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Dolna 17, Warsaw,
Poland 00-773
+48 226 0 227 03
editorial_office@rsglobal.pl

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DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION METHODOLOGY FOR IATE ECOLOGY TERMS IN GEORGIAN

Zeinab Gvarishvili
Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

Zhuzhuna Gumbaridze
Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

Lia Davitadze
Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

Shota Rodinadze
Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

ABSTRACT

This article examines key terminological challenges when translating ecological terms from English into Georgian, within the framework of the "Terminology without Borders" (TWB) project, initiated by the Directorate-General for Translation (DG TRAD) of the European Parliament. This study contributes to the IATE (InterActive Terminology for Europe) database, aiming to enhance communication in the environmental domain by adapting EU terminology to meet citizens' needs worldwide. The paper underscores the importance of terminological consistency in ensuring translation clarity and precision. Specifically, it documents and provides a descriptive analysis of four terms, identifying linguistic cases of polysemy, synonymy, and term variation, commonly observed across all 102 ecological terms in the database.

The introductory section provides a comprehensive overview of the historical development of terminography in Georgia, examining its evolution over time, as well as the contemporary challenges it faces in the field. The core of the study is dedicated to a procedural analysis of terms: industrial crop, primary production waste, green waste, and corn salad. The analysis includes reviewing term definitions, identifying term domains, exploring contextual meanings, detecting target-language equivalents, and corpus-based examination of each term. This approach is designed to systematically address terminological challenges within the context of IATE, thus improving the reliability of the Georgian entries for environmental terminology. A secondary objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of IATE as a resource for translating ecological terminology based on English source texts, highlighting potential areas for improvement in multilingual database management. The concluding section summarises the findings, emphasizing that terminological consistency is fundamentally dependent on the clarity and precision of source texts, especially within specialized domains such as the environment.

KEYWORDS

Ecology Terms, Polysemous Terms, Conceptual Clarity, Terminological Ambiguity, Terminological Consistency, Dialectal Synonymy

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Introduction.

1. Terminology in Georgia: Overview of the State of Affairs.

The development of Georgian terminology has deep historical roots, tracing back to the 10th–12th centuries, a time often referred to as the "Purism Epoch." During this era, interpreters and terminologists, such as Ioane Petritsi and Efrem Mtsire, prioritized native Georgian roots, and affixes, avoiding transliterations and international terms. This trend shifted in the first half of the 20th century, often called the "Classical Period" of Georgian terminology, when scholars like Philippe Makharadze encouraged the adoption of internationalisms, believing they enhanced the language. This perspective, along with the establishment of Georgia's first university in 1918, prompted increased formal efforts to address scientific terminology. Ivane Javakhishvili, a notable historian and linguist, argued that scientific terminology should ideally use existing Georgian words or newly created terms that followed Georgian linguistic rules. Only if these approaches failed should foreign terms be adapted, a guideline widely embraced by the academic community (Journal Education, 1920, no. 3, p. 77). As a result, Georgian scientists developed a rich lexicon of scientific terms, rooted primarily in Georgian, which facilitated precise communication across various fields.

The Soviet occupation in 1921 marked a significant disruption, imposing a linguistic uniformity that favored "international terms" aligned with Soviet policy. Although Soviet-era terminological dictionaries often included Georgian and foreign options for each term, Georgian scientists continued to generate terminology based on native roots, preserving linguistic integrity where possible. Following independence in 1990, however, Georgian terminology faced new challenges, including the dissolution of the State Language Commission, the absence of a cohesive terminology policy, and an influx of foreign terms, particularly from English. In this period, many terms were directly translated or transliterated without fully adhering to Georgian linguistic rules, resulting in ambiguities, especially in compound and analytical terms (Margalitadze 2020,38).

