

FORSTISTA INFORMILO

de INTERNACIA FORSTISTA RONDO ESPERANTLINGVA
kaj de PATRONA ASOCIO "LEXICON SILVESTRE" R.A.

Nr. 58 Eberswalde, 2010-04-15

(English version - translated by Lilianne C. Meier and Clivia Panka)

New publications with Lexicon silvestre



Title: **NOMENKLATUR DER FORSTLICHEN GEHÖLZFLORA EUROPAS**

Subtitle: Nomenklatur der forstlichen Gehölzflora Europas in fünf Sprachen (German-English-Esperanto-French-Latin)

Author: Ingward Ullrich

Published by: Förderverein „Lexicon silvestre“ e. V. Eberswalde 2009

ISBN: 978-3-931262-67-9

Edition: 3rd extended

Pages: 225

Price: 25,00 Euros (UVP)



Title: **LEXICON SILVESTRE PRIMA PARS**

Subtitle: Wörterbuch des Forstwesens in drei Sprachen (Deutsch-Esperanto-Polnisch)

Published by: Förderverein „Lexicon silvestre“ e. V. Eberswalde 2009

ISBN: 978-3-931262-66-2

Edition: 1st

Pages: 358

Price: 27,50 Euros (UVP)

The planned language Esperanto as a language for special purposes¹

by Wera Blanke²

Planned languages³ are the result of conscious and purposeful language construction and can therefore be regarded as product of language planning. This is underlined by Valter TAULI. Under language planning he understands „the methodical activity of regulating and improving existing languages or creating new common regional, national or international languages“(TAULI 1968: 27).

There are at least three reasons why planned languages are interesting for the research of languages for special purposes (LSP):

- a) Planned languages are often expression of the search for rational and accurate linguistic means of expression. Attempts to construct a language gave impulse to the development of LSP and of the terminology science.
- b) Planned languages played and play a certain role as means for international specialized linguistic communication.
- c) The necessity of quality criteria for terms and terminologies, the need for terminology standardization and terminology planning as well as their practical organising is common to ethno languages and planned languages, as far as they develop their (own) LSP.

Attempts can further be observed to go from the collection and documentation over to research and theory construction to knowledge transfer and training as well as to the use of modern data processing (electronic terminology banks and the like). Since the planned languages did not meet so far a socially relevant need for communication, most of their specialized linguistic results (almost only in Esperanto) are usually the product of private efforts socially hardly promoted.

Specialised text and specialised lexis

In Esperanto (ZAMENHOF 1887), an agglutinative language with a predominantly romanic lexis and a performing system of word construction popular-scientific texts (medicine and astronomy) appeared already in “*Fundamenta Krestomatio*”, the first standard-forming collection of model texts (Zamenhof 1903/1992).

Specialised texts are issued in small technical periodicals and bulletins of different quality for the following fields:

Atheism, building industry, railroading, forestry, interlinguistics esperantology, journalism, law, medicine, music, naturopathy, ecology, economics, ecumenism, ornithology, pedagogy, philately, philosophy, post and telecommunications, radio amateurs, language politics (minorities), theology and various religions, (interdisciplinary) science, vegetarianism.

An important, although temporally limited, role in the fixation of specialised texts played and still play (besides *Scienca Revuo* since 1904)⁴ among other things the following magazines:

- *Medicina Internacia Revuo* (1910-1911, 1923-36, 1952-),
- *Internacia Pedagogia Revuo* (1908-1922, 1927-1939, 1956-1959, 1970-),
- *Homo kaj Kosmo* (Astronomy, 1963-1987),

¹ Co-author is Detlev Blanke. The article was published in Wera Blanke (2008): *Esperanto - Terminologie und Terminologiearbeit*. New York: Mondial, p. 13-26. It has been abridged and updated by D. Blanke.

