

# The History and Recent Trends of Terminology in Hungary in the 21st Century<sup>1</sup>

Vengrijos terminologijos istorija ir naujausios tendencijos XXI amžiuje

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to provide a review of the history and recent trends of terminology that impacted the evolution of terminology in Hungary in the 21st century. The last two decades brought effective changes in higher education, vocational training, scientific qualification, and publication in Hungary. All these changes provided an opportunity for better understanding, development, and teaching of terminology theory and terminology management, as well as strengthening international relations and starting a dialogue about Hungarian terminology policies.

The paper first presents the significant changes in Hungarian terminology in the last two decades from the perspective of language rights and then focuses on the most important scientific publications in the field of terminology. The paper also highlights and presents in more detail the domains in which significant terminological work has been carried out in the previous two decades: Hungarian terms of law and public administration, EU-specific terms, medical terms, and terminology and nomenclature of natural sciences.

**KEYWORDS:** Hungarian terminology, history of terminology, trends of the 21st century, terminology management, publications on terminology.

## ANOTACIJA

Šio straipsnio tikslas – apžvelgti terminologijos istoriją ir naujausias tendencijas, kurios turėjo įtakos terminų raidai Vengrijoje XXI amžiuje. Pastarieji du

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dešimtmečiai Vengrijoje atnešė veiksmingų pokyčių aukštojo mokslo, profesinio rengimo, mokslinės kvalifikacijos ir leidybos srityse. Visi šie pokyčiai suteikė galimybę geriau suprasti, plėtoti ir dėstyti terminologijos teoriją ir terminų tvarkybą, taip pat sustiprinti tarptautinius ryšius ir pradėti dialogą apie vengrų terminologijos politiką.

Straipsnyje pirmiausia pristatomi reikšmingi vengrų terminijos pokyčiai per pastaruosius du dešimtmečius iš kalbos teisių perspektyvos, o vėliau dėmesys sutelkiamas į svarbiausias terminologijos srities mokslines publikacijas. Straipsnyje taip pat išryškintos ir išsamiau pristatomos sritys, kuriose per pastaruosius du dešimtmečius buvo atliktas reikšmingas terminologijos darbas: Vengrijos teisės ir viešojo administravimo terminai, specifiniai ES terminai, medicinos terminai bei gamtos mokslų terminai ir nomenklatūra.

**ESMINIAI ŽODŽIAI:** vengrų terminija, terminologijos istorija, XXI amžiaus tendencijos, terminų tvarkyba, terminologijos leidiniai.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A significant number of books and articles have been published in Hungarian on the history of the Hungarian language, including the history of Hungarian specialized languages and terminology. There are fewer publications in English on the history of Hungarian terminology and a few articles were published on the trends and characteristics of Hungarian terminology at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries (e.g., Fóris 2010a. and Fóris forthcoming, Muráth 2010). The first two decades of the 21st century brought several new developments in the field of Hungarian terminology, and many scientific publications were published at the time. This paper aims to review and summarize the results and trends of these two decades.

### 1.1. Background and trends

It is essential to start with a glance back at the end of the 20th century<sup>2</sup>. Changes and transitions in Hungarian industry, economy, and society already started in the 1980s. Some of these changes include the following: the introduction of a new system of taxation in harmony with the market; the formation of a dual-level banking system, that is, a central bank and commercial banks; conversion to a fixed (currency) price regime, etc. (see Fóris 2010a). This was facilitated and accelerated by the regime change in 1989, which was accompanied by the demise of the

<sup>2</sup> For an overview of the history of Hungarian terminology in the 20th century, see Fóris forthcoming.

former socialist conceptual system of economics. As a result, a new, democratic and market economic terminology system, in line with the Western European terminology system, had to be created in several domains (e.g., economy, trade) in the 1990s. New businesses, publishing houses, translation agencies, and multinational companies were created. Several bilingual and multilingual glossaries were published by small publishers, primarily to assist with technical translation. The 1990s saw significant changes in technology worldwide, including Hungary (e.g., the development of information technology and telecommunications), with the advent of personal computers and the Internet, along with the first steps of digitalisation and work in the online space.

