Controlled Terms Translation

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Abstract

This document describes the data, resources, methodology and software developed to translate the controlled terms and related text available as metadata in the PubPshyc database.

Contents

1 Controlled Terms in PubPsych **3**

2 Quadrilingual Lexicon **3**
2.1 Multilingual MeSH 4
2.2 Multilingual Wikipedia Entries 5
2.3 Apertium Dictionaries 5
2.4 Post-edited Automatic Translations 6

3 Controlled Term Translation **6**
3.1 Methodoly 6
3.2 Software 8

A Appendix: Basic Rules for Plural Formation **8**

References **9**

1 Controlled Terms in PubPsych

For a first analysis, we extract all the controlled terms (CTs) in the frozen Solr instance "pubpsych-core"[1] using the fields `CTDL`, `CTEL`, `CTFL` and `CTSL`. Table 1 shows the statistics per language. Notice that there are no `CTSL` in Spanish but we did not retrieve any result for `CTSH` or `CTS` either, the other fields with information related to controlled terms we dealt with these terms at the begining, but they seem to have disappeared now?.

Some of the entries have two parts, the descriptor and a class specification in parentheses:

```
Action Potentials
Action Potentials (drug effects)
Action Potentials (genetics)
```

This allows to further split the controlled terms and diminish the number of unique terms to translate as seen in rows *uniq descriptors* and *uniq specifications* of Table 1.

	German	English	French	Spanish
CT*lan*L	3,659,210	4,639,171	2,371,110	0
CT*lan*L uniq	56,754	60,939	51,759	0
uniq descriptors	23,556	27,734	18,623	0
uniq specifications	393	392	187	0

Table 1: Number of controlled terms per language in the PubPsych Database. See text for the nomenclature.

After this preliminary analysis to study the size of the database, we select the relevant fields to be translated:

CT*lan*H: "Controlled term high". As the name says, these are terms from controlled vocabulary (MeSH, PSYNDEX terms, etc.), not freely assigned terms.

CT*lan*L: "Controlled terms low". As CT*lan*H, but the person who created the record, gave these entries a lower importance for describing the content than the ones in CT*lan*H.

IT*lan*H: "Additional descriptor high". As the name says, additional describing terms, which may have been freely chosen by the person who created the record, so they do not need to come from a controlled terminology.

IT*lan*L: "Additional descriptor low". As IT*lan*H, but with lower descriptive relevance.

In order to translate these 16 fields (4 fields per language) we create a quadrilingual lexicon as explained in the next section.

2 Quadrilingual Lexicon

The resources described in this section can be found in the project's Seafile in the folder: `CLIR-PubPsych/Code/MT/DBtranslator/models/CT`

[1] Database as in 4th August 2017.

2.1 Multilingual MeSH

We extract the main part of our quadrilingual lexicon from `MeSH_2017_de+en+fr+es.xml` in an appropriate format for CT translation. We extract one list per language L1, where for each term (preferred, non-preferred, and permutations) describing a concept in L1 only the preferred term in the other languages L2, L3 and L4 is added as translation. The identifier of the concept is also added. With this procedure we obtain 175,004 concepts for English, 96,333 for French, 70,694 for German and 66,828 for Spanish. Notice that it is asymmetrical because the different languages have different number of *synonyms* (permutations and strings).