Addressing these terminological challenges is crucial for Georgia's social, economic, and technological advancement. Establishing a standardized term bank would not only support the preservation and development of Georgian terminology but also align it with European standards, facilitating international communication. As Karosanidze (Karosanidze 2019,43) suggests, building on Georgia's extensive tradition of term creation, alongside revising and enhancing post-2000 glossaries, would support such standardization efforts, with guidance from term banks like IATE. Karosanidze emphasizes that a thorough analysis of Georgian terminological data is essential for addressing both Soviet-era and modern terminological challenges and that a structured term bank could greatly aid this effort.

The consistency of terminology is essential for maintaining clarity and precision in institutional translation (Prieto Ramos 2020b, 136). It also plays a critical role in the consistent application and interpretation of EU legislation, as emphasized in studies by Mišćenić (2016), and Prieto Ramos (2014a). In her work, Karolina Stefaniak (2023: 353), from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, highlights that terminology is a key feature of specialized languages, citing Prieto Ramos (2014b, 264–265). According to Šarčević (2015, 186), the translation process may involve either maintaining the original meaning of a borrowed concept or modifying it. Additionally, the foreign term may be retained or replaced with a neutral alternative to avoid misleading implications and ensure that EU terms are clear and easily recognized in translation.

This is particularly relevant in fields such as ecology, where Georgian translations of IATE terms must align with EU regulatory language to ensure the uniform application and interpretation of environmental policies. It is crucial that the translation of terms, especially ecological terms, strikes a balance between preserving the original meaning and adhering to Georgian linguistic norms. This requires a careful decision between borrowing terms, coining neologisms, or adapting general language terms to reflect specific environmental concepts. By following these principles, the translation of ecological terminology helps Georgia align with EU standards, thereby facilitating both effective implementation of environmental policies and clear cross-border communication.

1.1 BSU Terminology Research Project for feeding IATE database.

In October 2023, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (BSU), Georgia, was selected as one of the 50 partner universities granted the right to participate in the *Terminology without Borders (TWB)* project in collaboration with the Terminology Coordination Unit (TermCoord) of the European Parliament. *Terminology without Borders* is an initiative of the Directorate-General for Translation (DG TRAD) of the European Parliament, designed to enhance communication across multiple domains by tailoring EU terminology to meet citizens' needs worldwide. Launched by TermCoord, the project involves partnerships with various EU and

UN agencies and international organizations, with a primary objective to enrich *IATE* (InterActive Terminology for Europe). This extensive EU terminology database is managed by EU institutions, including the European Commission, the Council, and the European Parliament.

As a partner university, BSU's responsibility in this collaboration includes identifying equivalent terms in the target language and completing the required data fields in terminological records according to the IATE Guidelines (IATE Handbook) and the IATE language-specific annex rules. BSU has undertaken the task of ensuring the accurate and comprehensive compilation of data fields for the terminological entries of 102 terms.

1. Scope and Methodology of the Study

The aim of the project, and consequently the scope of the study, is to: (i) assess the compliance of existing Georgian ecological terminology with the IATE database, and (ii) develop new terms that align with the IATE database while considering the unique aspects of Georgian semantics and morphology. Since not all of the 103 terms posed challenges for translation, this study focuses on analyzing the most ambiguous terms.

In the first stage, we selected four terms: *"industrial crops," "primary production waste," "green waste,"* and *"corn salad.*" We compiled relevant source and target language references and cross-references containing domain and subdomain terms to identify the contextual meanings of the terms in target language references. This allowed us to compare translations of the terms across various Georgian documents and identify synonymy.

From a procedural standpoint, each term was analyzed using an empirical methodology that involved the following stages:

1. Identification of target term domains in the IATE database;
2. Analysis of domain and subdomain-based term definitions in the source and target language references and cross-references;
3. Finding corresponding terms in Georgian references and cross-references;
4. Identification of the contextual meanings of each term in both source and target language references and cross-references;
5. Comparison of term compliance between Georgian and English.

The table below presents the compiled sources for the parallel/comparable corpora for the term "*industrial crops."* Similar corpora were compiled for each of the terms discussed in the paper.

