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Abstract:

Based on a critical discussion of three case studies in political translation, this articles aims to establish the translational and lexicographical basis for an English-German dictionary of American political culture.

Ausgehend von einer kritischen Betrachtung von drei Fallstudien im Bereich politischer Übersetzungen zielt dieser Beitrag darauf ab, die translationswissenschaftlichen und lexikographischen Grundlagen eines deutsch-englischen Wörterbuchs der amerikanischen politischen Kultur vorzustellen.

Keywords:

translation of political texts; language of politics; political dictionaries; political lexicography; American political culture

Übersetzung politischer Texte; Sprache der Politik; politisches Wörterbuch; politische Lexikographie; amerikanische politische Kultur

Contents:

1   Introduction

The United States Senate is a rather peculiar place. The American journalist Ambrose Bierce famously referred to the Senate as "a body of old men charged with high duties and misdemeanors" (Quotations Book). And the actor and humorist Will Rogers told the American public: "And kid Congress and the Senate, don't scold 'em. They are just children that's never grown up. They don't like to be corrected in company. Don't send messages to 'em, send candy" (Wikipedia).

Now, members of the German television audience watching and listening to the first presidential debate between Senators Barack Obama and John McCain in late September 2008 were probably not familiar with these quotes, but a statement by the "old man" John McCain, or rather by his German interpreter, might have conjured up a similar, negative picture. In the section in question, McCain criticized then-Senator Obama's congressional voting record as follows:

> McCain: […] This is a classic example of walking the walk and talking the talk. We had an energy bill
> before the United States Senate. It was festooned with Christmas tree ornaments. It had all kinds of
> breaks for the oil companies, I mean, billions of dollars worth. I voted against it; Senator Obama voted
> for it. (CNN 2008: 9, emphasis mine).

Viewers of the German television network *Phoenix* heard the following, puzzling simultaneous interpretation, in which McCain, in German seems to reminisce about past Christmas parties in the Senate.

> McCain: […] Das ist ein klassischer Fall … dass … man redet das
> Eine und tut das Andere. Im Senat haben wir ja tolle Weihnachtsfeiern erlebt; ja da wurden Millionen
> ausgegeben für die Mineralölkonzerne. Der Senator Obama hat dafür gestimmt, ich habe dagegen
> gestimmt. (Phoenix 2008; transcript of German interpretation; emphasis mine).

2   Translation of Political Texts

My basic hypothesis for this paper is that the translation and interpreting of political texts, that is oral and written texts produced by or dealing with primary political agents and institutions, is often times deficient. And while this deficiency can take on various forms and can stem from various causes, I further posit that there are two main avenues of explanation for these deficiencies.

On the one hand, we can identify translation errors or rather journalistic and editorial modifications of translations that represent discursive phenomena. They are ideologically influenced (whether consciously or unconsciously needs to be seen), and lead to a misrepresentation of the agents and events being dealt with. As I have discussed elsewhere (see Austermühl 2007 and 2006) this misrepresentation relates to questions of identity, power relations, and ideology itself.

On the other hand, we find more traditional translation errors, above all on a lexical, and more specifically on a terminological level. These mistakes do not result from ideological interference but can be traced back to a lack of translation competence and / or specialist knowledge on the part of the individuals involved in the translation of political texts and to insufficiencies in translation resources. This last aspect of the translation of political texts will be at the center of this article (for a discussion of ideological aspects of the translation of political texts see, for example, Christina Schäffner and Susan Bassnett 2010, Esperança Bielsa and Susan Bassnett 2009, and the special issue of *The Translator* 2010).

This paper is divided into two main parts. In the first part, I will present three case studies of poorly translated political texts and text segments—cases that move gradually from ideological concerns to questions of translation strategies and translation competence, to terminological deficits. In the second part, I will argue for the need to develop specific lexicographical resources to aid in the translation of political texts. In particular, I will present the theoretical and practical issues involved in the compilation and publication of a specialized political dictionary and present the prototype of an English-German Dictionary of American Politics that I am currently working on.

3   Three Case Studies

The first and last examples, taken from the autobiographies of Hillary and Bill Clinton, respectively, represent the two avenues of ideological interference and deficits in translation and terminological competence I mentioned above. The remaining example, from articles in *Die Welt* and *The Guardian*, represent a combination of these two influencing factors, albeit with a stronger ideological dimension.

3.1   Hillary Clinton's *Living History* in Chinese

The first case discussed here describes the political and ideological tensions involved in the process of translating the autobiography of former First Lady and current U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton from English to Chinese.

Published in 2003, Hillary Clinton's autobiography *Living History* became an instant bestseller. Within one month of its release on June 9, 2003 by the publishing house Simon & Schuster, who had paid Senator Clinton an advance of US-$8 million, more than one million copies of the 562-page book had been sold. Its early sales performance earned the former First Lady a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the (then) "Fastest-Selling Non-Fiction Book" (Guinness World Records 2006). The Guinness Book entry is cited in many of the book's reviews: "*Living History*, the memoir of former first lady Hillary Clinton's life with US President Bill Clinton and his relationship with the intern Monica Lewinsky, is the fastest-selling non-fiction book in history, shifting 200,000 copies on its first day of sales in the US in June 2003" (Guinness World Records 2006). Clinton's recording of *Living History* even earned her a second (ultimately unsuccessful) Grammy nomination in the category Best Spoken Word Album (BBC News 2004). From 2003 to 2006, three million copies of the book would eventually be sold in the U.S. and abroad (National First Library). The rights for the book were sold to 36 foreign publishers. Many websites, like First Ladies.org and Wikipedia, specifically stress the fact that "*Living History* was translated into several foreign languages including Chinese" (Wikipedia).