Example for the English terms for concept ID:M0000020. We show first the complete MeSH entry for the concept, and then the four files that are generated were one can see why different languages have different numbers of entries:

```
MeSH_2017_de+en+fr+es.xml:

<concept id="M0000020">
<term id="T000045" lang="eng" preferred="true">
<string>Abomasum</string>
<permutation>Abomasums</permutation>
</term>
<term id="spa0000603" lang="spa" preferred="true">
<string>Abomaso</string>
</term>
<term id="spa0049997" lang="spa" preferred="false">
<string>Cuajar</string>
</term>
<term id="ger0000018" lang="ger" preferred="true">
<string>Labmagen</string>
</term>
<term id="fre0063293" lang="fre" preferred="true">
<string>Abomasum</string>
</term>
<term id="fre0000018" lang="fre" preferred="false">
<string>Caillette</string>
</term>
</concept>

mesh.dekey.txt:
        Labmagen|||en:Abomasum|||es:Abomaso|||fr:Abomasum|||ID:M0000020

mesh.enkey.txt:
        Abomasum|||es:Abomaso|||de:Labmagen|||fr:Abomasum|||ID:M0000020
        Abomasums|||es:Abomaso|||de:Labmagen|||fr:Abomasum|||ID:M0000020

mesh.eskey.txt:
        Abomaso|||en:Abomasum|||de:Labmagen|||fr:Abomasum|||ID:M0000020
        Cuajar|||en:Abomasum|||de:Labmagen|||fr:Abomasum|||ID:M0000020

mesh.frkey.txt:
        Abomasum|||en:Abomasum|||es:Abomaso|||de:Labmagen|||ID:M0000020
        Caillette|||en:Abomasum|||es:Abomaso|||de:Labmagen|||ID:M0000020
```

Notice that within a language, the elements are unique but there might be degeneracy when we concatenate the 4 languages —in this example, *Abomasum* is a key both for

English and French.

2.2 Multilingual Wikipedia Entries

We have extracted multilingual in-domain titles from Wikipedia with the WikiTailor tool[2] [1]. Lexicons have been built from aligned articles in the psychology and health domains for English, German, French and Spanish using WikiTailor models WT0.5-100 or WT0.5-500 depending on the language.

Using the intersection of in-domain articles in the four languages we obtain a high precision/low recall multilingual lexicon with 497 entries. With the union of in-domain articles we gather a low precision/high recall multilingual lexicon with 81.369 entries. The lexicon contains both single words and phrases related to our domain, but in lots of cases entries correspond to named entities:

En	Es	Fr	De
Perception	Percepción	Perception	Wahrnehmung
Echoic_memory	Memoria_ecoica	Mémoire_auditive	Echoisches_Gedächtnis
Emil_Kraepelin	Emil_Kraepelin	Emil_Kraepelin	Emil_Kraepelin
...	...	...	...

In a similar way, we extract aligned category names from Wikipedia, but this time, we select all of them and not only those related to physcology. 38,038 entries are obtained in this case.

As for the MeSH lexicon, we build 4 files, one per language, with the entries in the four languages aligned. In this case though, there is no associated ID:

```
wp.dekey.txt:
    Wahrnehmung|||en:Perception|||es:Percepción|||fr:Perception
    Echoisches Gedächtnis|||en:Echoic memory|||es:Memoria ecoica|||fr:Mémoire auditive

wp.enkey.txt:
    Perception|||es:Percepción|||de:Wahrnehmung|||fr:Perception
    Echoic memory|||es:Memoria ecoica|||de:Echoisches Gedächtnis|||fr:Mémoire auditive

wp.eskey.txt:
    Percepción|||en:Perception|||de:Wahrnehmung|||fr:Perception
    Memoria ecoica|||en:Echoic memory|||de:Echoisches Gedächtnis|||fr:Mémoire auditive

wp.frkey.txt:
    Perception|||en:Perception|||es:Percepción|||de:Wahrnehmung
    Mémoire auditive|||en:Echoic memory|||es:Memoria ecoica|||de:Echoisches Gedächtnis
```

2.3 Apertium Dictionaries

Apertium [2] is a free/open-source ruled-based translation engine that uses bilingual dictionaries for lexical transfer. We have used three of their dictionaries[3] (*en-de*, *en-es* and *es-fr*) to extract a quadlingual dictionary with the overlapping entries. Table 2 shows the number of entries of this multilingual dictionary in comparison with the other sources.

[2] https://github.com/cristinae/WikiTailor

[3] http://wiki.apertium.org/wiki/List_of_dictionaries

	German	English	French	Spanish
MeSH	70,694	175,004	96,333	66,828
WPtitles (health+phsy.)	81,369	81,369	81,369	81,369
WPcategories	38,038	38,038	38,038	38,038
Apertium	7,792	5,935	6,020	5,846
Manual	4,262	4,142	4,047	4,081
Total	202,128	304,277	225,607	195,937

Table 2: Number of aligned terms per language in our multilingual resources. The row with the total excludes duplicate entries.