In the 1990s and 2000s, standardisation was also transformed in Eastern European countries (for more information on the standardisation organisations in these countries, see Bölcskei 2019). In Hungary, the former state agency was transformed in 1995 into an independent public benefit organisation, and the Hungarian Standards Institution (MSZT; [www.mszt.hu](http://www.mszt.hu)) was established. This was one of the preparatory steps and conditions for Hungary's accession to the European Union in 2004. The primary task of the MSZT was to introduce EU standards in Hungary and, when possible, translate them into Hungarian. The Institution also provides certification. National standardisation is always carried out in the official language of the country (Hungarian) and involvement in international and European standardisation processes means that the English (specialized) language also plays an important role. However, for financial reasons, many European standards have been introduced as Hungarian standards in English; more than two-thirds of the Hungarian standards are in English, and as a result, the terminology is also in English. Consequently, about only one-third of the terminological standards and term lists in the introduction of standards have been published in Hungarian. The standards on terminological processes are international standards and have not been introduced in Hungary.

The last two decades of the 20th century saw significant changes in the field of sports terminology. Since the second half of the 1980s, more than thirty new sports and forty sports federations have been registered in Hungary. This means that nearly one in two sports became established in these decades, and new sports are appearing to this day. Some of these new sports have retained their original terminology (e.g., Far Eastern martial

arts), while others have been given terminology in Hungarian (e.g., rugby/rögbi). The terminology of the new sports has been included in dictionaries, manuals, rulebooks, and several studies that have been published on the terminology of sports languages.

In the past, the role of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was crucial in scientific and academic terminology. However, at the end of the 20th century, higher education and the system of scientific qualifications were restructured, and academic education and qualifications were transferred from the Academy to the universities (PhD level, introduction of the Bologna system). In addition, the language of publications, particularly in the natural sciences, medicine, engineering and mathematics, has shifted largely towards English. Moreover, scientific journals in Hungarian gradually disappeared and scientific publishing in Hungarian declined; this trend continues today. Hungarian-language scientific terminology survives thanks to Hungarian-language higher education. While many European countries switched from using the mother tongue to English in higher education (especially at a master's and PhD level) in the 2000s, the language of higher education in Hungarian universities remains Hungarian (see e.g., Fóris 2010b). Only in the last decade did Hungarian higher education shift towards English-language programmes, especially at the master's and PhD levels. This is partially due to the government-sponsored “Stipendium Hungaricum” scholarship programme for international students, which has aimed to facilitate the internationalization of Hungarian higher education since 2013. The result of these changes has been the exclusivity of English terminology in higher-level scientific publications, and this has simultaneously led to bilingualism in higher education and the need for establishing English–Hungarian terminology equivalence in many areas.

In addition to codifying, there has now emerged normative, descriptive, and current corpus-based grammars, dictionaries, and databases; the creation of terminological databases has also begun. In the area of linguistics, descriptive, data-based, empirical research has become stronger, while in terminology, the standardising and prescriptive trend gave way to the approach aimed at harmonisation in support of diversity.

The codification of the standard version of the Hungarian language and its specialised languages was completed by the middle of the 20th century. The tools of codification were grammar, spelling rules, and dictionaries; the tools for the creation and dissemination of terms were newspapers and

popular science and professional journals. Several comprehensive books on 20th-century general language standardisation and codification have been published, but there is not enough data on how standardisation has affected different language varieties (such as specialised languages), nor on the history of terminology in different disciplines and professions (Laczkó 2015). People working in various disciplines, mainly within the framework of professional organisations and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, have carried out considerable terminological work; however, their history and results have only been processed and documented in a few cases in the 20th century (e.g., the history of the language of chemistry).

## **1.2. Purpose and methodology**

The purpose of this paper is to provide a general overview of the history and recent trends of terminology that impacted the evolution of terminology in Hungary in the 21st century. Firstly, this paper will present the significant changes in Hungarian terminology in the last two decades from the position of language rights, and then highlight the most important scientific publications in the field of terminology. Furthermore, the domains in which significant terminological work has been carried out in the previous two decades will be highlighted and presented in more detail: law and public administration terminology, EU-specific terms, medical terminology, and terminology and nomenclature of natural sciences.

The chosen research method is a review and evaluation based on published articles: of the literature on terminology and historical linguistics; and academic and professional websites (synthesis and analysis of previous research); summarizing monographs, PhD theses, and databases on terminology have also been collected and highlighted.

## **2. THE FIRST TWO DECADES OF THE 21ST CENTURY. GENERAL QUESTIONS**

Terminology is an interdisciplinary scientific and professional field; it is related to various disciplines and professions, as well as to language policy, lexicology, lexicography, LSP research, and translation.