Table 1. A Small Corpus of the Term "Industrial Crops"

1. Industrial crops and products and European Union research policy https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S092666909700023X	1. Subtropical technical crops (Georgian agrarian internet newspaper "Agrokavkasia") https://agrokavkaz.ge/fermerta-skola/subtropikuli-tskhimzethovani-teqnikuri-kulturebi.html
2. Research project that studies the food security outcomes of industrial crop production interventions in different parts of Sub-Sahara Africa https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/research-project-studies-food-security-outcomes-industrial-crop-production	2. Order of the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia. №2-51 2014 წლის 25 თებერვალი ქ. თბილისი including its Annex. https://srca.gov.ge/files/%E1%83%93%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%90_%E1%83%90%E1%83%AE%E1%83%90%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98.pdf
3.Growing industrial crops: opportunities for farmers and land-managers Press article Industrial Crops JANUARY 2021 https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/awp2020-press-09-industrial_crops_final.pdf	3.Geography of technical cultures; Internet newspapermastsavlebeli.ge https://mastsavlebeli.ge/?p=1334

3. Analyses of the Outcomes.

Analysis of the terms mentioned above revealed several challenges in translation accuracy and coherence. Key issues included the term polysemy, which complicates meaning transfer; variations in translation that impact clarity and consistency; inconsistencies in terminology that hinder standardization;

linguistic borrowing, which may obscure nuances in the target language; and dialectal variants, which introduce regional discrepancies into the translated terms.

3.1. Polysemy in Terms

In this analysis, we examine the term *Primary Production Waste* as an example of how definitions can vary significantly based on differing interpretive frameworks. This term illustrates the potential for conflicting meanings within the same domain, offering insight into the polysemous nature of certain lexical items. The polysemy inherent in this term's headword necessitates careful consideration of specialized usage when translating from the source language to the target language. Such attention to context-specific interpretation is essential to ensure accurate understanding across linguistic and disciplinary boundaries.

The IATE entry for *Primary Production Waste* (IATE ID 140882) identifies the term as belonging to two primary domains: environment and industry. Notably, however, the entry does not provide a formal definition (see IATE entry 140882). In contrast, a related entry (IATE:1081991) offers a specific definition: "wastes from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing" (IATE entry 1081991). Additionally, another entry (IATE:1081990) refers to an obsolete formulation of the term, which includes a broader range of materials, defining it as "wastes from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, food preparation, and processing."

According to the IATE Handbook, definitions should, where possible, adhere to the substitution principle, meaning the definition should be interchangeable with the term within a given context. Such definitions should be succinct and focused on the key aspects of the concept in order to promote conceptual clarity. In this case, the definition provided by IATE appears more limited than the broader understanding of Primary Production Waste in the Georgian context. Hypothetically, since IATE entry 140882 lacks a formal definition, it is possible that entries IATE:1081990 and IATE:1081991 were created to reflect specific regulatory definitions, as defined by European Union legislation, such as the Commission Decision or Council Directive on waste, and the Council Decision establishing a list of hazardous materials (http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2000/532/2015-06-01).