Indeed, the publication of the Chinese version of *Living History*, or *QinliLishi* (lit. "Personal History") was hailed as a positive political sign pointing to greater openness of not only the Chinese market but also of its society. *QinliLishi* was published in mainland China on August 1, 2003 and, as in the rest of the world, became an instant bestseller "with 200,000 copies sold in just over one month" (Pan 2003) making it "the most popular foreign political memoir in Chinese history" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003).

Yet, less than two months after the book's release by its government-owned publisher Yilin Press, Clinton's smile—which had become a fixture in public spaces across China—was gone, and the junior senator from New York and her publisher demanded an "immediate recall" and "republication" of the Chinese edition (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003).

The statement, issued by the Simon & Schuster publishing house on September 24, 2003, reads as follows:

> Simon & Schuster has told Yilin Press that their actions are a breach of contract. Simon & Schuster has demanded immediate recall of the inaccurate version and the republication of the book with a faithful and accurate translation. (Simonsays.com)

What happened?

Did the translator, or rather translators, since there were six translators working on the translation, offend the former first lady by using explicitation strategies when translating her husband's infamous line "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky" or was the potential presidential hopeful of the Democratic Party domesticated into a kind of Chinese Lady Macbeth (instances of which can be found in parts of the German translation of *Living History*), a perhaps unflattering analogy to the cruel, scheming Queen Ci Xi, who maneuvered her son (if not her husband) onto the throne only to murder him later? Would she have preferred a comparison with China's self-declared woman emperor Wu Ze-tien instead, a woman who would have been very much to Mrs. Clinton's liking?

Or was the client just not happy with the quality of the rushed translation of the 562-page book done by six translators in as little as 40 days, a process further complicated by the fact

that the Chinese publisher based its edition on the previous Taiwanese version of the autobiography?

Well, none of the above.

As the New York Times' Joseph Kahn, the first journalist to identify the "translation" problems in the book, reports, "nearly everything Mrs. Clinton had to say about China, including descriptions of her own visits here, former President Bill Clinton's meetings with Chinese leaders and her criticisms of Communist Party social controls and human rights policies, has been shortened or selectively excerpted to remove commentary deemed offensive by Beijing." (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003), an analysis supported by Simon & Schuster who state: "Yilin Press represented their edition to be a complete and accurate translation of the English text. In fact, numerous changes and deletions were made to portions of the text dealing with Senator Clinton's views about China and her travels there" (Simonsays.com).

The discrepancies between the original and the Chinese target text include references to the 1995 imprisonment of prominent Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu, which, as Clinton recounts, almost led her "to cancel her plans to attend a United Nations women's conference held in Beijing in 1995" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003). As Kahn reports, "in the officially licensed Chinese edition of Mrs. Clinton's book, though, Mr. Wu makes just a cameo appearance. While named, he is otherwise identified only as a person who was 'prosecuted for espionage and detained awaiting trial" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003).

According to Simon and Schuster, "at least 10 passages including material about China have been altered or deleted in the officially licensed Chinese version" (Simonsays.com).

Among the sensitive passages that somehow got lost in translation, or better, that ended up on the censor's cutting floor, is a statement by Clinton saying "that she was 'haunted by the events at Tiananmen,' the violent crackdown on a student-led pro-democracy demonstration in 1989" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003). This statement was made during a visit to China in 1998 with President Clinton, during which the First Lady also attended a Protestant religious service in Beijing. The Chinese version recounts this visit, "but omits a line that religious freedom was still 'a right forbidden to many'" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003).

Clinton's criticism of what the senator called "the nation's dismal record on human rights and its barbaric policy of condoning forced abortion as a means of imposing its one-child policy," was also omitted (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003).

Not surprisingly, passages relating to Chinese practices of censoring themselves and the lack of freedom of speech—Clinton for example recounted how the broadcast of her speech at the UN conference on women in Beijing 1995 was blocked—did not find their way into the official Chinese version of the book either (Pan 2003).

The Chinese publisher, Yilin (which means "forest of translated works") "has acknowledged making changes in the text but said they were 'minor, technical' alterations that did not affect the integrity of the book" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003). According to the Associated Press, Yilin admitted that it failed to inform Simon & Schuster about the "changes" in time, but stressed that they were only made "in order to make the biography more palatable to [Chinese] readers" (Lin 2003). One wonders: Were the translators followers of a radical Functionalist translation school?

In addition, said a representative for the Chinese publisher, "in order to fight piracy and to protect the rights of both Simon & Schuster and ourselves, Yilin had to speed up [the translation] to publish the book" (Pan 2003). When China's largest newspaper began printing excerpts from the book, the publishing house sped up the translation process to complete the Chinese version of Clinton's memoir "in 40 days" (Pan 2003). The Taipei Times reports—not without a solid dose of *Schadenfreude*—that since the American publishers had been slow to send the English manuscript (it did not arrive until June 2003), Yilin had to use the Taiwanese translation as the basis for its own text, which a team of six translators then completed (Lin 2003). Indeed, the publishing house cited "differences in language use in translation" between mainland China and Taiwan as the main reason for the "minor technical changes" but did not specify these differences.

Mrs. Clinton for her part was not amused, declaring herself to be "amazed and outraged" (BBC 2003). "They censored my book, just like they tried to censor me," she said referring to

the 1995 UN Conference on Women in Beijing where the broadcast of her speech had been blocked by the authorities (BBC 2003).

As the Washington Post reports, "China routinely censors material it deems politically sensitive in newspapers, magazines, books, movies and even television comedies. Chinese authorities also "regularly ban books or films that depict China in what they consider a negative light" (Pan 2003).