² Wera Blanke(*1933), Berlin, has been engaged in the construction of technical terms in Esperanto since 1979; worked a.o. on the impulse of planned languages for the formation of terminology science; initiated in 1985 the „Terminology Centre of Universal Esperanto Association“ (Universala Esperanto-Asocio, Rotterdam); gave numerous lectures and published mostly in German and Esperanto; obtained the „Eugen-Wüster-Sonderpreis“ at the suggestion of the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm, Vienna) in 2006.

³ About planned languages q.v. Monograph by Detlev Blanke (1985) as well as the stated there literature.

⁴ The periodical *Internacia Scienca Revuo* has been published since 1904 with interruptions and slightly changing titles. The bibliography of the articles published between 1949-2000 contains 46 fields, cf. www.eventoj.hu/isae/scienca-revuo/enhavo-1949-2000.htm (28.08.2010).

- *Esperantologio* (1949-1955, 1959-1961),
- *Internacia Geografia Revuo* (1956-1964),
- *Kemio Internacia* (1965-1968),
- *Internacia Komputado/Fokuso* (1983-1988),
- *Planlingvistiko* (1981-1986),
- *Scienca Mondo* (Science policy studies, 1976-1989),
- *Sciencaj Komunikaĵoj* (1975-1986),
- *Tutmondaj Sciencoj kaj Teknikoj* (Chinese and Esperanto, 1985-1995) (cf. also Yzal 1992).

Recently there have been published some journals on the Internet: *Teleskopo* publishes scientific articles from various areas⁵. *Esperantologio – Esperanto studies* which appears in print, too, has been publishing interlinguistical and Esperantological articles since 1999⁶. Since 2005, Brazilians have been editing *Interlingvistika Revuo*⁷. Bertil Wennergren has redacted the comprehensive net-magazine *Lingva Kritiko* since 2006⁸.

Some ethno linguistic periodicals occasionally contain contributions and abstracts in the planned language, so e.g. the linguistic journal *Language Problems & Language Planning* (since 1977) and the cybernetic educationally oriented *Grundlagenstudien aus Kybernetik und Geisteswissenschaft / Humankybernetik* (since 1977).

In the last printed catalogue of the *Universala Esperanto-Asocio* (Esperanto-Katalogo 2001)⁹ publications with specialised linguistic relevance are to be found in the following fields:

Archaeology, astronomy, bee keeping, biology, botany, chemistry, ethnography, geography, geology, historiography, computer science, hygiene, journalism, cooking, cybernetics, hydromechanics, Interlinguistics/Esperantology, law, linguistics, mathematics, medicine, meteorology, ecology, economics, pedagogy, philosophy, politics, psychology, sociology, sport, stenography, telecommunications, theology (and religion philosophies), traffic, zoology.

Yearly, about 20-30 specialised monographs can be added to this list¹⁰. In the permanently updated net-edition of the catalogue of UEA¹¹ following details on publications can be found:

Filozofio:	141
Geografio:	114
Historio:	82
Lingvistiko:	463
Religio:	264
Scienco kaj Tekniko	313

There are different indications on the amount of specialised dictionaries:

Edward OCKEY lists until approx. 1980 200 specialised dictionaries, quite different depending on quality and quantity, for approx. 50 fields (OCKEY 1982). The list was updated until 2002 by Geoffrey SUTTON and contains 280 dictionaries for about 70 fields. (cf. OCKEY/SUTTON 2002 and the first survey referring to this by HAUPENTHAL 1991).

An Internet bibliography for the period between 1980 and 2007 indicates 188 specialised dictionaries for 88 fields¹². Also the most comprehensive monolingual explanation dictionary of Esperanto, the *Nova Plena Ilustrita Vortaro de Esperanto*, contains relevant special lexis from 73 different fields of knowledge (cf. WARINGHIEN / DUC GONINAZ 2005: 36-37). The Esperanto-German dictionary by Krause is probably even more comprehensive and contents lexis from 86 fields (Krause 1999). His *Großes Wörterbuch Deutsch-Esperanto* offers Esperanto equivalents to German terms in 86 fields, too (Krause 2007).