2.4 Post-edited Automatic Translations

Finally, we have selected a set of tokens within our controlled terms not covered by the previous resources and translated them with the automatic translation engine DeepL[4] (translator as of 25th January and 1st-2nd February 2018). These ∼4,000 entries have been manually post-edited mainly to improve mistranslations due to ambiguous options, but the post-editor was neither native in the four languages nor in-domain expert. Table 2 shows the exact number of entries depending on the source language.

3 Controlled Term Translation

3.1 Methodoly

We use the resources described in the previous section to translate the controlled terms appearing in the articles of the PubPsych Database (Section 1). Notice that the most accurate translation would be achieved with the multilingual MeSH, the other three resources add noise to the translations but increase the coverage of the engine.

We follow the strategy below:

1. A CT is splitted into the descriptor and the class specification (Section 1). Both parts are cleaned and translated independently. we know the source language because the name of the field contains it, there is a field per language
   Ex: *Action Potentials (genetics)* ⇒ *Action Potentials, genetics*

2. Part Translation

   2.1. All possible capitalisations of the part (*Action Potentials*, *action potentials*, *Action potentials*) are looked up in the corresponding quadrilingual lexicon and, in case the entry exists, the translations into the other three languages are obtained. casing would be better?
   Ex: *Action Potentials*|||*es:Potenciales de Acción*|||*de:Aktionspotentiale*|||*fr:Potentiels d'action*

   2.2. The original capitalisation is restored.

3. Token Translation. If a part is not found in the dictionary, it is translated in a word-by-word basis.

   3.1. The part is split into tokens and words are translated independently.

[4] `https://www.deepl.com`

English

	Source	Parts trad (%)	Parts untrad (%)	Tokens trad (%)	Tokens untrad (%)	uniq
MeSH	ACCNO	344,453 (30.4%)	787,342 (69.6%)	1,325,648 (70.9%)	545,113 (29.1%)	1834
	DFK	544,275 (33.3%)	1,092,037 (66.7%)	2,043,618 (77.2%)	603,889 (22.8%)	2051
	NORART	5,630 (24.6%)	17,223 (75.4%)	34,048 (86.9%)	5,128 (13.1%)	86
	PDID	197 (43.9%)	252 (56.1%)	623 (80.5%)	151 (19.5%)	87
	PMID	2,987,945 (86.9%)	448,879 (13.1%)	5,007,120 (97.1%)	151,482 (2.9%)	242
QuadLex	ACCNO	586,440 (51.8%)	545,355 (48.2%)	1,861,278 (99.5%)	9,483 (0.5%)	33
	DFK	900,396 (55.0%)	735,916 (45.0%)	2,640,589 (99.7%)	6,918 (0.3%)	57
	NORART	5,779 (25.3%)	17,074 (74.7%)	38,941 (99.4%)	235 (0.6%)	9
	PDID	287 (63.9%)	162 (36.1%)	771 (99.6%)	3 (0.4%)	1
	PMID	3,094,379 (90.0%)	342,445 (10.0%)	5,155,774 (99.9%)	2,828 (0.1%)	30

German

	Source	Parts trad (%)	Parts untrad (%)	Tokens trad (%)	Tokens untrad (%)	uniq
MeSH	DFK	480,050 (29.1%)	1,172,023 (70.9%)	1,328,236 (61.7%)	823,705 (38.3%)	3528
	PDID	182 (38.0%)	297 (62.0%)	425 (64.4%)	235 (35.6%)	132
	PMID	2,915,784 (84.5%)	535,085 (15.5%)	4,321,857 (94.7%)	240,222 (5.3%)	160
QuadLex	DFK	1,002,373 (60.7%)	649,700 (39.3%)	2,150,866 (100.0%)	1,075 (0.0%)	30
	PDID	319 (66.6%)	160 (33.4%)	660 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0
	PMID	3,067,454 (88.9%)	383,415 (11.1%)	4,561,948 (100.0%)	131 (0.0%)	13