### **2.1. Language rights**

Most of the literature on language policy in Hungary has been in the field of language planning, more precisely, status planning and corpus

planning. Terminology-related areas are covered by terminology policies and terminology planning (see UNESCO Guidelines 2005). The majority of native Hungarian speakers live in Hungary, but a smaller number live outside Hungary in neighbouring countries where Hungarian is a minority language; each country has a linguistic environment with a different majority language (Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian, Croatian, Ukrainian, and German). The Hungarian language is pluricentric (Vančo, Muhr, Kozmács, Huber 2020). A variety of external influences (e.g., economic, legal, cultural) impact Hungarian terminology. Consequently, language change (including terminological change) develops in different ways in Hungary and minority contexts. By the turn of the millennium, Central European countries completely overhauled their legal systems, and as part of this process, they also created new language laws. In Hungary, the amended constitution, drafted after the fall of communism in 1989, did not yet proclaim the official language of the country; however, it did state that national and linguistic minorities were building blocks of the state and that it would ensure the use of their mother tongue, education in their mother tongue, and the use of names in their native language. The new constitution (called the “Fundamental Law of Hungary”) was adopted in 2011 and it stated that the official language of the country was Hungarian (Andrássy 2017: 74–75).

The conceptual and terminological systems of communities speaking the same language naturally change and develop different conceptual and terminological systems, due to the different cultural, economic, legal, and administrative contexts (e.g., German LSPs in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland; English LSPs in different countries; Hungarian LSPs). Lanstyák (2002: 201) argues that it is natural that the Hungarian language changes in eight different ways in the countries of the Carpathian Basin, as linguistic changes are influenced by several factors outside of language. Thus, the terminology of Hungarian LSPs in the neighbouring countries was characterised by divergence, and it was only after the regime change in 1989 and the accession to the EU in 2004 that Hungarian speakers in the neighbouring countries were able to reconnect with the terminology used in Hungary. However, the harmonisation of the many Hungarian terminological variants and their collection in a database has not yet taken place, although initiatives have been taken (e.g., on language policy and language planning issues of Hungarians living in neighbouring countries, see e.g.,

Szabó Mihály 2009, and the studies on Hungarian terminology strategy in the “green paper”: Prószéky et al. 2023).

## 2.2. Terminology research, academic publications

In Hungarian linguistic literature, the discussion of general questions of terminology intensively started in the 2000s when the Wüsterian principles were “rediscovered”; from then on, various publications dealt with the terminological schools of the 1930s, primarily and thoroughly with Wüster’s work (e.g., Zabóné Varga 2015). Since then, there has also been an increased interest in other trends in terminology; in particular, this includes socio-terminology, following the work of Maria Teresa Cabré, and the sociocognitive approach advocated by Rita Temmerman. One especially popular topic has been the overlapping areas of terminology and translation (for a detailed account, see the volume titled *Translation and Terminology*: Fóris 2022).

Academic research in the field of terminology gained momentum mainly in linguistics rather than in the sciences, with a large number of publications and PhD dissertations on terminology. The *Magyar Terminológia* (Journal of Hungarian Terminology) was published between 2008 and 2013 at the Akadémiai Kiadó publishing house. Terminology as a discipline was introduced into higher education (BA, MA, and PhD levels), followed by the launch of the Master’s programme in Terminology (2011–2018) at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. There are also now terminology-related training courses at various institutions. There has been a much greater demand for terminological work, primarily in the translation industry and then in technical writing, which has led to the creation of terminology databases; mainly translation-oriented databases and dictionaries were created (e.g., the Hungarian content of IATE, the Termin database, and terminological databases at private companies). However, no national terminological database has been created. Several terminology organisations and research groups have been established that are also members of international terminology organisations (see Fóris 2022: 115–120).

Although the terminology of many specialised fields was already processed in the 20th century, in both specialised dictionaries and scientific publications (see Fóris forthcoming), it was not until the 21st century that the history of the terminology of individual specialised languages

and domains was surveyed in Hungarian literature in a more detailed and comprehensive manner (e.g., books and PhD dissertations on medical, mathematical, sports, legal, economic, technical, and music terminology). There have also been publications on general terminology theory and the state of Hungarian terminology (e.g., Fóris 2005).

Thus, a significant amount of terminological research and publications are carried out in research groups and PhD programmes at universities. In some companies (mainly translation agencies and multinational companies), terminology databases are being built, but in most cases, these are not public databases. For some time now, we have been attempting to bring together terminological research and terminological work, and also to start work on a Hungarian terminology portal and a national, public, Hungarian terminology database. Several books have been published in the past few years that discuss the details, sub-fields, and tasks related to the Hungarian terminology strategy (in general: Fóris, Bölskei 2019 and Prózský et al. 2023; on the terminology of law and public administration: Tamás, Szoták 2021, Rixer 2023 and issue 2023/X/3 of the journal *Glossa Juridica*). It is promising that the construction of a terminology portal has also started because of the work launched in 2021 by the Terminology Research Group at the Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics.

