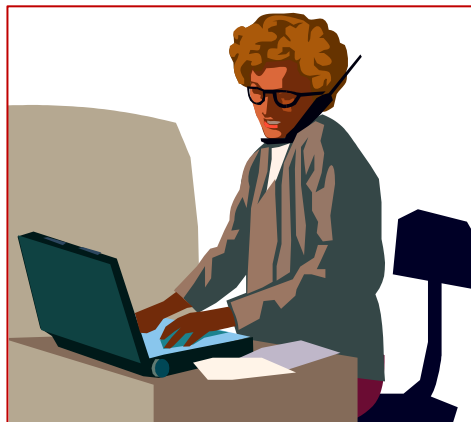


“Joint Practical Guide of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission for persons involved in the drafting of legislation within the Community institutions”
(2003)

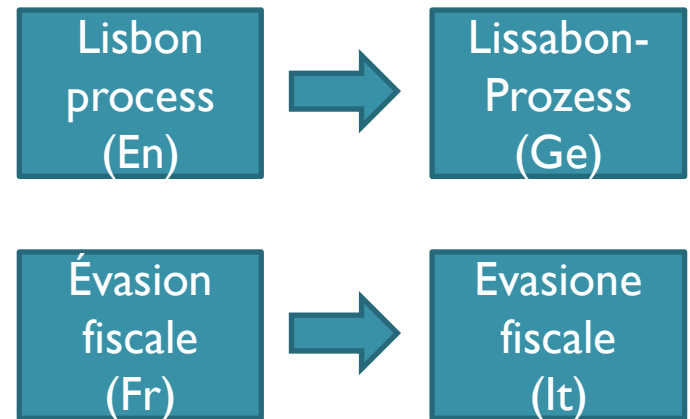


- aim at terminology consistency
- avoid culture-specific terminology
- etc.