French

	Source	Parts trad (%)	Parts untrad (%)	Tokens trad (%)	Tokens untrad (%)	uniq
M	PMID	2,520,288 (75.3%)	824,711 (24.7%)	5,508,721 (92.9%)	419,105 (7.1%)	961
Q	PMID	2,648,537 (79.2%)	696,462 (20.8%)	5,737,329 (96.8%)	190,497 (3.2%)	334

Table 3: Number of CT*lan*L translated with the multilingual MeSH and the full QuadLexicon for English, German and French. There are no entries for Spanish. A CT term is splitted into two parts (the descriptor and the class specification), and in case of no-matching it is further splitted into tokens.

3.2. All possible capitalisations of the token are looked up in the corresponding quadrilingual lexicon and, in case the entry exists, the translations into the other three languages are obtained.

3.3. If the entry is not available, some basic rules regarding the formation of plural nouns (see Appendix A) are applied to obtain a singular form for the entry. In case the entry exists, the translations into the other three languages for the singular form are obtained and used to translate it.

3.4. If the entry is not available, we copy the source token as translation for the three other languages.

3.5. The original capitalisation is restored.

4. Tokens and parts are joined with the appropriate punctuation to build the final translation of the original CT.

We apply the previous methodology to translate the CTs using two different lexicons: the multilingual MeSH (named `MeSH` or `M` in tables), and the union of the MeSH, Wikipedia, Apertium and manual multilingual lexicons (`QuadLex` or `Q`). We cannot evaluate the quality of the translation in both cases because we do not have a subset of multilingual controlled terms other than MeSH itself, so we quantify the effect of our resources by the number of entries it is able to translate. Table 3 shows the coverage for the CT*lan*L field in the languages of the project. Note that copying the source word into the output does not necessarily correspond to a wrong translation because in most cases the unknown words are named entities. Equivalently, using the quadrilingual lexicon to translate an entry does not assure a correct translation because, besides of the existing noise, the concatenation of word translations does not need to correspond to the term translation. However, we followed the proposed approach to maximise retrieval quality and not translation quality.

3.2 Software

A python script takes care of the CT translation. It can be found in the `DBtranslator` package[5] together with all the software developed to translate the different components of the PubPshyc database. The complete translation pipeline going from downloading the field for all the documents in the database, to translate them and uploading the translations is run by `tradCTs.sh`:

```
user@machine:~/home/DBtranslator/scripts/$  bash tradCTs.sh -h
tradCTs.sh -f CTH|CTL|ITH|ITL [-h]

where:
    -h  show this help text
    -f  field to translate [CTH|CTL|ITH|ITL]

Example:
    bash tradCTs.sh -f CTH
```

If you want to consider a new field, add it to `preproField4trad.py`. If you want to use the script only on a subset of the database, please, modify the Solr query accordingly in the same file.

The up-to-date instructions for installing and using the software can be found in the git repository:

`https://github.com/clubs-project/DBtranslator`

A Appendix: Basic Rules for Plural Formation

In order to obtain the a possible singular form of unseen tokens we apply the following basic rules:

English

- ⋆ NOUN-y ⇐ NOUN-ies
- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-es
- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-s

[5] https://github.com/clubs-project/DBtranslator

French

- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-s

German

- ⋆ NOUN (¨) ⇐ NOUN-er
- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-n
- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-e
- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-s

Spanish

- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-es
- ⋆ NOUN ⇐ NOUN-s

References

[1] Alberto Barrón-Cedeño, Cristina España-Bonet, Josu Boldoba, and Lluís Màrquez. A Factory of Comparable Corpora from Wikipedia. In *Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Building and Using Comparable Corpora (BUCC)*, pages 3–13, July 2015.

[2] Mikel L. Forcada, Mireia Ginestí-Rosell, Jacob Nordfalk, Jim O'Regan, Sergio Ortiz-Rojas, Juan Antonio Pérez-Ortiz, Felipe Sánchez-Martínez, Gema Ramírez-Sánchez, and Francis M. Tyers. Apertium: A free/open-source platform for rule-based machine translation. *Machine Translation*, 25(2):127–144, June 2011.