According to a statement by a representative of the Chinese publishing house, "the changes had been made by Yilin alone, without government consultation" (Kahn 24 Sep. 2003). As the New York Times' Joseph Kahn explains, "most state-owned media companies are not subject to advance censorship" (Kahn 24 Sep. 2003). However, Chinese censors "issue occasional circulars banning certain subjects and make it clear that editors will be held responsible if they publish anything later found to be offensive" (Pan 2003).

Clinton's U.S. publisher set up a website with translations of some of the text deleted from the Chinese edition, "to provide a quick and accurate way for Chinese readers to read the missing passages" (Pan 2003), while trying to find a solution with their Chinese counterparts. "But after three months of negotiations, Simon & Schuster decided to cancel the contract" (BBC 2003).

The New York Times, commenting on the cancellation of the contract, quotes Robert Barnett, the lawyer who represented both Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton in negotiations over the foreign publishing rights for their books, as saying:

> Western authors are likely to demand the rights to review and approve the Chinese translation before granting final rights for publication. In the past, Chinese publishing houses have handled translation without review. 'I think that for Western political figures who write books and who have pride in their work and want to see it published accurately, this is a very discouraging development.'
> (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003)

Barnett concludes: "You can't authorize a publication in China without a clause that requires pre-approval and review of any translation" (Kahn 23 Dec. 2003).

As we see, there is quite a lot of collateral damage here, for the Chinese society, the market, the publishers, and last but not least, the Chinese translators, for, apparently, not having been able to provide "a faithful and accurate translation."

Where again were the translation mistakes being made?

3.2   The Wolfowitz Case

While politicians publishing their memoirs might have legal means to demand the pre-approval of a translation (at least of official ones), the rendition in a foreign language of oral statements made by a political actor as part of international political news coverage is very much uncontrollable. Jane Christie, for example, has identified instances of ideologically-motivated manipulation of political discourse through journalistic translations in the case of Bolivia's left-wing president Evo Morales (see Christie 2006). Politically speaking, the type of misrepresentation that is present in the Morales case does not only work from left to right, but also the other way around, as my second example—taken from the British paper *The Guardian*—shows.

On June 4, 2003, under the headline "Wolfowitz: Iraq War Was About Oil", the *Guardian*'s George Wright opened his article as follows: "Oil was the main reason for military action against Iraq, a leading White House hawk has claimed, confirming the worst fears of those opposed to the US-led war." (Wright). Only one day later, the article was gone—withdrawn by the newspaper combined with a short apology for the misreporting.

What happened?

In the article Wright quotes Paul Wolfowitz, the then-U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, as saying: "Let's look at it simply. The most important difference between North Korea and Iraq is that economically, we just had no choice in Iraq. The country swims on a sea of oil" (Wright). This key section of Wright's article is actually a translation of a quote taken from a German newspaper (see below).

Yet, what Wolfowitz really said, at a press conference in Singapore, was: "Look, the primary difference—to put it a little too simply—between North Korea and Iraq is that we had

virtually no economic options with Iraq because the country floats on a sea of oil" (U.S. Department of Defense).

The mistranslation was aggravated by the fact that Wolfowitz's follow-up comment was completely left out in the *Guardian* article, thus removing essential contextual information:

> In the case of North Korea, the country is teetering on the edge of economic collapse and that I believe is a major point of leverage whereas the military picture with North Korea is very different from that with Iraq. The problems in both cases have some similarities but the solutions have got to be tailored to the circumstances which are very different. (Wright 2003).

A look at the genesis of this "translation" shows the peculiar nature of the global news-making process.

What Paul Wolfowitz said, at a press conference in Singapore, was: "Look, the primary difference -- to put it a little too simply -- between North Korea and Iraq is that we had virtually no economic options with Iraq because the country floats on a sea of oil" (U.S. Department of Defense).

What the German journalist Sophie Mühlmann heard, or wanted to hear, and what was later published in *Die Welt* and the *TAZ*, reads as follows: "Betrachten wir es einmal ganz simpel. Der wichtigste Unterschied zwischen Nordkorea und dem Irak ist der, dass wir wirtschaftlich einfach keine Wahl im Irak hatten. Das Land schwimmt auf einem Meer von Öl" (Mühlmann 2003).

This sounds a bit like: "Look, let's not complicate things: […] We had to do it for economic reasons, we just needed the oil (on which the country just happened to be sitting.

What Wright finally wrote for the *Guardian*—"Let's look at it simply. The most important difference between North Korea and Iraq is that economically, we just had no choice in Iraq. The country swims on a sea of oil" (Wright 2003)—is a literal, almost machine-translation-like rendition of the German text, including the somewhat awkward idiom "swimming on oil". In German, "in etwas schwimmen", literally translated as "to be swimming in something," indicates prosperity and / or abundance, as for example in the expression "in Geld schwimmen" ("to be rolling in money").

The translation chain of this short but telling passage illustrates that there are several potential sources for interference with regard to the translation of political news.

One problem is interference from stereotypical representations of the other (here: the oil-obsessed and war-mongering American). A second source of interference can be found in the political ideology of the reporting journalist or media and in the political expectations of the intended target audience (in this case, an at the time increasingly Bush-critical German and British public). Both aspects find their expression, for example, in Mühlmann's translation of "we had virtually no economic options," referring here to the futility of economic sanctions, with "wir hatten wirtschaftlich einfach keine Wahl," a different perspective reflected also in the *Guardians*' literal translation of the German: "economically, we just had no choice in Iraq."