### 3. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND SUBJECT FIELDS

Some of the areas in which extensive research has been carried out over the last two decades are highlighted below: the terminology of law and public administration, EU-specific terms, medical terminology, and terminology and nomenclature of natural sciences. Due to the large number of publications, a selected bibliography is given here. Where a summary volume or article on the subject has been published, it is cited as a reference.

#### **3.1. Terminology of law and public administration**

##### *3.1.1. Terms of hungarian law and public administration*

In the legal and public administration fields, linguistic and terminology issues are addressed in publications concerning the requirements of *comprehensible* and *accessible communication* and are linked to efficiency and ethical issues. In the legal field, the requirement to use plain language is most relevant when drafting and translating legislation; in the administrative



field, it is mainly relevant when communicating with citizens (mostly lay-people) and drafting official documents.

Various initiatives have been launched worldwide to improve the clarity of official language use, mainly to provide stylistic, syntactic, and lexical recommendations (e.g., the *Plain Language Movement* in the USA in the 1970s, the *Plain English Campaign* in England in the 1980s, the European Commission's *Clear writing for Europe* campaign in 2010).

The general requirement for understandability is set out in legislation (see Tóth 2022), while the details of how to achieve clarity are laid out in standards (e.g., IEC/IEEE 82079-1:2019; ISO 24495-1:2023) and various style and language guides. The comprehensibility of legal documents is partly a linguistic issue and partly a legal one and can be assessed along many variables.

Among the factors that make texts difficult to understand, the most frequently highlighted ones are the use of terminology and the syntactic and textual features. Linguistic analyses point out that there are no universally applicable guidelines to ensure the comprehensibility of legal texts, and that simplifying the language used (e.g., shortening sentences, replacing terms with colloquialisms) does not necessarily make the text comprehensible. It is also noteworthy that accuracy of content and comprehensibility are often in conflict. It is also important to consider the target audience and their legal and linguistic background.

In Hungary, the issues of law and language were already interlinked in the 19th century, and the collection and creation of legal terminology was a central issue at that time. Research on Hungarian legal terminology gained new impetus in the 1960s when concerns about the comprehensibility of legal language were raised. In the 1980s, research began on the most important features of legal terminology. After the 2000s, the study of the language use of EU texts turned attention to the translation of legal texts and legal terminology (see e.g., Vinnai 2017). There has also been corpus-based research to study the comprehensibility of legal texts. At the University of Miskolc, the *Miskolc Legal Corpus* was created to use corpus linguistic methods to investigate the characteristics of legal texts in a large corpus of legal texts. In this study, lawyers and linguists collaborated to discover whether there are features of Hungarian legal terminology that hinder its comprehensibility (Vincze 2018); a book summarising this large-scale research was also published (Szabó, Vinnai 2018). In one part of the study, sentence

structure and spelling features were analysed (predicate structures, subject structures, coordination and subordination, punctuation). In addition, the conceptual and terminological structure and the meaning structure of the texts were analysed (grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic elements were captured). Their findings indicate that comprehensibility varies according to the type of text (e.g., the texts easiest to understand are forum texts and transcripts, followed by legislation and code law, and the most difficult to understand are court decisions and explanatory texts). The fact that semantic and pragmatic features must also play a significant role in the analysis, and that law often takes on the language of the regulated reality, means that the difficulty is often not caused by the legal terms, but by unfamiliar terms of the profession and unfamiliar schemas and scripts (Szabó, Vinnai 2018: 33; Zódi 2018: 260). The studies show that the requirement of comprehensibility does not apply to all types of texts, but only to those produced by professionals for lay audiences using general language.