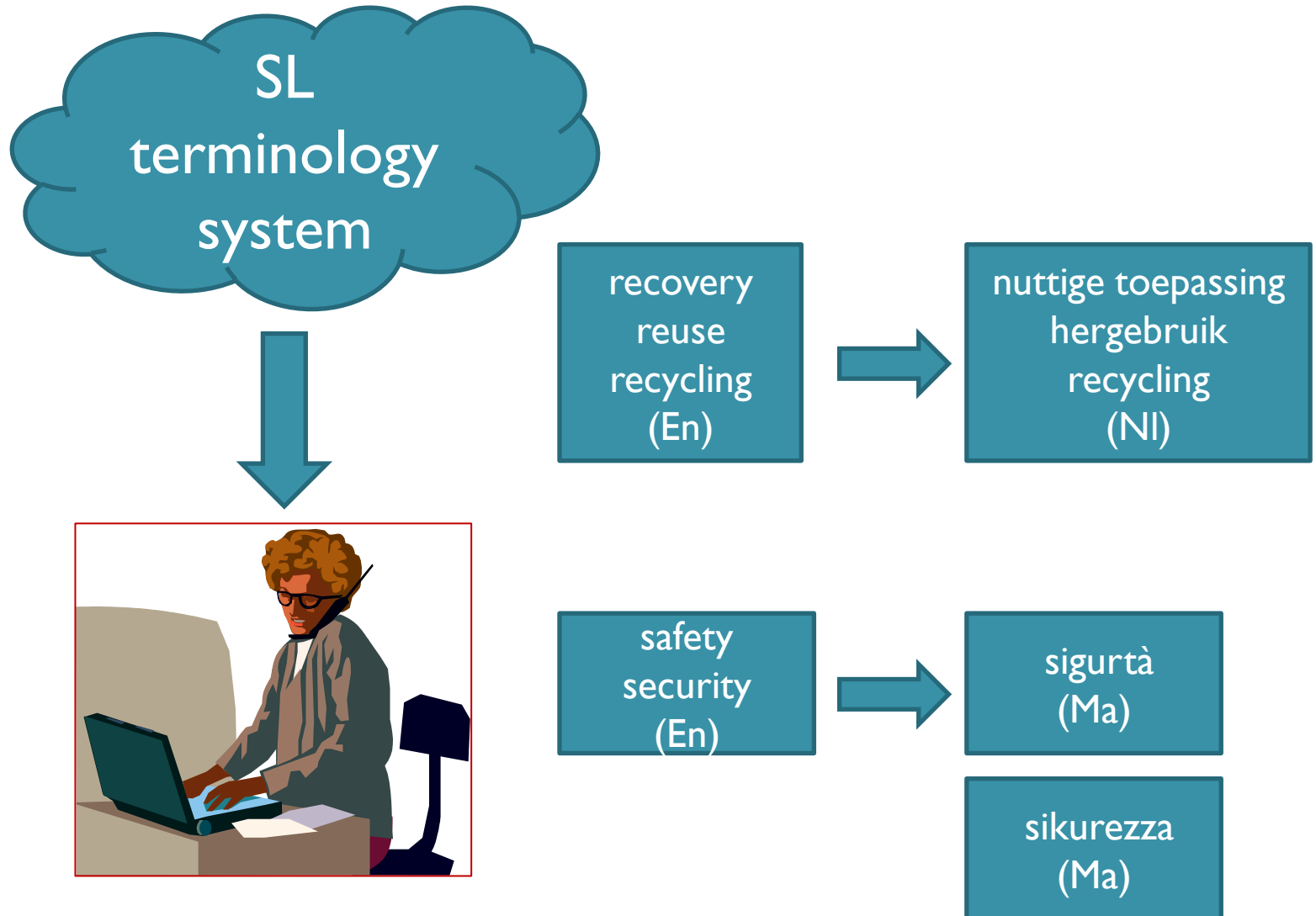
Some influential factors



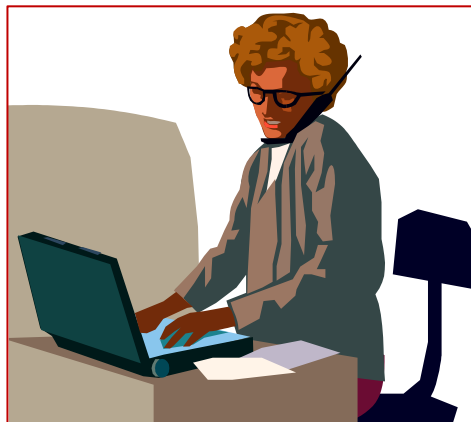
e.g. False friends:



Some influential factors



Some influential factors



Long-term care
(En)

Soins de
longue durée
(Fr)

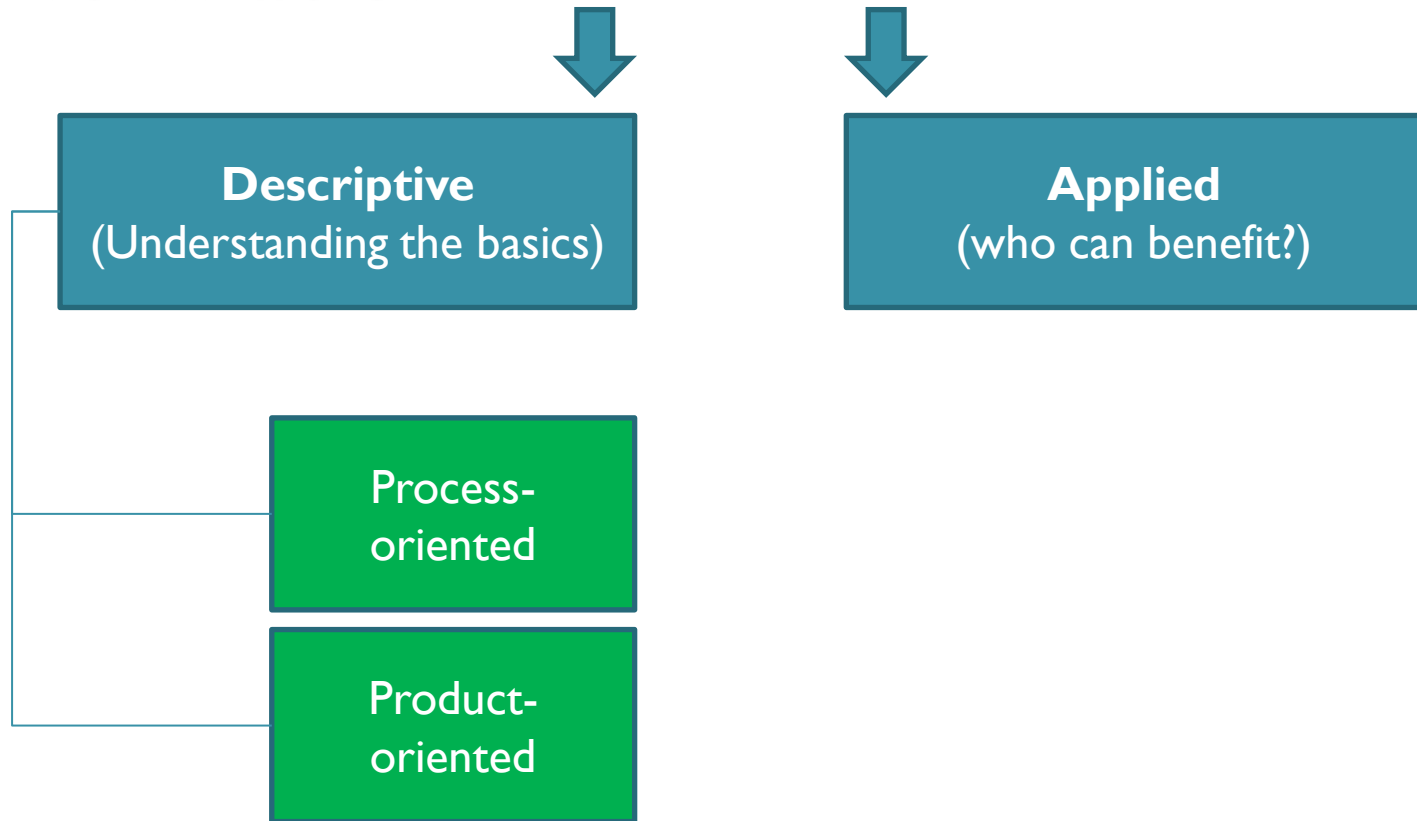
Dépendance
(Fr)