A third problem results from the high degree of selectivity and, above all, intertextuality in contemporary global news reporting. The quote in the *Guardian* is just the last link in an intertextual translation chain—a Chinese media whisper, so to speak—that was selectively re-contextualized in one British and two German newspapers.

What the Wolfowitz case also clearly shows is that lack of translation strategies and skills contributes to and facilitates the misrepresentation of political events.

3.3   Political Terminology in Bill Clinton's *My Life / Mein Leben*

Moving on to our third and final case, where we will leave the level of discourse and ideology, and where I propose to look at the translation of political texts as just another type of specialized translation. From this perspective, we expect to find that translation errors are caused less by ideological interference then by a lack of translation competence (as already visible in the Wolfowitz case) and, above all, by inadequate terminological knowledge and a lack of terminological consistency.

The following examples are taken from Bill Clinton's autobiography *My Life*. In Chapter 41 of the English version of the book, Clinton describes the aftermath of the 1994 mid-term elections, which were a disaster for the Democratic Party, as follows:

> The NRA had a great night. They beat both <u>Speaker</u> Tom Foley and Jack Brooks, two of the ablest
> members of Congress, who warned me this would happen. Foley was the first <u>Speaker</u> to be defeated in
> more than a century. (<u>Clinton 2004: 629</u>, emphasis mine)

My interest here lies with the translation of the title "Speaker" (of the House of Representatives). The corresponding German passage reads as follows:

> Zu den großen Siegern an diesem Wahltag zählte auch die National Rifle Association. Sie erreichte die
> Abwahl des <u>Parlamentspräsidenten</u> Tom Foley sowie Jack Brooks, die zu den fähigsten
> Kongressmitgliedern zählten. Beide hatten mich gewarnt. Seit mehr als einem Jahrhundert war kein
> <u>Sprecher des Repräsentantenhauses</u> mehr abgewählt worden. (<u>Clinton 2004: 681</u>, emphasis mine)

In this passage alone, we find two entirely different translations for the term "Speaker"— "Parlamentspräsident" and "Sprecher des Repräsentantenhauses." Note that the title "Speaker" is rendered with two different noun phrases, each consisting of two different components. The German reader is thus confronted with two different titles and, at least on the surface, two different offices.

Earlier in the German version, we find a third translation for the term "Speaker." Here, Foley had been introduced as the "Präsident des Repräsentantenhauses" (<u>677</u>), a mix of the two options mentioned above. Given the fact that the office of the Speaker of the House has mostly been translated as "Sprecher", the variations I just mentioned might be explained (and excused) by an attempt to avoid repetition.

However, as the U.S. political system is not a parliamentary one (but a presidential one), and taking into account that if the U.S. legislature were to be compared to a parliament it should include both branches, i.e. the House and the Senate, the German "Parlament" seems like an odd choice indeed.

If we further pursue the analogy "Parlamentspräsident," then we will realize that within the German political system this term is used to refer to the president of the "Bundestag. " The "Bundestagspräsident," however, while on paper Germany's second highest political office, is a position with considerably less power and political clout than the Speaker of the House. Indeed, in political circles the office is often referred to as the proverbial "Frühstücksdirektor," or figurehead. And while the name of the current speaker of the U.S.

House of Representatives is probably internationally well known (John Boehner), the name of his supposed counterpart in the German system is probably only known to the proverbial political wonk (currently Norbert Lammert, which, I confess, I had to look up myself).

Thus, while contributing to the potential confusion of the reader through terminological inconsistency, the various translations of the office of the "Speaker" also result in a misrepresentation of the political hierarchy of the United States.

The translator's eagerness to avoid repetitions is also apparent in his treatment of the term "convention." In Clinton's autobiography, we find the term as part of a number of recurring word combinations, e.g. Democratic or Republican convention, party convention, national convention, or nominating convention. Here, the translator does use the standard translation "Parteitag" on a number of occasions, yet without using the more appropriate "Nominierungsparteitag" to refer to the national conventions in presidential election years. Nevertheless, he also shows a distinct preference for the religiously-connotated and rather old-fashioned sounding expression "Parteikonvent," a strategy whose doubtful merits become especially apparent when Clinton writes about his work on the 1972 campaigns, his own congressional race and George McGovern's presidential one, stating that: "Vor dem Parteitag in Miami besuchte ich noch den Parteikonvent der Demokraten von Arkansas …" (Clinton 2004: 281).

4   Toward a Dictionary of American Political Culture

It is probably fair to say that the types of mistakes made in the examples that I have shown in the last two cases, would have had serious repercussions for any professional translator working with technical or legal texts. It is probably also fair to say that a certain respect for translation strategies and the availability of translation-specific reference works such as databases or dictionaries would have gone a long way toward avoiding these very mistakes. Especially in the case of Bill Clinton's autobiography, it seems that no project database or glossary was set up upfront.

One of the problems here is that bilingual reference works on politics are, in general and independent of the language combinations involved, extremely rare. This fact and the total lack of lexicographical research into this topic—the *International Journal of Lexicography* shows 0 hits for the title keyword "politics"—is I think both noteworthy and worrisome. And given the significant and often immediate impact of U.S. politics on German politics and the close ties between the nations, the scarcity of lexicographical resources in the language combination English-German, especially bilingual ones, dealing with the political system and culture of the world's sole superpower is also surprising. While it is of course true that classical bilingual lexicographical works, such as Langenscheidt's *Muret-Sanders* or the *Collins Concise German Dictionary*, do provide political terms, there are only two current English-German, German-English dictionaries dealing, at least partially, with political terms in general (Langenscheidt's *Praxiswörterbuch Internationale Politik Englisch* and Dietl and Lorenz, *Wörterbuch für Recht, Wirtschaft und Politik*) and only one dealing with the U.S. political system in particular (Labriola and Schiffer, *Politisches Wörterbuch: Zum parlamentarischen System Deutschlands und zum System des US-Kongresses*).

