Editorial

The Arabic linguistic literature has been able to accumulate many recommendations, worksheets and formal legislation, to develop courses and to perceive teaching methods and acquisition of language skills. However, most of them remained imprisoned in reports and were not implemented, since the political choice remained in control of linguistic engineering with its multiple economic, information, educational and technical fields.

Multilingualism in Arab societies has become a hindrance to the development of knowledge, rather than a contributor to its construction and mastery. This is due to the fact that the linguistic diversity is not the result of a language policy with a clear perspective, nor is it the outcome of a linguistic and functional plan defining the areas of use. All in all, this diversity lacks the identification of the position of the language and its purpose of use.

In addition to knowledge society, largely talked about in a number of international reports and specialized scientific conferences, comes the interest in the situation of language in society, not as a mere tool for communication, but also as producer of knowledge. This results in the complex relationship between the social status of individuals and the evolution of the knowledge they produce. Thus, does this relationship have anything to do with the hierarchy of languages? At least in terms of the dominance of one language over another, and the invisibility of some, depending on the degrees of functional plan defining the areas of use. All in all, this diversity lacks the identification of the position of the language and its purpose of use.

In the light of the various linguistic and social studies, it has become clear nowadays that the Arabic language and its lexicographical achievements are limited and do not help in the development of language proficiency and the acquisition of contemporary knowledge. Therefore, the linguistic situation is characterized in the public sphere as well as the scientific research by “the linguistic dispossession”.

This is where ARABTERM plays an important role, for it aims at enriching the Arabic language with scientific as well as technical terminology, so that it becomes an effective work tool for researchers, professionals, students, linguists, factory owners, engineers and translators.

News Review

1. ALECSO, represented by the Bureau of Coordination of Arabization (BCA), participated in the Annual Conference of ECOSOC, held on 1-4/07/2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. BCA Director and GIZ representative introduced ARABTERM to the representatives of ECOSOC and the different participants. The dialogue revolved around the importance of the transfer of technical terms into the Arabic language, which requires the creation of a technical terminological bank, aiming at keeping up with the latest developments in the field.

2. The interactive technical dictionary ARABTERM is one of the most interactive websites of the year 2013. The online dictionary had the largest number of visitors on the website of Science and Development Network regional office of www.scidev.net in the Middle East.

3. Along with BCA and GIZ, GIZ held a workshop on “ARABTERM KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT” in Jordan, on September 15-16, 2013, with the participation of experts from FAO and Sina Institute in Birzeit University. The workshop focused on knowledge management, its systems and potential applications of Linked Open Data techniques as well as their importance to the Project of ARABTERM.

4. From October 29 to October 31, 2013, AIDMO and ISESCO held the Sixth Arab Conference on ICT, in Rabat, under the theme “Information Technology: a means to support development and innovation.” During the event, Mr. Guido Zebisch delivered a presentation entitled: “Facilitating Knowledge Transfer: the Arabic-German Interactive Dictionary ARABTERM”.

Zoom

In cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research as well as the Higher Commission on Arabization, BCA organized the Twelfth Congress on Arabization in Khartoum from November 17 to November 21, 2013.

Preferred Term

The Arabic equivalent for the English term “desalination”, the German “Entsalzung” or the French “dessalement” is « تحلية » (sweetening in English). However, the process does not consist of removing salt or adding of sugar; for more than 99% of the volume of the treated saltwater, it is the extraction of pure water (through distillation or reverse osmosis) and obtaining, at the same time, of a saltier solution than the original treated saltwater. Thus, is there another proposition closer to the concept designated?

Citation

“In terms of international trade, for the production of high-tech machineries or building bridges, in scientific discussions or patent application, we need absolute linguistic precision.”


Agenda

ARABTERM team is currently uploading two new volumes on « Renewable Energies » and « Electrical Engineering » on the project’s website www.arabterm.org. The number of terms is scheduled to reach 8500 by the end of May 2014.