Residence
permit
(En)

Titre de séjour
(Fr)

Autorisation
de séjour (Fr)

Research into secondary term formation



Descriptive **process**-oriented research

- Focus on the translation process and (f)actors that have an impact on term choice
- cf. Somssich et al. (2010)
 - who is involved in the process of secondary term formation? what problems need to be tackled? what decisions need to be taken? What contextual factors have an impact on the secondary term formation processes? what different working strategies can be discerned? etc.
- Method:
 - Interviews with representatives
 - Questionnaires
 - Reading of texts issues by different institutions (translation services)

Descriptive *product*-oriented research

- Focus on the *result* of the process of secondary term formation
 1. E.g. does monitoring leave room for linguistic creativity and variation?
 2. E.g. do official European texts really mean the same in different cultures and different languages?



research materials
needed

Descriptive *product*-oriented research



Monitoring of the EU decision making process between institutions

<http://ec.europa.eu/prelex>

- follows stages of decision-making
- monitors work of institutions
- follow-up of EC proposals

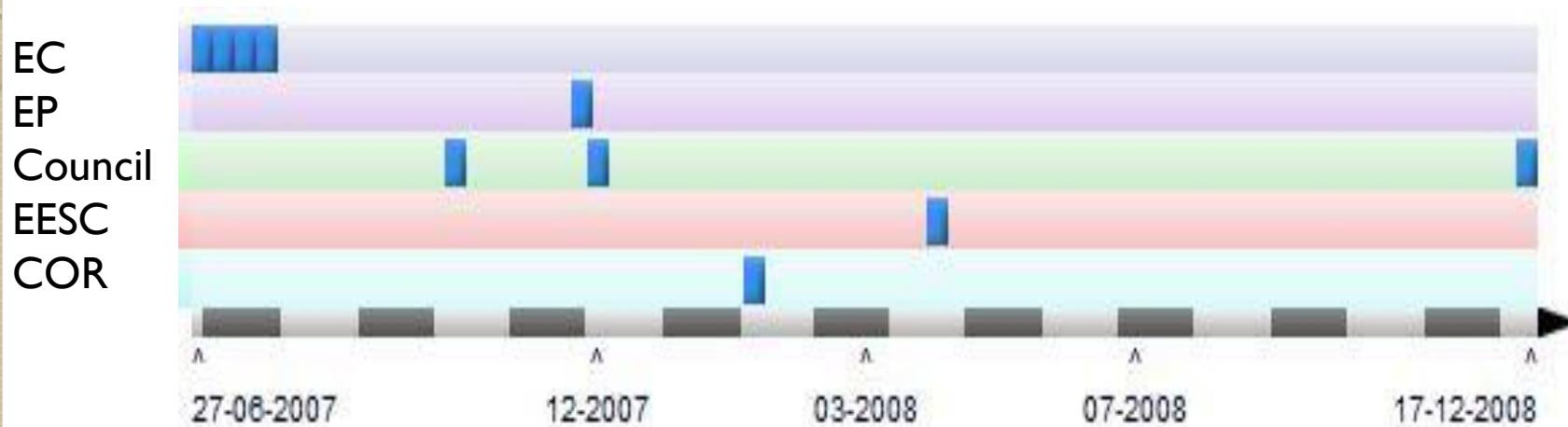


e.g. '**flexicurity**':

This means a welfare state model with a pro-active labour market policy. The model is a combination of easy hiring and firing (flexibility for employers) and high benefits for the unemployed (security for the employees). It was first implemented in Denmark in the 1990's.

