INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

CITY WORDS

MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS (MOST) PROGRAMME

UNESCO

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

CITY WORDS

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
WHY CITY WORDS?

In practice and, a fortiori, in the international exchanges made in the field of urbanism and land management, the importance of “city words” appears every day through the misunderstandings with which social stake-holders, operators and users are confronted.

Such misunderstandings, which the project endeavours to dissipate, rest on two premises or illusions, usually linked together: firstly, the language of engineers or urban planners should be equally able to translate, for each person, the same practical and cultural values; secondly, we could content ourselves with the use of one unique international language as a universal medium in the relationships between linguistic areas or countries.

A plurality of language types exist, even within the same language, not only according to the era (a language changes with time), but within a same historical period — for example the vocabulary of urban planners and vernacular, popular or learned speech... Furthermore, in actual practice, the meaning of words is a stake which is negotiated when the words are pronounced.

Between these various languages, we can note relationships of imposition or domination, openness, possible tensions and resistances, diversions or reversals. In some cases, languages tend to be homogenized or standardized on a national or international level; in other cases, practises go against this trend.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

One of its major objectives is to understand the evolution and adaptation mechanisms of vocabulary, and the modes of transfer from one register to another within a same language, or from one language to another. Then, in the light of the successes and failures it analyses, the aim is to bring to the fore the processes according to which nomenclatures and classifications are elaborated and adapted. More widely, it tries to better understand the way language delimits, encompasses and brings into contact urban spaces.

Strictly scientific concerns bring with them concrete applications: the researchers of the project are associated to the assessment and finalization of new tools intended for the technicians working abroad in cooperation.

THE MAIN ISSUE

The project concerns the registers used in various linguistic areas to denominate the city and its territories. It favours comparatism, within a same language and from one language to another. It also takes into account a long period of time.

The study of the classificatory system of languages enables us to tackle the social dynamics constituting the realities of the city in an original way; we can, in particular, identify the conflicting interests induced by the elaboration of new administrative nomenclatures.
The researchers taking part in this project have undertaken to note the differences – signs and markers of social gaps – as well as the tensions and complex interactions existing between the various registers. Homogeneous sets of sources, comparable from one linguistic area to another, correspond to these registers.

The project more specifically tackles transformation processes by studying language reform situations, translation phenomena or lexical transfers.

CONCEPTION AND METHODOLOGY

Because of its angle of approach – the city through its words – which is neither that of the most common urban analyses nor that of a strictly linguistic study, the project mobilizes researchers belonging to different disciplines, from the history of architecture to language sociology.

Two complementary research logics are linked: on the one hand, a logic more interested in the specific features of each linguistic area, and, on the other hand, the logic which tackles cross-disciplinarity and comparatism, privileging themes, methods and types of corpora common to the various languages studied.

From homogeneous sets of sources (legal and journalistic in particular) and sociolinguistic surveys, analyses are undertaken from two types of approach:

- Firstly, word adventures recount the emergence of a word, how it may change its meaning and usage, the competitors it meets, transforms, eliminates or, conversely, which provoke its disappearance.

- The other approach is the synchronic analysis of systems in a given lexical field, which then opens onto the comparison between contemporary or successive systems.

We favour two scales, notably because they are a problem for both urban planning and the daily apprehension of space: on the one hand, the scale of the territories forming the city (particularly the units taking place between the domestic sphere and the city as a whole), and on the other hand the scale of the city considered as an entity.

AWAITED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Generally speaking, the works led within the framework of the “City words” project aim at producing new knowledge and communicating it in the form of documents intended for various audiences. These documents must contain precise information, retained for their exemplary nature; for example, the elements of a glossary, conceived not as a word-for-word equivalence, but as the presentation of terms replaced in their context, with comments on the possible difficulties met in passing from one language to the other. At the same time, it is a matter for developing an issue and proposing comparisons, possibly from common themes.
CALENDAR OF THE PROJECT

The life of this project, launched in 1995 for a four-year period, is punctuated by several types of meetings aiming at favouring the circulation of scientific information, confronting issues, exchanging experiences, and developing comparatist practices between disciplines and specialists of different areas (choice of sources, surveys and comparable situations).

International seminars, the first of which was held in Paris in October 1995, are important but exceptional highlights of the project. A second seminar is planned for the end of 1997.

"Regional” seminars are organized on the basis of linguistic or geographic areas (Shanghai, June 1996; Rome, December 1996; Tunis, March 1997; Milano, October 1997, ...), preparing the international seminars, and, in the same way, leading to publications.

Multilingual thematic meetings aim at arousing a collective reflection on a common theme.