In the following I would like to discuss the design of a specialized Dictionary of American Political Terms (DOAP) that I am currently working on and that, I believe, can help improve the quality of political translations. Before describing the dictionary design and its macro and microstructures in detail, I will briefly discuss a number of relevant linguistic aspects, especially with regard to the characteristics of political language in general and political vocabulary in particular.

4.1 Political Language

The dictionary is conceived as a specialized reference work, and the methodological approach taken in its compilation reflects this decision. That means that I see political language as an LSP—Language for Special Purposes.

As other LSPs, political language is horizontally and vertically highly diversified. Horizontally, the ubiquity of politics quite literally affects all areas of life—from mutual funds to maternity leave, from surface-to-air missiles to stem cell research. With that type of horizontal fragmentation comes a plethora of specialized terminology, a type of LSP vocabulary that Josef Klein refers to as "Ressortvokabular," a highly interdisciplinary set of terms reflecting the specific foci of individual cabinet portfolios (Klein 1989).In terms of its verticality, political language affects all members of a society, independent of their degree of expertise or interest in political matters. Thus, political communication is always internal, external, and interdisciplinary.

Gerhard Strauß' dichotomy between what he calls "Binnenkommunikation," or internal communication, and "Außenkommunikation," or external communication, reflects the verticality of LSP communication, even more though as Strauß further differentiates his notion of "Binnenkommunikation" as being on the one hand "intrainstitutional" and on the other hand "interinstitutional" (Strauß; see also Simmler 1997: 739).

The most significant component of LSPs is the vocabulary, and this is also true of political language. In an attempt to categorize the political vocabulary, Josef Klein proposes the following four types of terms:

1) institutional terms, such as Senator, Supreme Court, Bill, election;

2) subject-area terms, usually related to a cabinet portfolio, such as environment, energy, drilling, ethanol, etc.;

3) interactional terms, such as to negotiate, liaise, or veto; and

4) ideological terms, such as liberalism, democracy, conservatism, which of course partially overlap with the terminology of political science

(Klein 1989).

Klein's typology offers one way of pre-selecting relevant terms for our dictionary; other methodological aspects (see below) will play a more important role in the actual identification of future dictionary entries.

4.2   Lexicographical Aspects

The dictionary is explicitly designed not only as a passive, decoding reference work but also as an active one for numerous text production purposes. The intended target group is composed of journalists and translators as well as scholars and students from political science, cultural studies, and history. It aims at providing these users with a culturally in-depth and precise description of American political terms.

Special emphasis will be placed on providing translation solutions, on both the lexical and phraseological level, that can be directly integrated into German texts.

The dictionary's scope (currently) covers 61 subject areas, as the following, alphabetically sorted list shows. Some of the entries have been scaled (e.g. the fields "election" and "policy"), so as to allow for a more nuanced representation of the subject areas identified.

The number of subject areas and their sub-classifications is rather elaborate, yet accurately reflects the multitude of topics that are covered by the dictionary's corpus (see below). Given the lack of detail in existing classifications when it comes to describing specific subsets of politics, such as the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) or Lenoch, the classification and subject codes for the dictionary were developed from scratch, but were informed by categories established in standard works on the American political system.

budget	interest group.lobby	policy.environment
civil rights	interest group.social movement	policy.finance
coll.	interest group.union	policy.foreign
constitution	interest groups	policy.health care
economy	international relations.diplomacy	policy.security
education	judiciary	policy.social welfare
election	lawmaking	policy.trade
election.campaign	legal	policy.transportation
election.campaign.finance	legislature	political parties
election.voting	legislature.procedure	political science
election.voting.voter group	location	public opinion
executive	media	religion
executive.agency	mil.	social
executive.department	navy	social group
federalism	organization	sport
finance	person	tax
gen.	phil.	tech.
geog.	policy	trade
health care	policy.agriculture	transportation
hist.	policy.education	
ideology	policy.energy	

Figure 1: Subject Areas Covered

The corpus from which dictionary entries were selected is composed of political news articles taken from the _New York Times_, the _Economist_, and _Newsweek_ over the course of three years (2006 to 2008). In addition, the corpus comprises standard textbooks on the American political system, and the complete texts from all seven seasons of the television drama _The West Wing_ (for a discussion of the political relevance of the show, see for example Melissa Crawley's _Mr. Sorkin Goes to Washington: Shaping the President on Television's the West Wing_, and Trevor Parry-Giles and Shawn J. & Parry-Giles' _The Prime-_

time Presidency: The West Wing and U.S. Nationalism). The relevant terms were extracted automatically using a concordance software package called *MonoConc*.

