



The Vocabulary of International Affairs

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ATA 54th Annual Conference – San Antonio

November 7, 2013

Your Army of Words

**TECHNICAL
JARGON**
("Terms")

**VOCABULARY
OF NATIONAL
LIFE**

**"WALLPAPER
WORDS"**

CORE LEXICON

Core Lexicon: Challenges and Learning Strategies

- Challenges
 - It is the root of everything
 - Need to be selective about print and Internet sources
- Learning strategies
 - School
 - Casual reading
 - Conversation
 - Unabridged dictionaries

Technical Jargon

Except as otherwise provided herein, this Agreement pertains to all measures established by the Parties concerning **civil satellite-based navigation and timing signals and signal providers, civil satellite-based navigation and timing services and service providers, augmentations, value-added services and value-added service providers, and global navigation and timing goods.**

Technical Jargon: Challenges and Learning Strategies

- Challenges
 - Sheer enormity of lexicon
 - Complexity
 - Equivalents may not even exist!
- Learning strategies
 - Print references: many good dictionaries
 - Internet
 - Professional seminars
 - Terminology databases
 - SMEs (subject matter experts)

Three Categories of Technical Jargon

1. Diplomacy proper
2. Various subjects discussed by diplomats
3. Proper nouns

Test Your Diplomatic Terminology IQ

When the ambassador leaves the host country temporarily, a senior embassy official runs the embassy as the:

- a) Deputy Chief of Mission
- b) Acting Ambassador
- c) Chargé d’Affaires ad interim
- d) Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary

Test Your Diplomatic Terminology IQ

Before an international boundary can be marked on the ground, it must be marked on a map. This first step is called:

- a) Boundary demarcation
- b) Boundary drawing
- c) Boundary delimitation
- d) Boundary definition

Test Your Diplomatic Terminology IQ

When several countries sign a multilateral agreement, this country is the one that keeps all the records as to which countries have ratified the agreement, and which, if any, have terminated it:

- a) Recording State c) Custodial State
- b) Depositary State d) Coordinating State

Test Your Diplomatic Terminology IQ

Country A breaks off diplomatic relations with country B. The two countries now handle their routine diplomatic affairs only through third parties called:

- a) Intermediary States
- b) International Arbiters
- c) Protecting Powers
- d) Interest Sections

Top Twelve Topics in LS Translation Work

1. Conflict resolution
2. Drug control
3. International security/arms control
4. Environment
5. Agriculture
6. International business and trade
7. Democracy, human rights, and labor
8. International finance and development
9. Maritime/fisheries issues
10. Legal issues
11. S&T
12. Transportation

A Proper Noun Dilemma

Defensoría del Pueblo

Office of the Defender of the People
(official foreign govt website)

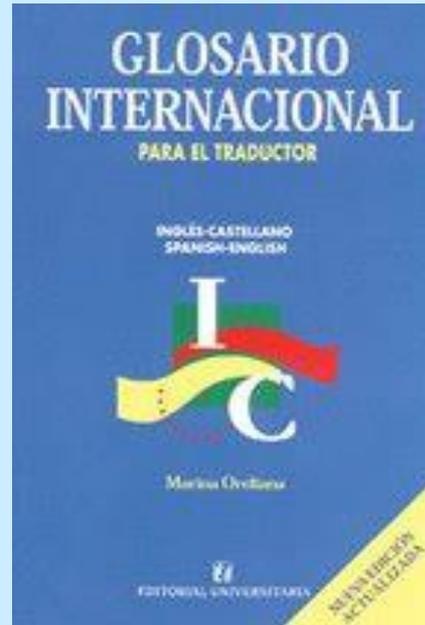
Office of the Human Rights
Ombudsman (US Govt website)

“Wallpaper Words”

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Wallpaper Words: Challenges and Learning Strategies

- Challenges
 - Relatively finite and stable set....but....
 - Often given short shrift in dictionaries
 - Can be very wordy and high register
 - Clever handling is the hallmark of a good translation
- Learning strategies
 - Mentoring
 - Precedent



Glosario internacional para el traductor,
Marina Orellana and John Chadburn
Santiago, Editorial universitaria, 2003
Fourth edition

Wallpaper Words: Some Examples

au sein de / en el seno de

“Les 28 commissaires sont généralement choisis **au sein du** parti majoritaire par les gouvernements des États membres.”

“A pesar de las tensiones **en el seno de** la Comisión Europea, la política fiscal francesa pasará la revisión”

Wallpaper Words: Some Examples

**en marge de / en el margen de
dans le cadre de / en el marco de**

Plusieurs ministres et hauts fonctionnaires des pays membres de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) se sont réunis **en marge de** la Conférence de Durban sur les changements climatiques (CP-17), le mercredi 7 décembre, **dans le cadre d'**une concertation ministérielle sur le thème « La Francophonie : un espace solidaire pour des partenariats innovants dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques »

The Vocabulary of National Life

- Physical setting
- People and society
- Government
- Infrastructure and resources
- Education
- Business
- History
- Cultural life
- Spiritual life
- Food and drink

The sum total of what makes a country unique

Challenges

- Dearth of specific reference works
- Need for a TL equivalent
- Often given short shrift in unabridged dictionaries
- Relegated to sidebars
- Multi-country vs. single country
- Many definitions of culture
- Sheer Enormity
- Text type
- Testing
- Lack of systematic approach

The Challenge of Cultural Life

- “Big C”
 - Fine arts
 - Performing arts
 - Practical arts
- “Little C”
 - Routine: daily, weekly, annual, life cycles
 - Sports, leisure, celebration
 - Behaviors

See Draft “Culture Proficiency Guidelines,” Dr. Jerry Lampe, NFLC

How to study vocabulary of national life

- Conversation (informal or structured)
- Reading (periodicals, literature, non-fiction)
- Creative writing
- Travel
- Internet
- Sound media (movies, TV, radio, music)
- On-the-job training
- Continuing education (formal classroom or private tutor)

The Vocabulary of National Life: Some Examples

*“And **at kitchen tables** across our country, there is concern over our economic future. In the long run, Americans can be confident about our economic growth.”*

- President Bush, 2008 State of the Union

*“**Kitchen Table** Reactions To State Of The Union”*

- Headline to an NPR online piece on President Obama’s 2013 State of the Union

*“Many viewers are still struggling with the consequences of the Great Recession, and will be looking for their president to offer a governing vision that speaks to their **kitchen-table** worries...”*

- Online Reuters piece on President Obama’s 2013 State of the Union

A Danish Modern Classic