Given the apparent broader conceptual scope, the Georgian equivalent for *Primary production waste* could appropriately be translated as *"პირველადი წარმოების ნარჩენები"* (*pirveladi tsarmoebis narchenebi*). In addition, the term may encompass the Georgian-specific definition, as in "რესურსი – ნებისმიერი პირველადი ან მეორეული მატერიალური ნედლეული, მათ შორის, ნარჩენი, თუ ის სხვა პირველადი ნედლეულის ნაცვლად გამოიყენება" ("Resource - any primary or secondary raw material, including waste, if used in place of other primary raw materials") as defined in the Georgian *Code of Waste Management* (https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2676416?publication=15). However, a direct, verbatim translation of *Primary Production Waste* as "პირველადი წარმოების ნარჩენები" raises ambiguity in Georgian. Specifically, it remains unclear whether the concept of "waste" here refers solely to unwanted by-products from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing, or if it also includes materials potentially reusable for secondary production. Thus, *Waste* designates: "ნარჩენები– შემდგომი წარმოებისათვის უვარგისი ნედლეულის სახეები, მისი გამოუყენებელი ნარჩენი ან ტექნოლოგიური პროცესის მსვლელობისას წარმოქმნილი ნივთიერება (მყარი, თხევადი და აირადი) და ენერგია, რომელიც არ ექვემდებარება უტილიზაციას განხილულ საწარმოში. რესურსების დაზოგვისას ნარჩენების რაოდენობა მცირდება იმის ხარჯზე, რომ ერთი წარმოების ნარჩენი ხდება ნედლეული მეორესათვის. ნარჩენები შეიძლება იყოს მყარი, სამრეწველო და ინერტული, ასევე ტოქსიკური"
(https://monographs.4science.ge/index.php/ss/catalog/view/113/129/334_. (Waste - types of raw materials that are unsuitable for further production, including unused by-products or substances (solid, liquid, or gaseous) generated during the technological process, as well as excess energy that cannot be utilized within the enterprise. Through resource conservation, waste can be minimized when the by-products of one production process are used as raw materials for another. Waste can be classified as solid, industrial, inert, or toxic).

The term *Waste* can be understood in two distinct senses within this definition: (1) raw materials that are unsuitable for further production—comprising unused waste or substances (solid, liquid, or gaseous) generated during technological processes and energy production that are not intended for further utilization, and (2) waste as a resource that serves as a raw material for subsequent production. Both interpretations are relevant to the domains of environment and industry. This ambiguity suggests that IATE ID 140882 may not sufficiently delineate between

the broad and specific meanings of *waste*, highlighting the potential need to create separate entries that capture these varied interpretations with accompanying contextual details and references. In many domain-specific resources, different meanings are treated as separate entries, while others consolidate them into a single entry. However, such approaches rarely attempt to demonstrate how the various senses are interrelated, especially for polysemous terms whose meanings may be only slightly connected. To enhance user comprehension, more sophisticated mechanisms are needed to ensure cohesiveness across definitions, particularly when multiple meanings of a polysemous term, such as *waste*, diverge significantly in interpretation.

Ultimately, the challenge of reconciling *waste* as a disposable material with *waste* as a reusable resource is compounded by the complexities of applying these meanings consistently within both environmental and industrial contexts. This difficulty underscores the importance of referencing external contextual resources to provide reliable, comprehensive insights into these nuanced interpretations.

3.2. Exploring Term Variations in Translation.

The IATE entry 141402, *Green Waste*, serves as a useful illustration of the issue of domain-specific polysemy. According to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), 'green waste' is defined as "waste that decays naturally and in a way that is not harmful to the environment." This concept is exemplified by the statement, "We use green waste collected from residents' homes to produce compost" https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/green-waste. The adjective 'green' in this domain may carry various meanings, as outlined by the OED from which the definitions below are crucially important for our analysis: 1. Of a fruit or plant: young and tender; unripe, not ready to eat; retaining natural moisture, fresh. 2. That has not been prepared or treated for consumption or use. 3. Of vegetables: uncooked, raw. 4. Of a product, service, etc.: designed, produced, or operating in a way that minimizes harm to the natural environment. https://www.oed.com/dictionary/green_adj?tab=meaning_and_use#2423598

The challenge in interpreting *Green Waste* is determining whether it primarily refers to waste from plants and vegetables that are unripe, raw, or untreated, or to waste that, in a broader sense, encompasses any biodegradable plant-based matter that decomposes naturally without environmental harm. Alternatively, it could imply a product managed or disposed of in a way that reduces ecological impact. According to the IATE definition of the term *Green Waste* https://iate.europa.eu/entry/result/141402/all, the source of the waste is not specified whether it comes from a plant or animal, or any other substance. This leads to the interpretation of the adjective *Green* as synonymous with *eco-friendly* emphasising the idea of being environmentally conscious or sustainable. The term itself encompasses any kind of waste from practices, products, and technologies that either do not cause or reduce harm to the environment.