In addition to the list created from the electronic corpus, selected key areas (such as the institutional system or the congressional committee structure) were mapped in a classical terminographical approach through so-called concept systems.
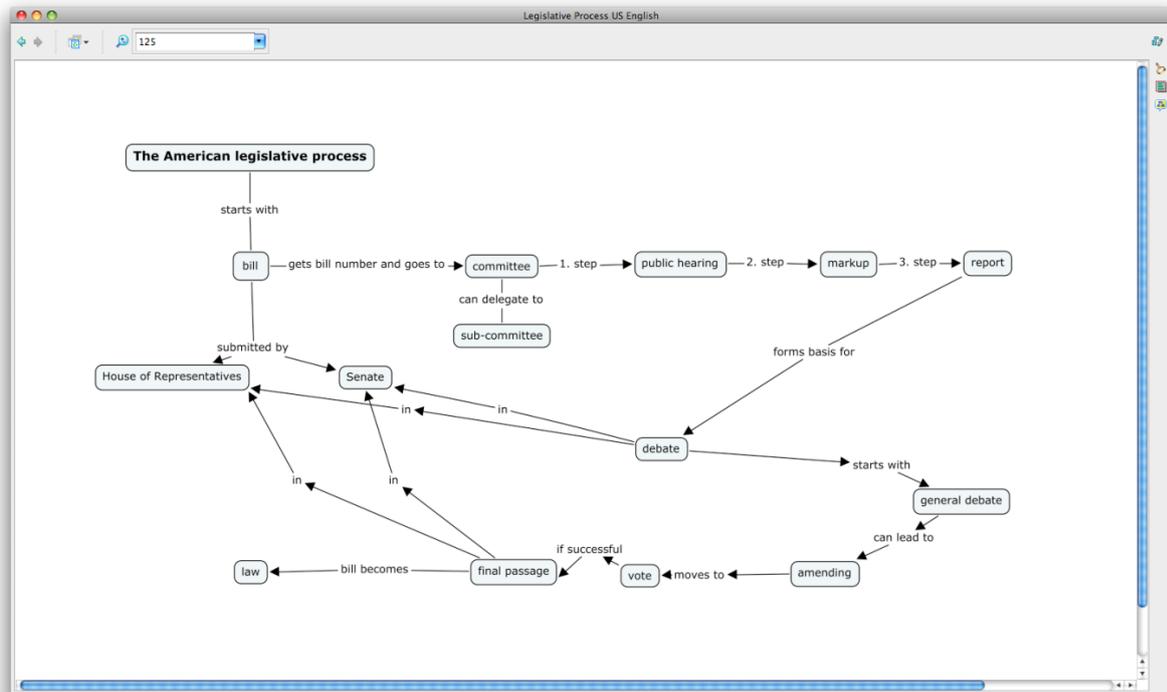
Figure 2: Concept System (The Legislative Process)

The use of concept systems serves not only to assure the completeness of certain semantic fields but also to highlight the relationships between key terms and to replicate them later in the dictionary's mediostructure.

The data, currently consisting of 5,500 entries, was imported into and is being managed with the relational database management system *Microsoft Access*.
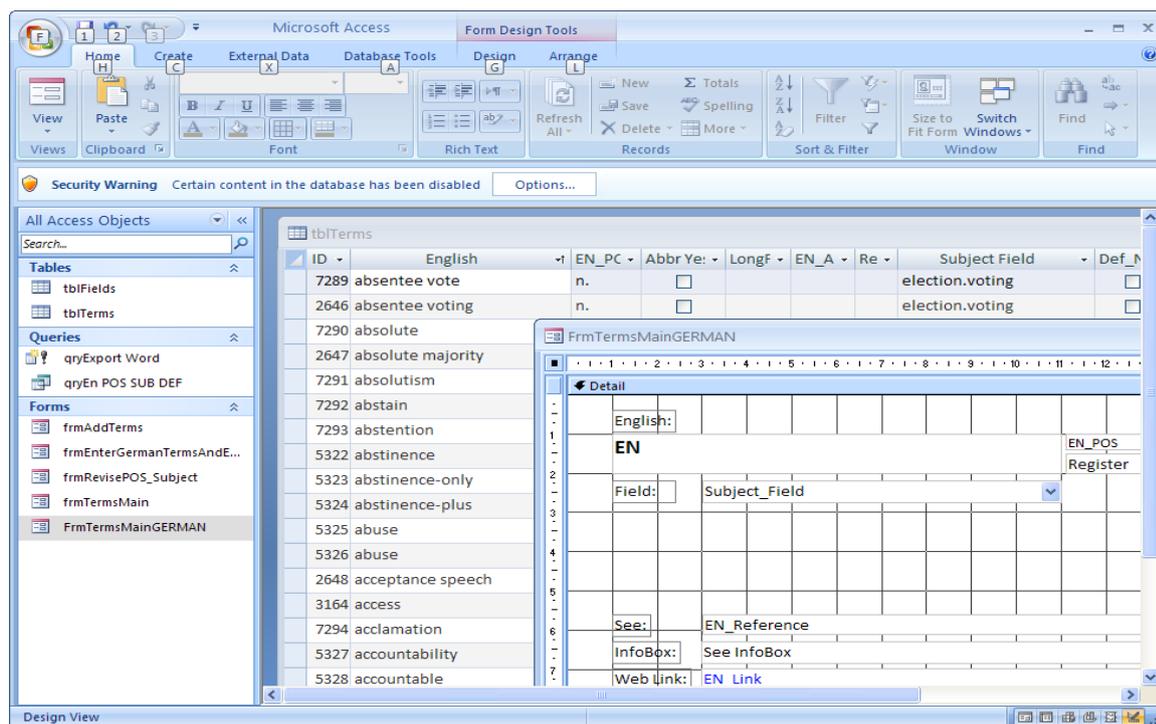
Figure 3: Data Management in *MS Access*

In the following, I will describe the lexicographical triangle, i.e. the dictionary's macro-, micro-, and mediostructures.

The term macrostructure refers to the overall physical presentation of the dictionary and its individual parts. Typically, and in our case as well, we find the following macrostructural components: Preface; User's Guide; List of Abbreviations; Word List; and Appendix (Index, Literature).

In addition to these standard components, the dictionary features so-called Information or Info Boxes. These info boxes add an additional encyclopedic dimension to the dictionary, providing background information on central issues of American politics, such as the electoral systems or, as shown in the above figure, the legislative process.

