



Call for Papers

# Terminology: Domain Loss and Gain

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**Terminology: Domain Loss and Gain**  
Brussels, 20-21 April 2023

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Brussels, 20–21 April 2023

KU Leuven Brussels Campus (Warmoesberg 39–43, 1000 Brussels, Belgium)  
hybrid: on-site and online

Co-organised by NL-Term, Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal,  
European Association for Terminology and Infoterm  
*with the participation of the Translation Service of the Council of the European Union*



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**Theme.** The concept of domain originated in the 1930s and was picked up by Joshua Fishman in his writings (e.g. Fishman 1971), where domain was presented as a theoretical construct that can help explain language choice in multilingual societies. The term *domain loss*, in which the meaning of *domain* deviated from that of the original concept, originated in the Nordic countries in the 1990s and was defined by Laurén, Myking & Picht as “loss of ability to communicate in the national language at all levels of an area of knowledge because of deficient further development of the necessary means of professional communication”. Foremost among those ‘necessary means’ are the terms needed to communicate on specific professional topics in one’s own language.

The term *domain loss* caught on quickly and became a buzzword shared by journalists and picked up by national language commissions (Haberland 2005). Extending their theory, Laurén, Myking & Picht also coined the terms *domain conquest* and *domain reconquest*, to refer to examples where a national language comes up with its own means of communication in a particular domain or supplies those means where they were at first lacking.

There have also been critics of the *domain loss* theory: Hultgren (2016) calls *domain loss* a ‘red herring’ that detracts attention away from other, more fundamental debates. She argues it might be more appropriate to speak of “lack of domain gain”. Haberland (2019) criticises the *domain* concept, at the same time stressing that variation in language behaviour remains a very worthwhile area of research that can be approached from a variety of angles. In Myking (2011) the co-author of the original seminal paper on the subject returns to his topic and notes that “It is possible that too much discussion has been centred around the negative aspects of domain loss, and that a positive shift of focus towards domain conquest would be more productive”. In his recent paper, he argues that language planning, or rather “language management” is always possible but that its outcome is not predictable.

Worries about the influence of dominant languages on local languages, in particular in professional contexts, continue to exist, as do worries about the threat of (digital or other) extinction of minority languages. Conversely, there are many attempts, successful as well as unsuccessful, at enriching languages with language-specific terms for new concepts. The conference aims to address all these issues and welcomes theoretical work as well as practical examples.

### **Keynote speakers**

Four keynote speakers have accepted to address the conference:

- **Elena Chiocchetti** (Eurac Research)
- **Manuel Célio Conceição** (Universidade do Algarve),
- **Johan Myking** (University of Bergen, Norway)
- **Katelijan Serlet** (Director LING 2 - Translation Service at Council of the European Union)

**Topics.** The conference will welcome theoretical discussions on the theme as well as case studies illustrating domain loss, domain conquest and/or domain reconquest, especially in the age of the internet and social media, with a focus on terminology as well as on other linguistic aspects. The following list is not exhaustive:

General

- In retrospect, are the concepts of *domain loss/gain* pertinent or are they misguided?
- What are the processes of domain loss/gain?

- Post-colonial issues related to domain loss

#### Actors

- Domain loss/gain and the role and options of governments and other bodies
- Domain loss/gain and multinational/international bodies
- Language planning and domain loss/gain
- The role of social media in domain loss/gain

#### Special areas

- Domain loss/gain in workplace communication
- Domain loss/gain in higher education
- E-commerce and the importance of local languages

#### Domain loss

- What domains, applications and languages are especially vulnerable to domain loss and what are the contributing factors? What social groups/communities are particularly vulnerable?
- What are the dangers/risks if any of domain loss?
- The threat of “digital death” for some languages

#### Solutions for domain loss

- Are there any potential solutions to domain loss?
- Best practices for problem solving for domain loss in translation, interpreting, terminology, education, business, etc.
- Can technology influence domain loss and/or support domain gain?
- How to react against domain loss and how to acquire/adopt domain terminology from other communities

#### Domain gain

- What domains, applications and languages – if any - are successful in domain gain? What social groups/communities are particularly successful?
- Can language planning by official bodies or via legislation contribute successfully to domain gain? What other means can be more successful?
- Creole and pidgin languages: need for domain gain?

(The list is not exhaustive)

**Submissions.** Abstracts are invited and should be sent to [domainconference2023@mail.com](mailto:domainconference2023@mail.com) by ~~1 October 2022~~ **EXTENDED DEADLINE: 15 DECEMBER 2022**. The abstracts will be peer-reviewed. Papers will be 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion (keynote speeches will be 40 minutes plus 10 for discussion).