What is not to be underestimated for the development of specialized linguistic communication is the correspondence among specialists, which is substantially facilitated by

⁵ <http://www.teleskopo.com/index.htm> (28.08.2010)

⁶ <http://www.math.uu.se/esperanto/> (28.08.2010)

⁷ <http://leitejr.sites.uol.com.br/esperanto/ilr200707.pdf> (28.08.2010)

⁸ <http://lingvakritiko.com/2010/04/> (28.08.2010)

⁹ The updates of the catalogue are in the internet under: <http://katalogo.uea.org> (28.08.2010).

¹⁰ Cf. column New Publications [Laste aperis ...] in the periodical *Esperanto*, Rotterdam

¹¹ <http://katalogo.uea.org> (28.08.2010)

¹² Cf. www.uea.org/dokumentoj/terminaroj_ekde_1980.html (28.10.2007).

Internet, among other things through technically oriented groups of discussions and innumerable individual contacts.

In the annual of the *Universal Esperanto Association* (McCoy 2010) approximately 2.000 addresses of Esperanto speakers from 101 countries with different specialisations are listed, which provides contacts for more than 450 topics (McCoy 2010: 100ff.). The Esperanto version of Wikipedia (*Vikipedio*) contains specialised articles on numerous fields. At the end of August 2010, Vikipedio contained more than 130.000 articles¹³. Besides, there are increasingly more specialised texts put on the internet¹⁴.

Specialised organisations and activities

International communication in the planned language occurs - in different intensity - particularly in the framework of specialised organisations and other groupings.

Some of them are (listed according to years of the foundation):

- *Internacia Scienca Asocio Esperantista (ISAE*, founded in 1906, interdisciplinary association of scientists)
- *Universala Medicina Esperanto-Asocio (UMEA*, founded in 1908, physicians)
- *Tutmonda Esperantista Vegetarana Asocio (TEVA*, founded in 1908, vegetarians)
- *Internacia Fervojista Esperanto-Federacio (IFEFE*, founded in 1909, railwaymen)
- *Internacia Katolika Unuiĝo Esperantista (IKUE*, founded in 1910, Catholics)
- *Kristana Esperantista Ligo Internacia (KELI*, founded in 1911, Protestants)
- *Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Instruistoj (ILEI*, founded in 1949, teachers)
- *Internacia Poŝtista kaj Telekomunikista Esperanto-Asocio (P.T.T.*, founded in 1966, employees of the post office and telecommunication company)
- *Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Radioaniatoroj (ILERA*, founded in 1970, radio amateurs)
- *Internacia Asocio de Esperantistaj Matematikistoj (IAdEM*, founded in 1974, mathematicians)
- *Internacia Komitato por Etnaj Liberecoj (IKEL*, founded in 1978, ethnic minorities)
- *Internacia Forstista Rondo Esperantista (IFRE*, founded in 1981, foresters)
- *Filozofia Asocio Tutmonda (FAT*, founded in 1983, philosophers)
- *Tutmonda Asocio pri Kibernetiko, Informadiko kaj Sistemiko (TAKIS*, found. in 1983)
- *Internacia Komerca kaj Ekonomia Fakgrupo (IKEF*, founded in 1985, merchants and economists)
- *Internacia Naturkuraca Asocio (INA*, founded in 1986, naturopathy)
- *Esperanto Jura Asocio (EJA*, founded in 1989, lawyers)
- *Asocio de Studado Internacia pri Spiritaj kaj Teologiaj Instruoj (ASISTI*, founded in 1989, comparative theology and religious studies)
- *Tutmonda Asocio de Konstruistoj Esperantistoj (TAKE*, founded in 1993, construction workers)
- *Internacia Agrikultura Esperanto-Asocio (IAEA*, founded in 1996, agronomists)
- [Edukado@Interreto \(E@I](#), founded in 2001, Education in Esperanto by the Internet).