Figure 4: Info Box (Legislative Process)

Our microstructure, i.e. "the arrangement of the information provided in the individual dictionary articles" (Bergenholtz and Tarp 1995) reflects the needs of the target group as well as the dictionary's overall *skopos*.

As Figure 5 shows, the entry structure is rather straightforward: The source language lemma appears in boldface, followed by gender information (abbreviated and in italics), and a subject code in small caps. The German term is presented on a new line, indented, and also set in bold typeface. Where necessary, definitions and explanations are given in German, with key terms contained in the definition given in both German and English. If available, internal cross-references are then listed on a new line, with different types of arrows representing different conceptual relations (see below). This is followed by external cross-references to relevant websites, and internal references to one of the dictionary's information boxes.

Figure 5: Entry Structure

The dictionary's mediostructure, finally, i.e. the relations existing between different parts of data, is signaled to the user primarily by arrows, with the direction of the arrow indicating different types of conceptual relationships (e.g. hyperonyms, hyponyms, etc.). Additional symbols, such as the one used for the above-described info boxes or references to relevant websites, also form part of the dictionary's mediostructure.

In an electronic publication, the mediostructure becomes part of a hypertext, as shown in Figure 6, which represents the implementation of the dictionary in *SDL MultiTerm*, the terminology management system that forms part of the *SDL Trados* software package. The links are internal, i.e. to other parts or entries of the database, as well as external, to Internet-based resources.

With the transfer to *SDL MultiTerm*, the dictionary's data is now also available for use within SDL's translation memory system, a tool used, for example, by the language services of the

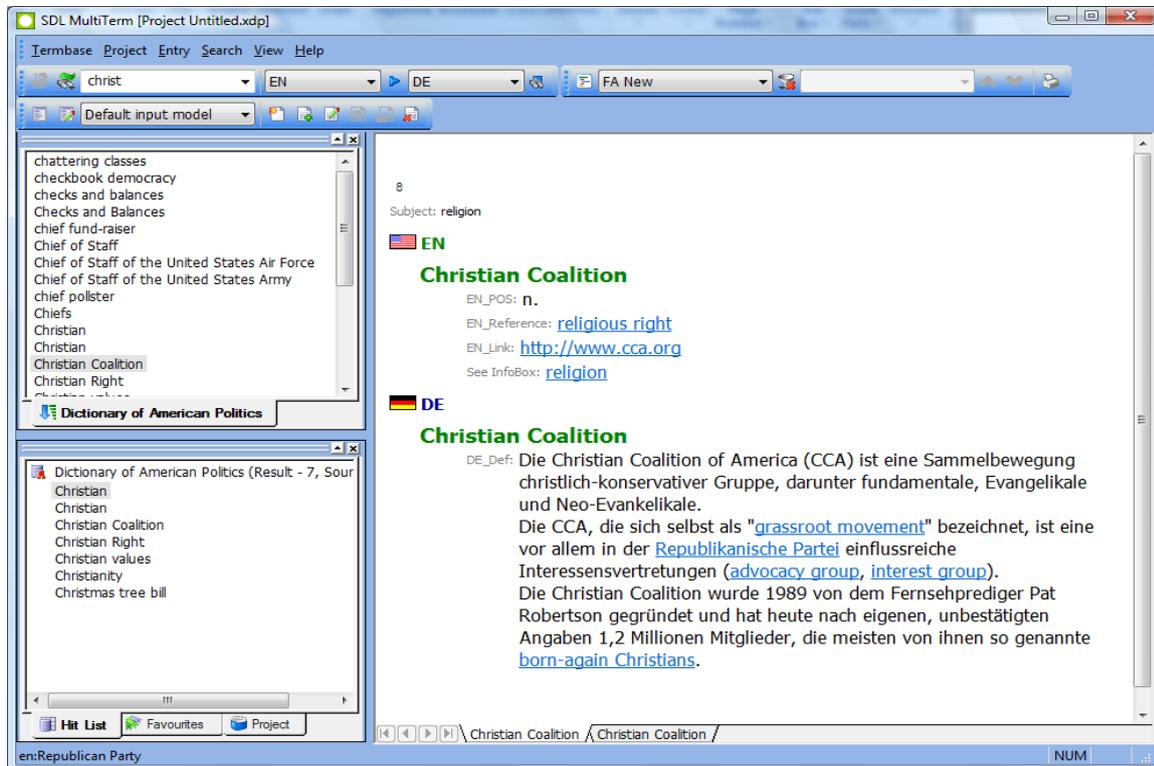United Nations, the European Union, the U.S. State Department, and the German foreign ministry.

