Management of Diastratic Variation in Medical Settings:
On the Collaboration Within the YourTerm MED Project

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This proposal aims at the description of the terminological workflow and the outputs resulting from the collaboration between the Terminology Coordination Unit (TermCoord) and the University of Padua engaged in the YourTerm MED project.[1] In particular, the project fits into the context of the management of diastratic variation in medical terminology through the implementation of a multilingual terminological database whose purpose is to meet the immediate terminological needs of Médecins sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in their international missions. In patient-doctor dialogue, the phenomenon of terminological variation is common and due to the different level of specialization of the speakers [1, 3, 4]. However, in health emergency situations, language should not represent an obstacle to the correct transmission and understanding of medical information. For this reason, the multilingual resource presented in this paper, based on the cognitive structure of the Frame-Based Terminology [2], provides both the specialized and popular denominations of the same concept in a multilingual perspective. In this way, healthcare professionals can consult the resource when operating on site and break down intra and inter linguistic barriers.

In this poster, we will describe the terminological workflow for the representation of Italian language in the YourTerm MED resource resulting from the abovementioned collaboration. In particular, we will focus on the phenomenon of terminological variation working on a manually created corpus collecting abstracts about complementary and alternative medicine published in the Cochrane Library.[2] By filling in the terminological records of the resource for the Italian language, we will show a qualitative analysis of the diastratic variation of the terminology used in health emergency situations in a bilingual perspective (English to Italian). Finally, we will present the validation outputs of our terminology work performed by medical experts for this specific subdomain.

References:

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[2] https://www.cochranelibrary.com

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Biographical notes:

Callegari Elisa holds a BA in Translation and Interpretation from the SSML University of Turin (Italy) and a MA in Translation Studies from Paul-Valéry University of Montpellier (France). During her studies, she completed a number of varied internships. She was an intern at the Volunteer's Service of the State Hermitage Museum of Saint Petersburg and an intern at DGLFLF, the French commission of terminology and neologisms. Successively, she co-operated with a medical not-for-profit organization, where she translated the abstracts of some clinical trial systematic reviews. In October 2019, she started a traineeship at the Terminology Coordination Unit of the European Parliament, in Luxembourg.

Di Nunzio Giorgio Maria is Associate Professor at the Department of Information Engineering of University of Padua. His main research interests are: Interactive Machine Learning, Medical Information Retrieval, Open Data Science. He is currently Member of the Technical Scientific Committee and Representative of the University of Padua Digital Library and the Open Science initiative of the University of Padua Library System.

Maslias Rodolfo worked as translator at the European Parliament since 1981 and in 2008 he founded and is heading since then the Terminology Coordination Unit. He is teaching terminology since 1998 at several Universities (Ionian University GR, Savoie Mont-Blanc FR, University of Luxembourg, Vigo E, a.o.) and is curator for post-graduate theses. He was Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Culture in Greece, cultural advisor to the Mayor of Athens and Secretary General of the Network of European Capitals of Culture. He is member of the European Cultural Parliament and of many academic or institutional terminology bodies and boards.

Vezzani Federica is a PhD student at the Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies of the University of Padua. Her research focuses on medical communication, terminology and translation. She is developing an interdisciplinary project in the field of Computational Terminology aiming at the realisation of a multilingual (French, English and Italian) terminological database in the medical field, named TriMED, which addresses the information needs of three categories of users: patients, translators and physicians.