Here, for translation into Georgian, *Green Waste* could be rendered as:

1. "მცენარეული ნარჩენები - ნარჩენები, რომლებიც მოიცავს მარცვლოვანი და პარკოსანი კულტურების და ბალახოვან ნარჩენებს: თხილის, კაკლის, ნუშის და სხვა ნაჭუჭი, ტყემლის კურკა, ხილისა და ციტრუსების კანი, ყურძნის ჭაჭა, ვენახის ლერწმების ნასხლავი, სიმინდის ტაროს ჭაჭა, ვენახის ლერწმების ნასხლავი, სიმინდის ტაროს ნაქურჩი, მზესუმზირას ჩენჩო, ნამჯა და სხვა ნარჩენები, რომლებიც დიდი რაოდენობით გროვდება. https://shromebi.gtu.ge/admin/uploads/10-japaridze.pdf green (plant) waste which encompasses a range of plant-based residues such as the hulls of nuts (e.g., hazelnut, walnut, almond), pits of fruits like cherry, citrus peels, grape skins, vine prunings, corn stalks, sunflower husks, and straw.

2. „ბიოდეგრადირებადი ნარჩენები – ნარჩენები, რომლებიც ექვემდებარება ანაერობულ ან აერობულ დაშლას, მათ შორის, სურსათის/ცხოველის საკვების ნარჩენები, ბაღის/პარკის ნარჩენები, ქაღალდი, მუყაო" https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2676416?publication=15 "biodegradable waste" defined as waste subject to anaerobic or aerobic decomposition, including food waste, garden waste, paper, and cardboard.

3. მცენარეული ქსოვილების ნარჩენები (მცენარეული წარმოშობის ორგანული ნარჩენი, რომელიც ბიოდეგრადირებადია და ბუნებრივად იხრწნება organic plant waste that is biodegradable and naturally decays).

4. მწვანე ნარჩენები (ნარჩენები, რომლებიც ბუნებრივად იხრწნება და არ აყენებს ზიანს გარემოს) Waste that decays naturally and in a way that is not harmful to the environment.

ბიოდეგრადირებადი ნარჩენები (biodegradable waste) and მწვანე ნარჩენები (green waste) are closely related but differ in their scope and application. Biodegradable waste refers to any organic material,

encompassing both plant-based and animal-based substances, that decomposes naturally over time through microbial or biological processes. In contrast, green waste specifically pertains to plant-derived organic materials, typically originating from gardening, landscaping, and agricultural activities. This type of waste is often processed through composting or utilized as an alternative to landfilling. The key distinction lies in the fact that, while all green waste is biodegradable, not all biodegradable waste qualifies as green waste. Thus, while both contribute to sustainability efforts through natural decomposition, their specific applications and management practices may differ.

Furthermore, the term *Green Waste* is contextualized by the IATE as follows: “Recycling green waste as compost could match the environmental benefits of converting it into renewable energy, in terms of CO_2 savings, according to new German research.” This insight, sourced from the European Commission, highlights green waste’s environmental utility both in composting and in renewable energy production. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/191na2_en.pdf.