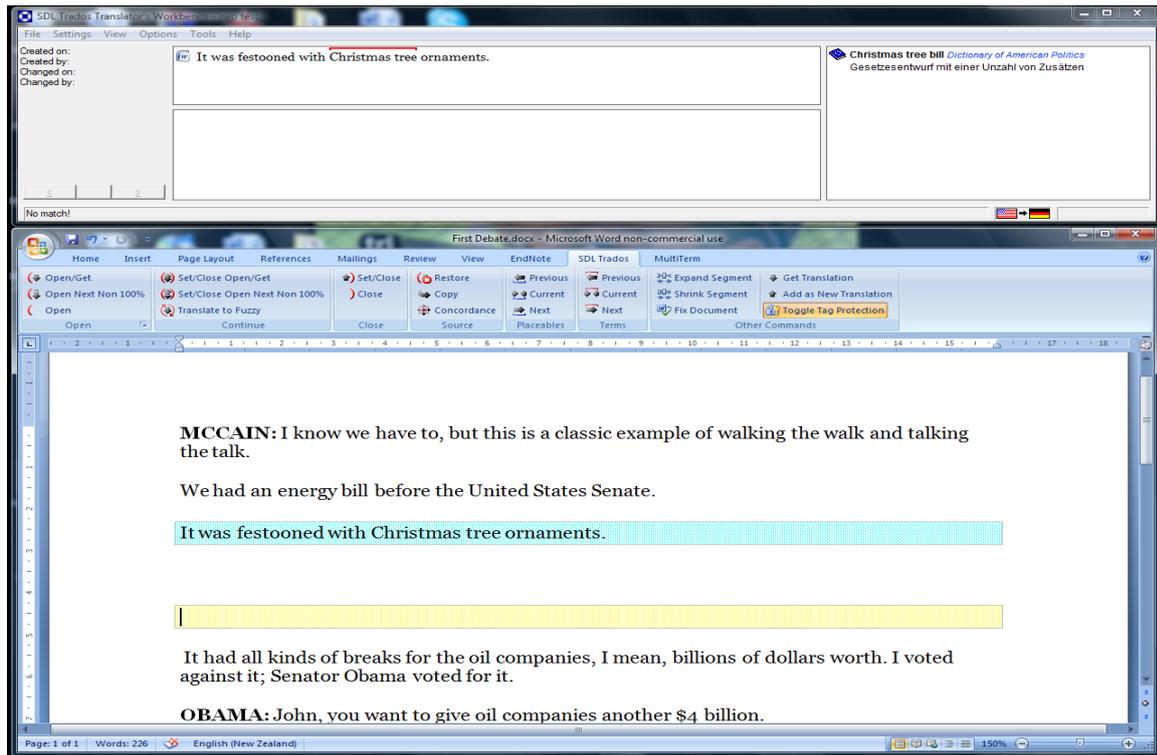Figure 6: Dictionary Data in *SDL MultiTerm*

Figure 7: Dictionary Data in SDL's Translation Memory System (SDL Trados 2007)

A final step in the electronic implementation of the dictionary is to import it into *LookUp*, a terminology management system specifically designed for simultaneous interpreters (see Stoll 2002). The main goal here is of course the speedy access to relevant equivalents while working in the booth. In *LookUp*, entering the string "tree," something that can easily be done blindly, brings up the relevant result instantly, and thus would have helped our interpreter dealing with McCain's *Christmas tree bill* ...
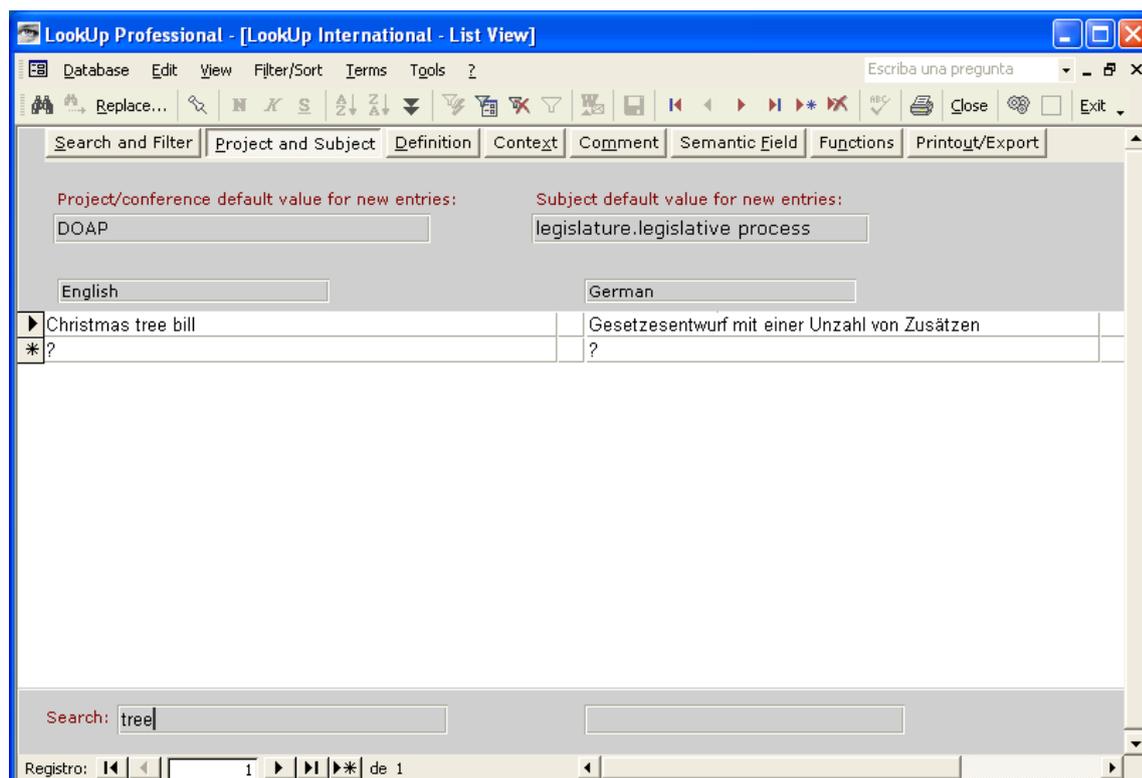
Figure 8: Dictionary Data in LookUp

The *Dictionary of American Political Culture* is very much a work in progress. Currently, the dictionary's database contains more than 5,500 entries. A partial version of the content, i.e. a compiled monolingual English glossary of more than 1,500 selected terms with definitions, is available online (see *American Political Culture – A Glossary, Austermühl and MacLean 2011*).

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