A large part of these and other organisations with a specialisation are present in the internet¹⁵.

Academic institutions deal with the promotion of the interdisciplinary exchange in Esperanto, e.g. the *Akademio Internacia de Sciencoj en San Marino* (cf. FRANK 1993, 910 ff.) founded in 1985 and the *Internacia Scienca Akademio Comenius* (cf. NEERGAARD / KISELMAN 1992, p. III ff.) founded in 1986. Lists of scientists who

¹³ On 24th August 2010, there were 133.331 articles: <http://eo.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vikipedio:%C4%88efpa%C4%9Do>.

¹⁴ Cf. the library (*Scienc-Teknika Esperanto-Biblioteko, STEB*) under www.eventoj.hu/steb/ (28.08.2010).

¹⁵ Cf. <http://www.esperanto.net/veb/org.html> (28.10.2007). Cf. also http://www.uea.org/agadoj/faka_agado.html (28.08.2010).

publish or are active in Esperanto have the same purpose. (DARBELLAY 1981, FÖSSMEIER/TUĤVATULLINA 2005)

These and other organisations, institutions and groups with a specialisation carry out their meetings generally in the framework of the yearly world congress (with 1,000 - 3,000, sometimes up to 6,000 Esperanto speakers from 60 to 70 countries): They also organise their own *international meetings, conferences and seminars*. This is the case mainly for the railwaymen (yearly congresses), physicians (since 1977 conferences every other year), Interlinguists/Esperantologists (several national and international events yearly), information scientists/cyberneticists, pedagogues (yearly congresses) and different religious groups.

Events of popular science contribute to the creation of specialised texts and to the consolidation of thesauri, e.g. since 1948 the yearly *Sessions of the International Congress University* (cf. Wandel 2010). Some *Summer Universities* became well-known (e.g. 1963-1990 in Gyula/H/, since 1980 in Veliko Tarnovo/BG/) or *University Summer courses* 1972-1980 in Liège/Belgium/ with more than 30 collections of manuscripts in the fields of *Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Literary studies, Mathematics, Pharmacology, Psychology, Sociology, Linguistics and Zoology* (cf. D. BLANKE 1986: 82).

The event series *Apliko de Esperanto en Scienco kaj Tekniko* in the Czech Republic, abbr. AEST (1978-1989) was of particular importance. It was devoted to single framework themes (always with the extra topic Esperanto as LSP) and all of the 156 contributions were published in 6 volumes. In 1998, the series was continued as *Konferenco Apliko de Esperanto en Scienco kaj Tekniko*, abbr. KAEST, by the Czech Esperanto Association in collaboration with the congress and education agency KAVA-PECH at a rhythm of 2 years (Chrđle 2010). The papers of the conferences were published, too¹⁶. Similar series began in China in 1987 and in Bulgaria (Karlovo) in 2008.

Esperanto was allowed as conference language on some international congresses not held in Esperanto, e.g. the congresses of *geologists* (with 10 congress volumes) since 1968 and the congresses of *cyberneticians* in Namur (Belgium) in the 80ies. The international symposium *Interkomputo* (Budapest 1982) completely held in Esperanto brought together 200 computer specialists from 19 countries, whose papers (more than 100) were published in 6 volumes. At the international conference *Interkibernetiko* in Budapest in 1985, 17 of the 45 presentations were held and published in Esperanto.

Creation of terms: Pre-requisites and processes

Its structural characteristics make Esperanto suitable as means of specialised communication, as the Austrian Eugen WÜSTER (1889 – 1977), founder of the theory of terminology, showed in his fundamental book (1931/1970: 294ff). The high bonding capacity of the morphemes (among other things because of favourable morphophonological syllable structure, absence of allomorphy etc), a fully productive affix system and the very efficient word formation rules must be mentioned.