RESULTS' TRANSFER AND CIRCULATION

The transfer and circulation of the project’s results are mainly ensured in the four following forms:

- articles published in different specialized reviews; works of reference in the process of being published (in particular, historical dictionaries of the city and urban planning, as well as glossaries);

- working papers on city words circulating even partial results, as well as articles dealing with methodological questions, word lists and critical inventories;

- seminars which associate education and research and conferences addressing an audience of researchers and people working in land management and planning; an annual seminar at the EHES (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) which has been taking place since 1995, followed by students and researchers; it is a place where an external “expertise” is brought in for methodological questions; it also enables researchers of the project to expose some of their results;

- the assessment and finalization of glossaries in the field of land management and planning is made, intended for the technicians sent abroad by the French ministries of Equipment and Foreign Affairs.
### BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent scientific secretariat</td>
<td>60 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
<td>240 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functioning expenses and equipment</td>
<td>15 000</td>
<td>15 000</td>
<td>30 000</td>
<td>15 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>80 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sub-total A</strong></td>
<td>95 000</td>
<td>95 000</td>
<td>110 000</td>
<td>95 000</td>
<td>395 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NETWORK'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>10 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab world</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>10 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>25 000</td>
<td>75 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sub-total B</strong></td>
<td>225 000</td>
<td>30 000</td>
<td>300 000</td>
<td>300 000</td>
<td>855 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEMINARS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International seminars</td>
<td>180 000</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>250 000</td>
<td>250 000</td>
<td>700 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional seminars</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>30 000</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sub-total C</strong></td>
<td>180 000</td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td>280 000</td>
<td>300 000</td>
<td>800 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLICATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaflet presenting the project</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td></td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Appeal for proposals'</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td></td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossaries</td>
<td>120 000</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>320 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working papers</td>
<td>120 000</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>100 000</td>
<td>320 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sub-total D</strong></td>
<td>335 000</td>
<td>320 000</td>
<td>300 000</td>
<td>955 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500 000</td>
<td>500 000</td>
<td>1 010 000</td>
<td>995 000</td>
<td>3 005 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Network of researchers

AFRICA
François Leimderfer
Institut d’étude du développement économique et social
58, bd Arago – 75013 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 44 08 73 13
Fax: (33) 01 47 07 81 75
E-mail: leimderf@interurba.rio.org

Paul Wald
Langages et sociétés
54, bd Raspail – 75270 Paris cédex 06, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 49 54 22 36
Fax: (33) 01 45 46 83 53

GERMANY
Harmut Frank
Hochschule für bildende Künste
Lerchenfeld, 2 – 20000 Hamburg 76, GERMANY
Tel: (49) 40 2984-3323, -3236
Tel + personal fax: (49) 40 477794

LATIN AMERICA
Stella Bresciani
Depto. de História – IFCH
Cx. Postal 6110 – 13.083-970 Campinas SP, BRAZIL
Fax: (55) 19 239 33 27 or 239 24 12

Hélène Rivière d’Arc
CREdal-CNRS
27, rue Paul-Bert – 94204 Ivry-sur-Seine, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 49 60 40 37
Fax: (33) 01 46 71 95 06

NORTHERN AMERICA
Christian Topalov
CSU- 59-61, rue Pouchet – 75017 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 40 25 11 33
Fax: (33) 01 40 25 11 35
E-mail: fontaine@iresco.iresco.fr

CHINA
Li Dehua
Université Tongji
École d’architecture et d’urbanisme
Siping Lu 1239
200032 Shanghai, CHINA
Tel: (86) 21 65 15 29 11
Fax: (86) 21 65 02 07 07

Christian Henriot
Institut d’Asie orientale
Mrash, 14, av. Berthelot – 69363 Lyon cédex 07, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 04 72 72 65 40
Fax: (33) 04 72 80 03 08
E-mail: chenriot@mrash.fr

SPAIN
Laurent Coudroy de Lille
Institut d’urbanisme de Paris
Université Paris-XII
Avenue du Général de Gaulle
94000 Créteil, FRANCE
Tel: 01 42 07 90 38
Fax: 01 42 07 70 12

Carmen Gavira
EST de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos
Ciudad Universitaria
28040 Madrid, SPAIN
Tel: (91) 3366693
Fax: (91) 3366758

Xavier Huetz de Lempis
Les Alpilles, bât. B, 44 bd Emile-Zola – 06130 Grasse, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 04 93 36 56 54
Fax: (33) 04 93 37 53 48

