

CONSISTENCY IN CROATIAN IT TERMINOLOGY: CURRENT STATE AND PROFESSIONALS' OPINIONS

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Abstract

The importance of standardized terminology for a field of knowledge is well known. In fast-developing fields such as IT, the standardization of terms created in the process of secondary term formation is often one step behind new developments. This paper focuses on the Croatian terminological system in the field of IT, describing its current state and soliciting professionals' opinions about it. A total of 45 English terms and their corresponding Croatian terms are analysed in respect of Sager's (1990) classification of procedures used in secondary term formation. A survey was conducted among IT students and professionals as primary users of this terminology in order to find out about their preferred procedures for term formation and their opinions on some of the currently available set of terms in Croatia. Both the term analysis and the survey have produced mixed results, showing a lack of consistency within the terminological system, as well as among the respondents' preferences. This suggests that the IT terminological system in Croatia, which includes the currently available terms, as well as the regulations and principles relating to them, is not yet defined or completely unified, and that professionals in this field neither use the terms consistently nor perceive the system as consistent.