(http://europa.eu/abc/eurojargon/index_en.htm)

Descriptive *product*-oriented research



Links to:

EUR-Lex

Access to EU law

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Descriptive *product*-oriented research

Bilingual display

[pic] COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES	[pic] COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES
Brussels, 27.6.2007	Bruxelles, le 27.6.2007
COM(2007) 359 final	COM(2007) 359 final
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS	COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION AU PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN, AU CONSEIL, AU COMITÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL EUROPÉEN ET AU COMITÉ DES RÉGIONS
Towards Common Principles of Flexicurity : More and better jobs through flexibility and security	Vers des principes communs de flexicurité : Des emplois plus nombreux et de meilleure qualité en combinant flexibilité et sécurité

- Promote “**flexicurity**” principles and ensure the employability of job seekers.
- Förderung eines Gleichgewichts zwischen Flexibilität und Beschäftigungssicherheit („**Flexicurity**“) und Gewährleistung der Beschäftigungsfähigkeit von Arbeitssuchenden.
- promouvoir les principes de **flexicurité** et assurer l’employabilité des demandeurs d’emploi;
- Bevordering van de beginselen van **flexizekerheid** en de inzetbaarheid van werkzoekenden.
- Promover os princípios da «**flexissegurança**» e assegurar a possibilidade de emprego aos candidatos.(pt)

Descriptive *product*-oriented research

- Linguistic creativity and variation
 - Examine whether translators of specialised texts tend to **ignore terminological variation** or whether they respect decisions made by the author(s) of the source text.
 - the main purpose of an LSP text, irrespective of the text type, is always to convey factual information
 - the translator has to aim at high readability but also meet the stylistic requirements of the target language. These two criteria may or may not be compatible.
 - Examine patterns or regularities in variational use
 - Examine parameters that have an impact on terminological variation

Giehl (2006)

Descriptive *product*-oriented research

- Do official EU texts really mean the same in different languages and cultures?

Prevention: There are six principal <u>pathways</u> for IS:	Prévention: On dénombre six grandes <u>voies d'introduction</u> des EE:	Preventie: De introductie van IS kan in hoofdzaak <u>via zes mechanismen</u> plaatsvinden:
release, escape, contaminant,	lâcher, fuite, contamination,	door opzettelijk uitzetten, door ontsnapping, als contaminant,
hitchhiker ,	passage clandestin ,	als verstekeling ,
corridor and unaided .	couloir ou introduction spontanée .	via een corridor en door toeval ("op eigen kracht").
Prevention in relation to <u>hitchhiker organisms</u> brought in on the hulls or in the ballast water of ships would hugely benefit from the ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Convention.	La ratification et la mise en œuvre de la convention sur les eaux de ballast seraient essentielles à la prévention en ce qui concerne les <u>organismes qui voyagent clandestinement</u> sur les coques des navires ou dans les eaux de ballast de ceux-ci.	Preventie van de introductie van door zeeschepen meegebrachte " <u>verstekelingen</u> " zal een stuk makkelijker worden zodra het internationaal ballastwaterverdrag wordt geratificeerd en in de praktijk gebracht.

Descriptive *product*-oriented research

- Do official EU texts really mean the same in different languages and cultures?

“Multilingual concordance, i.e. ensuring that all language versions of a document say exactly the same thing, has always been a problem in a multilingual translation service like DGT. The ways of tackling this issue are costly and burdensome, and the situation has worsened in recent years with the exponential increase in the number of language versions.”

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/publications/studies/quality_management_translation_en.pdf

Applied research

- How can corpus linguistic studies provide support in the process of secondary term formation (to make sure that all criteria are met):
 - e.g. *anticipation and detection* (Andersen; Cabré and Nazar)
 - e.g. *term connotations* (Dury)
 - e.g. *contrastive analyses* (Musacchio; Palacios and Vincente; Renouf)

Conclusion

- Secondary term formation in EU translations: a case of monitored laissez-faire
- Further research into the process of secondary term formation:
 - e.g. are the same translation techniques applied to all text types, cultures,...?
 - e.g. what additional factors have an impact on term choice in the target languages (apart from the ones already described)?
 - e.g. the impact of EU language/terminology on neologies in languages at the national and regional level
 - e.g. contrastive study of the policies in the 23 official languages in taking over EU working language terms or creating their own neologisms?