FRANCE
Marcel Roncayolo
EHSS-Groupe géographie sociale
(à l’attention de Mme Bismuth)
54, bd Raspail – 75006 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 49 54 23 82
Fax: (33) 01 45 44 93 11

INDIA
Amitabh Kundu
Gujarat Institute of Development Research
382 481 Ahmenabad, INDIA
Tel: (91) 27 17 64 356 ou 367
Fax: (91) 27 17 64 365
E-mail: gidir@adineternet.in

Jean-Luc Racin
Centre d’études de l’Inde et de l’Asie du sud
EHSS – 54, bd Raspail – 75006 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 49 54 22 21
Fax: (33) 01 49 54 21 33
E-mail: racine@msh-paris.fr
ITALY
Martine Boiteux
EHESS-Ministère de l’éducation nationale, de
l’enseignement supérieur et de la recherche
1, rue Descartes – 75005 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 46 34 35 42
Fax: (33) 01 46 34 99 99

Brigitte Marin
Université de Provence
29, av. Robert-Schumann
13090 Aix-en-Provence, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 04 42 95 30 30
Fax: (33) 04 42 59 42 80
E-mail: telemme@aiup.univ-aix.fr

JAPAN
Marc Bourdier
15, rue Charles-Fourier – 75013 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 45 68 61 95
Fax: (33) 01 45 80 18 09

Yorifusa Ishida
Kogakuin University
Nishi Shinjuku 1-24-2
Shinjuku, Tokyo 163-91, JAPAN
Fax: (81) 3 33400149

ARAB WORLD
Jean-Charles Depaule
IREMAM
5, av. Pasteur 13617 Aix-en-Provence, FRANCE
Tel: (33) 04 42 23 17 64
Fax: (33) 04 42 21 52 75
E-mail: depaule@irpa.pacwan.net

Chawqi Douaihy
Université libanaise
CERMOC
BP 2691, Beyrouth, LEBANON
Tel: (96) 11 640 694
Fax: (96) 11 644 857

CZECH REPUBLIC
Laurent Bazac-Billaud
CEFRES
Vysehradská, 49 – 120 00 Prague 2
CZECH REPUBLIC
Tel/fax: (420) 2 29 75 39 ou 2 29 65 37
E-mail: lbb@cefres.cz

Zdenek Uharek
Institut d’ethnologie de l’Académie tchèque
des sciences
Machovec 7
120 00 Prague 2
CZECH REPUBLIC
Tel: (420) 2 25 46 40 8 (standard)
or 2 25 04 16 (secret.)
Fax: (420) 2 25 04 30

RUSSIA
Véronique Blau
Centre de recherche sur l’habitat
41, allée Le Corbusier – 92023 Nanterre cédex,
FRANCE
Tel: (33) 01 47 76 20 25
Fax: (33) 01 47 78 08 07
E-mail: v.blau@imaginet.fr
Institutions involved

Created at the initiative of the PIR-Villes, CNRS, and supported by the Programme MOST, UNESCO, the "City words" project also benefits from the support of the French Ministry of Research, the MSH Foundation (Maison des sciences de l’homme, Paris) and the MMSH (Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l’homme, Aix-en-Provence).

The project systematically cooperates with the universities and research structures of the countries corresponding to the thirteen linguistic and geographical areas it studies.

It also works in cooperation with various organs of the French Ministry of Equipment. Finally, it collaborates with French research centres abroad, dependent on the sub-direction of Human Sciences and Archaeology of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

COORDINATOR
Jean-Charles Depaule
Institut de recherches et d'études sur le monde arabe et musulman
5, av. Pasteur 13617 Aix-en-Provence, FRANCE
Tel.: (33) 04 42 23 17 64
Fax: (33) 04 42 21 52 75
E-mail: depaule@alex.pacwan.net

DEPUTY COORDINATOR
Christian Topalov
Cultures et sociétés urbaines
59-61, rue Pouchet
75017 Paris, FRANCE
Tel.: (33) 01 40 25 11 33
Fax: (33) 01 40 25 11 35
E-mail: fontaine@iresco.iresco.fr

ADMINISTRATION & CORRESPONDENCE
Isabelle Pighetti
45, rue Linne – 75005 Paris, FRANCE
Tel.: (33) 01 46 34 20 12
Fax: (33) 01 43 25 24 96
E-mail: Isabelle.Pighetti@cnrs-dir.fr

COORDINATION UNESCO/MOST
Germán Solinis,
Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy
Social and Human Sciences Sector
1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15
Tel.: (33.1) 45.68.38.37
Fax: (33.1) 45.68.57.24
E-mail: g.solinis@unesco.org
MOST Homepage: http://www.unesco.org/most