These characteristics make it possible to adapt to new communication needs and make the language suitable for the needs of automatic technical documentation, as can be seen with the computer and dialogue system PREDIS for planned languages (cf. STOPPOLONI 1982). This is also true for automatic translation. The semi-automatic translation system *Distributed Language Translation (DLT)*, proposed by Toon Witkam (1983), in which a slightly modified Esperanto serves as internal bridge language, could be developed up to the prototype (cf. SADLER 1991; SCHUBERT 1999).

The following processes support the creation of terms in Esperanto:

- . Creation of terms based on general words: *funkci-o* – *function*
- . Borrowing: *softvar-o* – *software*, *sputnik-o* – *sputnik*
- . Calque: *sin-mort-ig-o* – from New Latin *sui/cid/um* or German *Selbst/töt/ung*
- . metaphorical formations: *elektr-a kamp-o* – *electrical field* et al.

¹⁶ Cf. MALOVEC (1999) and PLUHAŘ (2001; 2003; 2005; 2007).

The main processes when creating neologisms are calques and borrowing of basic morphemes capable of being derivated. This way occasionally synonyms are produced: *rul/ŝtup/ar/o* vs. *eskalator/o* for escalator.

Komput/il/o, *komputer/o* and *komputor/o* competed against each other for „computer“. The word *komput-il-o* has won.

Just like in the case of ethno languages some quality criteria of the term in the planned language which from case to case either exclude or complement each other (cf. D. BLANKE 1986: 51ff.; DEHLER 1985: 83ff.) are the following:

- Specificity
- System relation
- Conceptuality
- Selective exactness
- Unambiguousness
- Interpretability
- Scarceness and others.

In addition there are the specific requests of Esperanto for *internationality* and *loyalty to the system* (= compliance with the basic regulations of Esperanto standardised and coded in 1905, the *Fundamento de Esperanto*).

Terms in Esperanto almost always come from individual proposals for denomination which are presented in texts or dictionaries, discussed and tried in practical life and are finally introduced in the language.

The registration and international discussion served at the end of the 80ies and at the beginning of the 90ies the computer-assisted terminological registration and discussion work *Pekoteko* created by Ruediger EICHHOLZ (cf. EICHHOLZ 1992). It was replaced by the substantially more comfortable and more effective possibilities of the Internet.

Terminology work: Attempts to co-ordinate

In 1911 already terminological principles were compiled for the first time for the creation of technical terms in Esperanto (ROLLET DE L' ISLE 1911, VERAX 1911/1912).

In the 50ies the terminological centres of the *ISAE* and the language steering institution for Esperanto, the *Akademio de Esperanto*, endeavoured to arrange and promote the terminological work on the basis of the findings of the terminology science.

In order to obtain better results, the *Terminological Esperanto Center of Universala Esperanto-Asocio (TEC/UEA Rotterdam)*¹⁷ was founded in 1987, which works together with Infoterm¹⁸ and TermNet¹⁹ (Vienna), the worldwide leading terminological institutions. Conferences and training seminars were organised with the direct and indirect support of *TEC*. Training books, like e.g. a *Terminologia Kurso* and an Essay volume by Jan Werner (WERNER 1986; 2004) were published as well as the guideline for the creation of terms *Terminologia Gvidilo* (SUONUUTI 1998).

Some of the recommendations of the terminology committee of ISO (TC37), like the *Recommendations R 639* (1967, *Symbols for languages, countries and authorities*), *R 704* (1968, *Naming principles*), *R 860* (1968, *International unification of concepts and terms*) and *R 1087* (1969, *Vocabulary of Terminology*), and the norms that followed are available in a draft translation in Esperanto.

The endeavours to improve the terminological activities in Esperanto now can be found in the Internet²⁰.

In special bibliographies, libraries and archives on planned languages the practical experience with planned languages is registered, made accessible and stored (cf. D. BLANKE 2006: 124-126).

¹⁷ On the results of the work of TEC, problems and outlooks, cf. W. Blanke 1999.

¹⁸ International Information Centre for Terminology, Vienna.