The full submission must contain:

- the title of the paper
- the name(s) of the author(s)
- the full name(s) and the affiliation(s)/institute(s) of the author(s)
- the contact e-mail address of the author(s)
- the topic(s) the paper relates to (see list above)

- a 300–400 word abstract (excluding references)
- a list of references (max. 5)

Please use the template at <https://domainlossandgain2023.eu/call-for-papers>

**Conference Proceedings.** Selected papers will be published in the proceedings (publisher to be confirmed). Papers qualify for selection only if the full text reaches the organising committee by **30 June 2023** at the latest. The selection is made by the Scientific Committee. A style sheet will be made available on the conference website.

**Conference languages.** The conference languages are English, Dutch and French. Interpretation will be available during the plenary sessions and some of the parallel sessions. Slides for presentations in a language other than English should be provided in English. Bilingual abstracts are welcome, allowing speakers to use their mother tongue (optional) and one of the conference languages (obligatory).

### **Important dates**

Deadline for submission of abstracts: ~~1 October 2022~~ **15 December 2022**

Notification of acceptance for the conference: ~~1 December 2022~~ **31 January 2023**

Conference dates: **20-21 April 2023**

Deadline for submission of the full text of the paper: **30 June 2023**

Notification of acceptance for the proceedings: **30 September 2023**

Deadline for submission of final version of accepted papers: **15 December 2023**

### **Format of the conference**

The conference will be organised as a hybrid event. You can participate in Brussels (KU Leuven Campus, Warmoesberg 39–43, 1000 Brussels) or online via Zoom.

### **Registration and registration fee**

Details will become available on the conference website <https://domainlossandgain2023.eu>.

### **Organising Committee**

For NL-Term: Marcel Thelen, Joost Buyschaert

For INT: Frieda Steurs

For EAFT: Henrik Nilsson

For Infoterm: Christian Galinski

*Contact person for the Translation Service of the Council of the European Union: Anouk De Wolf*

### **Scientific Committee**

- Fatemeh Akbari (Academy of Persian Language and Literature)
- Basseyy Antia (University of the Western Cape)

- James Archibald (Università degli Studi di Torino and Conseil supérieur de la langue française, Québec)
- Albina Auksoriūtė (Institute of the Lithuanian Language)
- Martin Benjamin (Kamusi Project International)
- Łucja Biel (Uniwersytet Warszawski)
- Úna Breathnach (Dublin City University)
- Martin Ciesko (Council of the EU)
- Rute Costa (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
- Márta Fischer (Budapest University of Technology and Economic)
- Hartmut Haberland (Roskilde University)
- Koen Kerremans (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Marita Kristiansen (Universitetet i Bergen)
- Els Lefever (Universiteit Gent)
- Lufuno Netshitomboni (Publishing Services Statistics South Africa)
- Anita Nuopponen (Vasa Universitet)
- Lia Karosanidze (Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics)
- Ana Ostroški Anić (Institute of Croatian Language and Linguistics)
- María Cecilia Plested Alvarez (Universidad de Antioquía)
- Étienne Quillot (Délégation générale à la langue française et aux langues de France)
- Elsabé Taljard (University of Pretoria)
- Rita Temmerman (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Pius ten Hacken (Universität Innsbruck)
- Juan Carlos Diaz Vásquez (International Business Department, School of Management)
- Anca Marina Velicu (Universitatea din Bucuresti)

In addition, the members of the Organising Committee also join the work of the Scientific Committee.

### **Conference website.**

<https://domainlossandgain2023.eu>

### **References.**

Fishman, Joshua A. (1972). Domains and the relationship between micro- and macrosociolinguistics. In: J. Gumperz & D. Hymes, eds. *Directions in sociolinguistics. The ethnography of speaking*. New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, pp. 407-434.

Haberland, H. (2005). Domains and domain loss. In B. Preisler, A. Fabricius, H. Haberland, S. Kjærbeck, & K. Risager (Eds.), *The Consequences of Mobility: Linguistic and Sociocultural Contact Zones* (pp. 227-237). Roskilde Universitet.




Haberland, H. (2019). "Domains." In J. Darquennes, J. Salmons & Wi. Vandenbussche (Eds.), *Handbook Language Contact*, Vol. 1. Berlin, de Gruyter Mouton, pp. 395-403.

Hultgren, A. K. (2016). Domain Loss: the rise and demise of a concept. In A. Linn (ed.) *Investigating English in Europe: Contexts and Agendas*. Berlin, Mouton, pp. 153-158.

Laurén, C., Myking, J. & Picht, H. (s.d.). *Domain Dynamics – Reflections on Language and Terminology Planning*. Infoterm. [http://www.infoterm.info/pdf/activities/Picht\\_DomainDynamics.pdf](http://www.infoterm.info/pdf/activities/Picht_DomainDynamics.pdf)

Myking, J. (2011), Special language management – parameters and constraints. *Journal of the International Institute for Terminology Research*, 22, pp. 30-42.

**Sponsors of the conference**

		
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**Recommendations**

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