

# Terminology work in Lithuania

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Terminology work at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language carried out right from establishment of the Institute in 1940.

In 1945  
at Presidium of the Academy of Sciences  
a **Terminology Commission**  
was established and  
in 1951 it was moved to the  
Institute of the Lithuanian Language.

# Tasks of the Terminology Commission

- an establishment of the principles of term creation for various fields
- co-ordination of terminology work not only at the level of the Academy of Sciences, but in the whole country as well
- popularization of terminology in the press and at scientific conferences

In 1952 the Academy of Sciences took the decision to join the Institute of the Lithuanian Language and the Institute of the Lithuanian Literature, but the Terminology Commission survived and worked on normalization of Lithuanian terminology mainly reviewing and discussing dictionaries of terms which were being prepared for publication.

In 1971 instead  
of the Terminology Commission  
a **Terminology Council**  
at the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences  
was established.

# The main objectives of the Terminology Council

- Co-ordination and organization of terminology work in various scientific institutions, publishing houses, various companies and other organizations
- Approbation of compiled dictionaries of terms
- Recommendation for usage of scientific and technical terms

The Terminology Council consisted  
of 23 authoritative specialists  
of various fields of science and engineering.

The activities of Terminology Council were based on the work of more than twenty smaller terminology commissions of various fields.

The Terminology Commission had to approve dictionaries and lists of terms prepared by these commissions.

In 1971 a **Terminology group** lead by Kazimieras Gaivenis was established in the Department of Dictionaries at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language.



In 1989 the Department of Language Culture and Terminology was established in the Institute of the Lithuanian Language and Literature.



In 1990 the Institute split into two separate bodies –  
Institute of the Lithuanian Language and  
Institute of the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore  
and in 1991 the Department of Language Culture and  
Terminology split into two separate departments.

The main theme of work of  
the **Terminology Department**  
was named as *Linguistic research into  
Lithuanian terminology  
and the normalization and standardization  
of terms of science and manufacturing.*

## The publications on terminology

- three issues of scientific journal *Kalbos kultūra (Language Culture)* (1979, 1983 and 1993) .
- three volumes of collections of articles *Lietuvių kalbotyros klausimai (Issues of Lithuanian Linguistics)* (1975, 1983, 1994).

# The publications on terminology

- *Terminologijos abėcėlė (Terminology alphabet)* (1980).
- *Terminologijos taisymai (Terminology Corrections)* (1992).
- the third and fourth editions of *Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos žodynas (Dictionary of Modern Lithuanian)* (1993, 2000) and electronic version of the fourth edition (2002).

In 2003 the Terminology Department was reorganized into the **Terminology Centre**.  
Currently it has a staff of 11, among which there are seven researchers, three PhD students and one assistant.

# The fields of interest of the Terminology Centre

- Theoretical research into the current problems and history of Lithuanian terminology.
- The establishment of the principles of Lithuanian terminology, terminography, term normalization and ordering.
- Practical work of term ordering, creation, evaluation and normalization of new terms.
- Training of terminology specialists and consultations to compilers of dictionaries of terms.

# The publications on terminology

- **Kazimieras Gaivenis.** *Lietuvių terminologija: teorijos ir tvarkybos metmenys (Lithuanian terminology: an outline of theory and ordering)* (2002).
- A collection of articles *Terminologijos istorijos ir dabarties problemos (Problems of terminology history and present)* (2004).

# The publications on terminology

- **Jonas Klimavičius.** *Leksikologijos ir terminologijos darbai: norma ir istorija* (*Works of Lexicology and Terminology: Norm and History*) (2005).
- **Stasys Keinys.** *Dabartinė lietuvių terminologija* (*Current Lithuanian Terminology*) (2005).

## The publications on terminology

- *Pabaltijo tautų terminologijos problemos ir Europos Sąjunga (Problems of Baltic States Terminology and the European Union)* (2005).
- An annotated bibliographical index *Lietuvių kalbos terminų žodynai (Lithuanian Dictionaries of Terms)* (2008).

The Terminology Centre prepares the annual scientific journal *Terminologija* (*Terminology*). The first issue appeared in 1994. Sixteen issues have been published.

Since the thirteenth issue (2006) this journal has an international editorial board and publishes articles in Lithuanian, English and Russian.

In 2002 the creation of a database called *Lietuvių kalbos sinonimija* (*Synonymy of the Lithuanian terminology*) was started by the Terminology Centre. This database contains various combinations of synonymous international, Lithuanian and hybrid terms. Currently there are over 33800 entries in it.

Basically all employees of the Terminology Centre work as experts for the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language and participate in the activities of the Terminology sub-commission of the mentioned institution.



The **State Commission of the Lithuanian Language** was established in 1990 by Act of Parliament. It collectively takes decisions about language policy, normalization and standardisation of the Lithuanian language and implementation of the State language law, which was approved by Parliament in 1995.

# The co-operation agreements

- International Information Centre for Terminology (INFOTERM) (2003)
- Institute for Information Transmission Problems at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow (2004)
- European Association for Terminology (EAFT) (2006)
- University of Finance and Management in Bialystok (2008)

In 2005-2006 the Institute of the Lithuanian Language participated in the project of European Commission *EuroTermBank* (*Collection of Pan-European Terminology Resources through Cooperation of Terminology Institutions*).



A coordinator – a Latvian company *Tilde*.

The partners:

- Institute for Information Management at Cologne University of Applied Sciences (Germany),
- Centre for Language Technology at University of Copenhagen (Denmark),
- Institute of the Lithuanian Language (Lithuania),
- Terminology Commission of Latvian Academy of Science (Latvia),
- MorphoLogic (Hungary),
- University of Tartu (Estonia),
- Information Processing Centre (Poland).

A result of this project was a centralized term bank of the new member countries of European Union linked with other national and international term banks and terminology resources.

This term bank provides access through the internet to over 600 000 term entries which contain over 1,5 million of terms in more than 25 languages.

There are over 78 000 Lithuanian terms and their other language equivalents from 11 sources presented in *EuroTermBank*.

## *EuroTermBank*

- The address of *EuroTermBank* is [www.eurotermbank.com](http://www.eurotermbank.com).

In 2003 the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language together with the Chancellery of the Parliament took the initiative to create a State Bank of Terms and prepared a law of such bank.



The purpose of this bank is to ensure consistent usage of standardized Lithuanian terms, especially in the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania and to create a common information system for various state institutions which can be freely accessed by specialists of various fields working in Lithuania or other countries.



In 2009 there were about 150,000 terms in State Bank of Terms. Over 5,600 approved terms from various legislative documents and about 141,000 terms from dictionaries of terms and recommendation lists of the Language Commission were included. At the present there are the 25 newest dictionaries of terms (published in 1999-2008) included in State Bank of Terms.

## State Bank of Terms

- The address of this term bank is <http://terminai.vlkk.lt/> . It can be accessed from the Lithuanian version of the Language Commission web page.

Terminology work at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language is being performed for more than six decades and its scope has grown a lot. In previous years terminologists of the Institute mainly did practical terminology work; at the present the main attention is given to scientific research, though still a lot of practical work is being performed which is mainly related to other institutions.



***Thank you for your attention !***

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