To avoid terminological ambiguity, the most precise Georgian equivalent for *Green Waste* appears to be *“მწვანე ნარჩენები.”* The term aligns with local interpretations, as evidenced in Environmental Protection City Service materials which state: "Organic waste—such as food waste, wood, and green waste—can be composted and converted into essential fertilisers for agriculture" www. plastmasa. ge. Our analysis of this term is grounded in constructive expectations for the adoption of the potential term “მწვანე ნარჩენები” (green waste). To support this suggestion, we emphasize that the academic discourse in Georgia frequently and reliably uses terms such as “მწვანე ეკონომიკა” (green economy), “მწვანე სამუშაო ადგილები” (green jobs), “მწვანე პროდუქტი” (green product), “მწვანე შენობები” (green buildings), “მწვანე ეკონომიკური განვითარება” (green economic development), “მწვანე წარმოება” (green production), “მწვანე ბიზნესშესაძლებლობები” (green business opportunities), “მწვანე ბიზნესები” (green businesses), “მწვანე ზრდა” (green growth), “მწვანე ეკონომიკური პროგრამა” (green economic program), “მწვანე ტრანსპორტის საშუალებები” (green transport means), and the “ტურიზმის სექტორის ე.წ. მწვანე მიმართულება” (green direction in the tourism sector). http://conferenceconomics.tsu.ge/?mcat=0&cat=arq&leng=ge&adgi=771&title

This established terminology supports a consensus for a direct translation of green waste as მწვანე ნარჩენები. Adopting this term would appropriately convey the meaning of naturally decomposable waste with ecological value and practical applications in composting and energy conversion. This suggests our consensus on the use of verbatim translation of the term *green waste* as *მწვანე ნარჩენები.* Such adoption of the new term will encompass naturally decomposable waste that has an ecological value and practical application in both composting and energy conversion.

3.3. Establishing Terminological Consistency in Translation.

The term *Industrial Crops* is defined in both the IATE and Eurostat glossaries as "crops that are generally not sold directly for consumption, as they require industrial processing before their final use" (https://iate.europa.eu/search/result/1713283097234/1, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Industrial_crops). According to IATE data, the term is associated with multiple domains, including agriculture, industry, and forestry. To explore the contextual meaning of the term in English, this study examined its usage across academic literature and legal documents. Close analysis revealed that, despite its presence in multiple domains, the term’s meaning remains consistent across different contexts.

The process of determining the most suitable equivalent term in Georgian involved several key steps: (1) identifying and analyzing the term's equivalent in the target language (Georgian); (2) investigating the linguistic methods used in the term's formation (such as transliteration, translation, borrowing, coinage, or concept-based translation); and (3) examining the term's contextual meaning.

The term "industrial crops" corresponds to two synonymous terms in Georgian: “ტექნიკური კულტურა” [teqnikuri kultura] and “სამრეწველო კულტურა” [samretsvelo kultura]. To determine which of these terms is more frequently used in Georgian sources, we analyzed available legal documents and academic papers. Contextual and quantitative analyses demonstrated a prevalence of the term “ტექნიკური კულტურები” over “სამრეწველო კულტურები.” Therefore, to avoid ambiguity in translating legal documents, we suggest using the term “ტექნიკური კულტურები.”

To ensure precision, transparency, and a comprehensive definition of the term, we conducted morphological and semantic analyses. The Georgian term “სამრეწველო კულტურები” (industrial crops) is a compound word consisting of two components. The first component, “ტექნიკური” [teqnikuri], signifies the technical or chemical processes involved in the production of a material or substance (e.g., “ტექნიკური წყალი” [teqnikuri wkali] – process water). The second component, “კულტურები” [kultura], is a polysemous word. According to *A Dictionary of Foreign Words*, one of the meanings of “კულტურა” is "crop," listed as the seventh of eight possible definitions of the term in Georgian. This suggests that the Georgian term is not a direct translation of its English counterpart, but rather a coined term that reflects specific agricultural and industrial processes.