The *translation* of legal and administrative documents spans both the translation of foreign language documents into Hungarian and the translation of Hungarian documents into foreign languages. Several institutional (state-funded) actors are involved in this work. Here are a few worth mentioning: (1) the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation (OFFI)<sup>3</sup>, (2) the Ministry of Justice, and (3) the translation service of the EU. The third is surveyed in a separate subsection (see 3.1.2. Section). (Interestingly, from the perspective of translation professionals, EU texts are not considered as part of the legal-administrative language, but EU legal-administrative LSP is treated as a subset of EU language.) A considerable number of publications on the translation work carried out by OFFI have been published in recent years, mostly by OFFI itself (the Hungarian volumes are free to download from <https://www.offi.hu/offi-akademia/kiadvanyaink>). Most of them share useful practices in day-to-day operations; several of them also deal with terminology issues, for example, in certified translation (Szoták 2021). The series includes a book written with the aim of standardising terminology in the EU's legal translation programme (Tamás 2019). This volume is partly a glossary sharing specific legal terms in several languages. The main information (term, definition, domain, comment on translation practice, context, document type, sources) can be found in Hungarian, supplemented by

3 OFFI is a state-owned language services company under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice.

equivalents in English, French, German, and Italian. Advice for translators is also included; this is mainly on concepts of different countries' legal systems, such as their country-specific characteristics. The book also includes a collection of legal documents. This was followed by a volume that published the mapping of legal terms in the official languages of Hungary's neighbouring countries (Tamás, Szoták 2021). The starting language is again Hungarian, in which the main information is given, then supplemented by equivalents and advice for translators in Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian, Romanian, Slovak, and Ukrainian. Meanwhile, the third part of the book series on Russian, Spanish and Portuguese legal terms has been published (Tamás 2023). An important part of supporting the translation project process is *terminology support*, which is now essential for producing quality legal translations. This is why the OFFI launched the IUSTerm legal and administrative terminology database project in 2014 (see Tamás 2020).<sup>4</sup>

In Hungary, the introduction of digital administration began in the 2000s and has affected all areas of administration, with a particularly large impact on public administration. From both a terminological and a comprehensibility point of view, customers and administrations must use the same concepts, conceptual system, and terminology. The introduction of e-government and e-public administration also meant a considerable amount of terminological work for the developers working on digitisation (Majzikné Bausz 2008). The task of these developers was not to build a completely new terminology system but to incorporate the existing terminology systems of administration and information technology into an electronic information system through which multi-level communication between administrators and customers can be achieved. Part of this task was for the experts to carry out the terminological classification process through the harmonisation of linguistic markers; furthermore, the standardisation of concepts was also conducted (Majzikné Bausz 2008: 60). The developers have therefore carried out both terminology planning and terminological work, using IT methods to describe a hierarchical system of administrative terms based on meaning. They had to link the management of the registers (databases) to the operation of the sectoral systems and to enable interoperability (i.e. technical, organisational, and semantic interoperability) between the systems.

4 This database is not publicly accessible.

In the 2000s, several PhD theses were written on legal terminology, the use of language in legal procedures and the process of law enforcement, as well as on the diachronic study of legal terminology and the role of terminological workflows in high-quality legislation (Bereczné Szép 2012; Vinnai 2012; Novák 2019; Balogh 2020).

The importance of working with legal terminology is demonstrated by the launch of a special journal on legal language in 2007 titled *Magyar Jogi Nyelv* (Hungarian Legal Language); several thematic issues of the *Glossa Iuridica* deal with the connections of law and language (Glossa Iuridica 2011/I/1, 2023/X/3).

### 3.1.2. EU-specific terms

Studies into EU terminology gained momentum in the 2000s. Terminology and specialized language of the EU are used at the EU institutions. Ever since Hungary's accession to the EU in 2004, there has been an increasing alignment with EU terminology, including legal, administrative, economic, and business harmonisation (e.g., institutions, laws, standards, Statistical Classification of Economic Activities codes). The so-called EU language (the language of EU documents, "Eurolect", see Mori 2018), is used by translators when translating laws, rules, etc., into Hungarian. Translators are often confronted with the fact that the EU conceptual system does not correspond to the Hungarian conceptual system. For example, some concepts are missing and therefore do not have an equivalent in Hungarian; consequently, the need to describe and name a concept often arises at the same time. Translating EU terminology into Hungarian required a great deal of effort because it was necessary to find or create the appropriate lexemes in Hungarian for an existing (and already defined) EU conceptual system without introducing new ones to replace the existing Hungarian terms; however, when the Hungarian lexeme is missing and a new one is needed, this has to be done in compliance with the terminological and word formation rules and norms of Hungarian.

Among the characteristics of specialized EU language, Klaudy has pointed out that the common background is the institutional system of the EU (e.g., offices, functions, regulations, directives, resolutions); the linguistic features of the texts are strongly influenced by the supranational nature of the EU, and the institutional culture and the system of offices of the EU underlie the text. Klaudy was primarily concerned with the

translation of EU texts in the context of translator training. She pointed out that it does not only include the translation of EU legislation in the narrow sense but also a wide range of texts and text types used in the everyday operations of the EU (e.g., regulations, speeches, official letters, minutes, communications, memoranda, treaties, resolutions, decisions, CVs) are included among EU texts (Klaudy 2004).