¹⁹ Terminology Network, Vienna.

²⁰ Cf. for example <http://esperanto.net/tec/> (28.08.2010).

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Let's get to know each other!

Dr. Ing. Lubomír Blaško



Mr Lubomír Blaško (*1964), born in Poprad in the Slovakian part of the ČSSR at that time, has been living in Eberswalde since 1988. He's well versed in Slovakian, Czech, and German in word and writing. In addition, he is able to communicate without problems in English, Russian, Croatian, and Polish. After primary school (1970-79) and High School (1979-83) in Poprad, he studied forest sciences at the technical university in Zvolen (1983-88) and did his diploma in 1988 with the topic „Wood hauling technology in the traditional forest enterprise in the Slovakian ore mountains“. In October 2009 he successfully did his doctor's degree at the Chair for forest ecology and hunt in Zvolen with the topic „*Comparison of the game management in an old member state of the European Union and a new one and the influence of the wildlife on the reproduction of the forest of the School Forest Administration in Eberswalde-Finowtal*“. Mr Blaško, father of four children, who are the most important purpose in life for him, works in the forest district Eberswalde as a function engineer and is active at the University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde as a private lecturer. Beside his numerous hobbies such as hunt, tennis, football, ice hockey, and water sport, Mr Blaško has also been working at the Slovakian part of the Lexicon silvestre since 1993.

Dr. Mgr. Ing. Stanisław Dunikowski



Mr Stanisław Dunikowski (*1925) was born in the village Szymaniszki east of Łódź in a family of foresters. In 1951, he finished his studies at the agrarian university in Warszawa as a Mgr. engineer of forestry. In the year 1962, he attained a doctorate to the Dr. silv., and two years later he advanced to a lecturer in Forest Institute in Warszawa (IBL), where he had already been working since 1949. For many years, Mr Dunikowski, honoured with numerous awards and national prizes, was a coworker of the department of ecology and nature protection the IBL, which he led 7 years. He wrote more than 80 specialist publications that are connected particularly with the problem of forest meteorology and the fight against forest fires. Mr Dunikowski is considered as one of the most important experts for the concept draft and motivation of the Polish forest monitoring net. Owing to his excellent knowledge in Polish, French, Russian, and German, Dr Dunikowski has been available for the Lexicon silvestre as a specialized expert and multilingual coworker for more than 20 years now. He works on the Polish part of the LS.

Graduated Forest Engineer Ingward Ullrich



Mr Ingward Ullrich (*1931) studied forest sciences in Eberswalde at the Forest faculty of the Humboldt University Berlin. More than 25 years he worked in Weimar with the office for forest facility of Thuringia. Last years before his retirement 1992, he acted as the head of the department of silviculture and forest protection at the national forest management Thuringia. In 1967, Mr Ullrich became an Esperantist. As an admired language expert, he has predominantly been working on forest-terminological questions in Esperanto since 1981. Mr Ullrich is a joint founder of the Lexicon silvestre and, in his role as the head of the terminological commission of the IFRE (International circle Esperanto speaking foresters) he decisively influenced all terminological matters of our encyclopedia. He is not only the author of publications concerning terminological and forest problems and translations. Moreover, Mr Ullrich is well-known as a writer of music-historical and children's literature and as composer. We can state that without Mr Ullrich's personal commitment, the Esperanto part of the LS would not have been advanced as far as it is.

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact address:	Publisher & editor:
Förderverein „Lexicon silvestre“ e.V. Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde Dr. Bernhard Götz Am Zainhammer 5 D-16225 Eberswalde Tel.: +49-3334-65 563 Fax: +49-3334-65 567 Email: kontakt@lexicon-silvestre.de Homepage: www.lexicon-silvestre.de	Förderverein „Lexicon silvestre“ e.V. Stefan Panka Joachimsthaler Str. 15a D-16230 Britz Tel: +49-3334-255 228 Email: s.panka@lexicon-silvestre.de