To clarify the term’s precise definition in Georgian, two primary sources were consulted: *A Comprehensive English-Georgian Online Dictionary* and *A Dictionary of Foreign Words*. The first source provides a translation of "industrial crops" but does not offer a definition (https://dictionary.ge/ka/word/industrial/?h=+crops). The second source, *A Dictionary of Foreign Words*, includes the term, though the definition provided is brief and insufficient: “ის რაც უნდა გამოიყენონ ან უნდა დაამუშაონ მრეწველობაში. მაგ., ტექნიკური კულტურები” ("Something that can be processed and used in industry, e.g., industrial crops") (http://www.nplg.gov.ge/gwdict/index.php?a=term&d=3&t=39693).To develop a more comprehensive definition of the term in Georgian, we consulted reliable academic sources, which allowed for a more thorough analysis. Based on these sources, we propose the following definition: “კულტურები, რომლებსაც იყენებენ, როგორც სამრეწველო ნედლეულს. მაგ. ბამბა, თამბაქო, ზეთისხილი” ("Crops used as industrial raw materials, e.g., cotton, tobacco, olive").

3.4. Linguistic Borrowing and Dialectal Variants in Terminology

In the IATE term search system, *Corn Salad/Common Corn salad* is defined as “a plant, Valerianella locusta, used in salad” (IATE, ID 140512). This term falls under multiple domains: Agriculture, Forestry, and Agro-foodstuffs. IATE also lists the Latin name of the term (Valerianella locusta), though it notes that this is an outdated, deprecated version, highlighted in a different color to signify its status. The same entry provides synonyms, including “lamb’s salad” and “field salad.” To establish an equivalent Georgian term, we analyzed academic sources, specialized dictionaries, and legal documents across these fields. A close examination of the term across different contexts showed that its meaning remains consistent regardless of the domain.

To find an equivalent term in Georgian, we consulted The Comprehensive English-Georgian Online Dictionary, which provides the term "მაშა-სალათა" [masha salata], along with the Latin name (Valerianella locusta/olitoria). The English version of the term suggests a link to plants, grains, fields, and agriculture in general, whereas its Georgian counterpart lacks any intuitive association with these concepts. Notably, the word “მაშა” in Georgian has no connection to the plant or agricultural domains. This term was borrowed from the Russian “маш-салат”(http://www.nplg.gov.ge/gwdict/index.php?a=list&d=11&p=3&w1=%E1%83%9B) and has become the established Georgian equivalent for “corn salad.”

The Georgian Botanical term Dictionary includes dialectal synonyms for the term in Georgian dialects: in Lechkhumuri, it is “ქათმიქონა” [katmikona], and in Kakhuri, it is “პირწმინდა”[pirtsminda] (http://www.nplg.gov.ge/gwdict/index.php?a=term&d=11&t=3352). While authoritative dictionaries and legal documents, including resolutions from the Government of Georgia, recognize 'მაშა-სალათა' as the standard Georgian equivalent, we have retained these dialectal synonyms in our term note section. This approach aligns with the example set by IATE and respects the historical practices of Georgian terminography, which prioritize the preservation of Georgian equivalents alongside borrowed terminology.

4. Conclusions.

This analysis highlights the complexities of translating and defining polysemous and synonymous terms across linguistic and disciplinary boundaries. The ambiguity inherent in these terms—especially within the intersecting contexts of environment and industry—demonstrates the importance of careful, context-specific interpretation, particularly in international databases such as IATE. The absence of formal definitions for certain IATE entries, along with a lack of contextual references and divergent regulatory definitions, suggests a gap that complicates multilingual and multicultural applications. This emphasizes the need for distinct, contextually grounded entries for terms with multiple interpretations to mitigate interpretive challenges.

Additionally, domain-specific terms often display significant variation, which can influence term selection and impact consistency across translations. Translators must be aware of when and why certain terms are preferred to maintain fidelity to both context and intended meaning. Terminographic resources should therefore offer a comprehensive explanation of each term's conceptual and communicative dimensions, as these factors shape accurate and effective translation from source to target language.

By integrating mechanisms that address dialectal synonymy, polysemy, and terminological consistency, terminological databases can more explicitly differentiate between meanings, thereby providing users with a clearer, more navigable resource for handling complex terms in environmental and industrial contexts. Such an approach not only improves conceptual clarity but also creates a more cohesive and reliable framework for cross-disciplinary and cross-linguistic communication.

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