Fischer argues that the main feature of EU texts is that they are composed in a multilingual environment. As a consequence of the continuous translation work, EU texts are characterised by a specific lingo, which has also led to the emergence of distinct EU language varieties – Eurolects – in the official EU languages<sup>5</sup>. For example, an EU layer of official languages has been created, which can have several layers of specialized language (e.g., legal and administrative) (Fischer 2023). These EU languages have a distinctive text structure, syntax, and lexicon; therefore, research on Eurolects includes lexical, phraseological, syntactic, morphological, and text-level research. From a terminological point of view, the EU has created an autonomous legal system which functions as a conceptual system in its own right and is described by 24 languages of equal status, one of which is Hungarian. Terminological studies require an examination and comparison of the underlying conceptual systems of the Member States and the EU. This is complicated by the fact that some of the languages are connected to civil law and others to Anglo-Saxon common law, while EU law (as a mixture of the two) is a separate (though not independent of Member State law) body of law. Another specific feature of the EU conceptual framework is that it encompasses several disciplines (e.g., agriculture, finance, fisheries) (Fischer 2008, 2023).

In addition to the above, there have been several studies on EU language and terminology in Hungarian literature (e.g., Várnai 2005; Trebits 2008; Farkas 2009), several PhD theses (Somssich 2007; Rádai-Kovács 2009; Fischer 2010; Rátkainé Jablonkai 2010), and several educational materials on the use and translation of EU English (e.g., Bart, Klaudy 2003; Fischer, Trebits 2014). There is also a lot of research on the subject of translator training and lawyer training, and specific courses on the EU have been launched. Several multilingual dictionaries containing EU terminology were published already in the 1990s (see e.g., Dróth 2000). Since 2004,

5 [https://mersiz.hu/hivatkozas/m1089e\\_f7\\_p1/#m1089e\\_f7\\_p1](https://mersiz.hu/hivatkozas/m1089e_f7_p1/#m1089e_f7_p1).

Hungarian terminology has been included in the EU's inter-institutional terminology database IATE (see Lesznyák 2010 for more on the database and its Hungarian aspects).

The translation of EU legislation was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice before Hungary's accession in 2004, and the Hungarian terminology was published in the *Termin* database maintained by the Ministry of Justice until 2004; after accession (from 2004), the terminology was uploaded to the IATE database (see Somssich 2003). The *Termin* database is still in operation today; it contains typical terms of Hungarian legislation in both Hungarian and English. In 2017, the Ministry of Justice launched a comprehensive programme for translating Hungarian legislation into English (in cooperation with the OFFI). The English translations of Hungarian legislation have been published in the repository called *Nemzeti Jogszabálytár* ([www.njt.hu](http://www.njt.hu)) and the terms generated during the translation have been recorded in the *Termin* (<https://termin.im.gov.hu/>) database. A guide to the translation of legislation has also been published, which contains general guidelines on form, methodology, spelling, punctuation, and layout (Gáspár, Somssich 2019a; 2019b).

### 3.2. Medical terminology

Research on the special language of medicine and medical terminology in Hungary has progressed in the 21st century. Research on the history of medical language and medical terminology has also become more important, and research results on textual, semantic, and pragmatic issues have been published. One particular milestone was the launch of the journal *Magyar Orvosi Nyelv* (Hungarian Medical Language) in 2001, and the introduction of the subject of Hungarian medical language at Semmelweis University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Budapest in 2002. This became necessary since the Hungarian medical language is a mixture of Greek, Latin, Hungarian, and English terms (<https://orvosinyelv.hu/magyar-orvosi-nyelv/>). In the two decades since, a summary monograph on the Hungarian medical language and its history (Bősze, Kapronczai, Keszler 2021) and several textbooks (e.g., Bősze 2009) have been published; several medical terminology dictionaries (e.g., on neurology, epidemiology, psychiatry) have also been printed (<https://orvosinyelv.hu/konyvek/>). Hungarian medical language as a subject has been introduced in other medical schools across the country (Debrecen, Pécs, Szeged).

Medical terminology is based on the terminology of anatomy (Donáth 2009). In the Hungarian medical language, the Latin names of anatomical structures are used as there is no agreed-upon anatomical terminology in Hungarian; therefore, medical students do not need to know the Hungarian anatomical names, but only the Latin names (Varga, Barta 2020: 193). The language of descriptive anatomy and clinical anatomy differ significantly; structures important to clinical medicine often do not have names in descriptive anatomy, and the lack of anatomical terminology in Hungarian also causes difficulties when teaching (Varga, Barta 2020: 193). Varga (2014), Fogarasi (2017), and Ludányi, Varga (2021) also point out that the use of English terminology and English acronyms is increasing in Hungarian clinical language use. In particular, the use of English terminology is common in the context of newly discovered diseases and therapeutic procedures; in these cases, there is no existing Latin terminology. An important area of research is the study of medical records of bodily harm (e.g., wounds). In these studies, clinical terminology and legal (forensic) terminology used in court proceedings differ; therefore, in some cases, the exact location of the injury cannot be determined from the injury report due to terminological reasons (Fogarasi 2012, 2016).

Doctor-patient communication has implications for patient rights, which has brought medical terminology research to the forefront. The legal background to patient rights requires patients to know and understand the details of medical documentation concerning their condition. In particular, it is difficult to interpret abbreviations and acronyms in the discharge notes as some of them are not found at all in any printed or internet sources, and they may also have several meanings. It is worth mentioning that there are several collections (lists, dictionaries) of medical abbreviations that have been published in print or online in Hungarian and/or English (for details Kuna, Ludányi 2023). Terminological studies are also supported by medical corpora, such as *BioScope*, which contains several medical and biological texts (Vincze et al. 2008); the *Szegedi Medical Korpusz* (SZEMEK), which contains texts from medical journals (Keresztes, Borda, Vincze 2019); a medical subcorpus of the *Pannónia Korpusz*, which contains parallel texts (Robin et al. 2016); the *Covid Corpus* of nearly three million words, which allows for the analysis of coronavirus-related terminology in online news portals (Varga et al. 2023); and the work of the Covid1001 translators group, which aimed to translate reliable information

and literature on the Covid-19 epidemic from English into Hungarian and to develop terminology in Hungarian, through which a corpus of more than 1.7 million words was produced (B. Papp, Somogyi 2022).

### **3.3. Terminology and nomenclature of natural sciences**

In the field of natural sciences, terminology and nomenclature were already distinguished in the 19th century, mainly in terms of whether they were used to refer to general concepts (terminology) or objects, individuals, or groups (nomenclature) (see ISO 1087:2019). The creation of terminology for a given subject is governed by the grammar of the general language, while the rules for the creation of nomenclature are governed by specific rules and codes. Several disciplines (e.g., chemistry, biology, geography) have created their independent systems for the development of nomenclature in their field, which have been coordinated by international professional organisations since the 20th century. In Hungary, the departments of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences are responsible for the establishment and updating of nomenclature rules (e.g., symbols, units of measurement, and names) (see Bölcskei, Fóris 2022).

The lexicon of specialized languages, including terminology and nomenclature, has also raised important questions in recent decades. At present, an interdisciplinary committee, the Hungarian Interdepartmental Standing Committee on Hungarian Language of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is responsible for transplanting international nomenclature rules into Hungarian, regulating specialized language spelling, and drafting the rules and manuals. In practice, the work of this committee is mainly focused on spelling issues (publishing spelling dictionaries); they do not deal with terminological work in the modern sense, for example, the building of terminology databases.

The history of Hungarian scientific terminology has not yet been written down, and only a few studies have been conducted on the development of the terminology and specialised language of various scientific disciplines (e.g., chemistry, geology). Several monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual dictionaries have been published in the 20th and 21st centuries (see <https://szakszotar.lib.pte.hu/hu/>), but more complex terminology databases are still to be developed.

In Hungary, there has been significant laser research in the field of optics (in physics), including laser physics. This drew attention to the study



of the terminology of lasers in the first decade of the 2000s. In these years, research and the development of a specific group of lasers, high energy atto- and femtosecond lasers<sup>6</sup>, started to develop rapidly; in this context, the TERMIK research group has studied and described the terminology of atto- and femtosecond pulsed lasers and created a term base and the *DictionELI* dictionary (<http://dictioneli.stepp.hu>) on laser terminology. The main objective was to study the terminology and conceptual system in English and Hungarian to collect the terminology of bilingual (Hungarian and English) documentation. This would support the translation of texts (see Fóris, B. Papp 2015; Fóris 2022: 131–153).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This article aimed to provide a synthesis of the history and recent trends of terminology in Hungary in the 21st century. The last two decades brought effective changes in higher education, vocational training, scientific qualification, and publication in Hungary.

Our first conclusion is that all these changes provided an opportunity for improved understanding, development, and teaching of terminology theory and terminology management, as well as strengthening international relations and starting a dialogue about Hungarian terminology policies, in Hungary and neighbouring countries. This has led to a proliferation of terminology education, terminology courses and international relations, as well as an increase in scientific publications and the study of terms of different domains.

The first two decades of the 21st century brought several new developments in the field of Hungarian terminology. Specifically, many scientific publications (papers, monographs, PhD theses) were published at the time. This paper started by outlining the significant changes in Hungarian terminology in terms of language rights in the last two decades. Then, the most important academic publications in the field of terminology were highlighted. Finally, a detailed account was presented on the domains in which significant terminological work has been carried out in the previous

6 The collection of terms was inspired by the launch of the Hungarian sub-project of the so-called ELI project. The ELI (Extreme Light Infrastructure, for details see <https://www.eli-alps.hu/>) project is part of the new generation of large-scale research facilities in Europe. It is interesting to note that the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics is “for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter” and Ferenc Krausz, one of the winners is credited with paving the way for the establishment of the Hungarian pillar of ELI in Szeged.

two decades: the terminology of law and public administration (Hungarian legal and administrative terms, EU-specific terms), medical terminology, and terminology and nomenclature of natural sciences.

Our second conclusion is that it is clear that the most active terminological work and research is taking place in those fields of science whose direct application has become important, i.e. law and administration, medicine and natural sciences. It also appears that, particularly in the legal and administrative domain, terminological research is closely linked to translation. Moreover, in each of these areas, several PhD theses and monographs have been written and numerous educational materials and dictionaries have been published.

Overall, for most of the 20th century, Hungary was a monolingual country, which favoured monolingual terminology work. However, the geopolitical dynamics of the 21st century, such as globalisation, the rise of English-language research and publications, and membership of the EU, as well as closer links with Hungarians beyond the borders, have catalysed the rise of multilingual terminology work and have made it necessary to study and describe more precisely the terminological systems of the domains influenced by these processes.

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## VENGRIJOS TERMINOLOGIJOS ISTORIJA IR NAUJAUSIOS TENDENCIJOS XXI AMŽIUJE

### Santrauka

Šio straipsnio tikslas – apžvelgti Vengrijos terminologijos istoriją ir naujausias tendencijas, turėjusias įtakos terminų raidai XXI amžiuje. Pastarieji du dešimtmečiai atnešė veiksmingų pokyčių Vengrijos aukštojo mokslo, profesinio rengimo, mokslinės kvalifikacijos ir leidybos srityse. Publikacijų kalba, ypač gamtos mokslų, medicinos, inžinerijos ir matematikos srityse, iš esmės pasikeitė – imta rašyti ne vengrų, bet anglų kalba. Be to, mokslo žurnalai vengrų kalba palapsniui nyko, o mokslinių publikacijų vengrų kalba sumažėjo; ši tendencija vyrauja iki šiol. Visi šie pokyčiai suteikė galimybę geriau

suprasti, plėtoti ir dėstyti terminologijos teoriją ir terminų tvarkybą, taip pat sustiprinti tarptautinius ryšius ir pradėti dialogą apie vengrų terminologijos politiką.

Straipsnyje pirmiausia pristatomi reikšmingi vengrų terminijos pokyčiai per pastaruosius du dešimtmečius iš kalbos teisių perspektyvos, o vėliau dėmesys sutelkiamas į svarbiausias terminologijos srities mokslines publikacijas. Straipsnyje taip pat išryškintos ir išsamiau pristatomos sritys, kuriose per pastaruosius du dešimtmečius buvo atliktas reikšmingas terminologijos darbas: Vengrijos teisės ir viešojo administravimo terminai, specifiniai ES terminai, medicinos terminai bei gamtos mokslų terminija ir nomenklatūra.

Akivaizdu, kad aktyviausias terminologijos darbas ir tyrimai atliekami tose mokslo srityse, kurių tiesioginis taikymas tapo svarbus, t. y. teisė ir viešasis administravimas, medicina ir gamtos mokslai. Taip pat atrodo, kad, ypač teisės ir administravimo srityje, terminologiniai tyrimai yra glaudžiai susiję su vertimu. Be to, buvo parašytos kelios daktaro disertacijos ir monografijos iš teisės ir viešojo administravimo, medicinos ir gamtos mokslų sričių, išleista daug mokomosios medžiagos ir žodynų.

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