Dr. Bassey Antia
Department of Languages & Linguistics
University of Maiduguri
Borno State
Nigeria
Email: bantia1@yahoo.co.uk

<u>Word forming principles in terminology: a case study of an Efik language terminology of aspects of legislative procedure</u>

(as described in Antia, B.E. (2000). *Terminology and Language Planning: An alternative framework of practice and discourse*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins. Book details available on publisher's website:)

1. <u>Introduction:</u>

General theoretical ideas on terminology taper in explanatory adequacy as one approaches the subject of word formation. While there are general procedures of word formation/lexical enrichment (e.g. borrowing, nonce formation, meaning extension / terminologization, compounding, clipping, etc.), these are generally known already by terminographers.

The experience of working with collaborators on an Efik on the project referred to above suggests that much more insight is gained by looking at (1) issues of motivation in word formation, (2) constraints on word formation, and (3) modifiers of heads in compounds. These topics provide our talk outline.

2. <u>Preliminary point:</u>

Non-negotiable: words formed must reflect characteristics of concept to be named.
> Implication: developing expertise in subject field through intensive study or collaboration with subject experts indispensable. You may (as a linguist) know everything about word formation procedures; this does not mean you will know what to call (from nervous system) 'dendrites', 'axons', 'neurones', etc. without knowing the characteristics of these concepts.

3. <u>Motivation = implementation of characteristics in naming</u>

3.1 The place of metaphor

"… the level of challenge involved in creating a TL term for a SL concept is related to the existence in the TL (and/or proximity to the term creator's cognitive deck) of labels for (salient) characteristics of the SL concept' (Antia 2000: 199).

English term	Explanation	Efik proposal	Motivation
Dummy bill (GB)	A forerunner to an actual bill that is to be presented at a later date	**Emine** nsek mbet Bud/shoot (of) bill	The bud heralds the flowering of the plant, which in our context is 'bill'
Subsidiary motion (GB) Ancillary motion (GB)	Ancillary motions are a class of subsidiary motions. <u>Subsidiary motions refer to the</u>	**Ndisa** ebeñe **Mbomi** ebeñe	**Ndisa** are ropes that are tied to sticks stuck to the ground and that support tendrils of climbing

	totality of actions taken in order for the House to appropriately dispose of a substantive business. Whereas some subsidiary motions do not have to be pre-planned, ancillary motions are tied to the advertised agenda of business for a particular day.		plants in their vertical growth. **Mbomi** are the sticks. So mbomi and ndisa provide support to the plant, which in our context is 'substantive business'.

3.2 Different concept explanations in text and different motivations
(implications: listing of characteristics)

Term	Passage A	Passage B	Efik proposal based on A
Previous question (GB)	A method occasionally employed **in order to withhold from the decision of the House a motion that has been proposed from the Chair**. The form in which the previous question is put to the House is 'That the question be not now put'.	A procedure akin to that of a dilatory motion but which is now rarely used, is the 'previous question'. This is moved in the form, 'That the question be not now put' and if agreed to has the effect of aborting the debate on the original question.	Ebeñe mkpahaukot Motion (that) immobilizes the feet;

3.3 Comparative term motivation models and decision-making

Term	Explanation	Proposal 1	Interlingual perspective	Proposal 2
bill	Proposal for a law	Mbet emi mibopke owo kaña (law that is yet to bind anyone)*	French: projet de loi (proposal for law) German: Gesetzentwurf (draft of law)	Nsek mbet Unformed/unripe law

* Compound terms and collocations involving bill:
     public bill, private member's bill, personal bill, private bill, public bill petition, public bill petition office, etc.

4. Constraints on term decision

4.1 Collocability:
- See 3.3 above: Public bill petition would be glossed as: plea for a law that is yet to bind anyone that is for the entire community!!! Guess what public bill petition office would be!

- Or would translate the following text: 'Constituents who wish to have the House consider a matter of interest may draft and sign a **public bill petition**, then submit it to the public bills office'.

4.2 Derivability

Term	Suggestions	Elimination	Derivation as challenge	Final solution
Report (a bill)	1. sian baña nsek mbet 2. buk baña nsek mbet 3. tiñ baña nsek mbet 4. tot baña nsek mbet	2=connotation 3=overgeneral 4=strong contextual association 1= winner!	No noun can be derived from 1	4 chosen because allows for derivation of the noun 'ntot'. The noun 'report' occurs frequently in domain.

4.3 Series uniformity/term system (that is absent in the SL) revealing of relations among terms

GB	US	Efik	Gloss
a Parliament	a Congress	akwa ini ukama utom	Big period of holding work (i.e. tenure)
session	Session	ekpri ini ukama utom	Small period of holding work (i.e. tenure)
prorogation	Adjournment sine die	utit ekpri ini ukama utom	End of small period of holding work (i.e. tenure)
dissolution		utit akwa ini ukama utom	End of big period of holding work (i.e. tenure)

NB: In our legislative terminology project, the above terms are part of a concept system titled 'periods, break & discontinuation'.
- A Parliament (GB) is akin to a Congress (US)
- A session (GB) is part of a Parliament (GB)
- Prorogation (GB) terminates a session (GB)
- Dissolution (GB) terminates a Parliament (GB)
- A Session (US) is part of a Congress (US)
- Adjournment sine die (US) terminates a Session (US)

5. Compounds: analysis of modifiers of heads
Semantic extension/terminologization is a productive word formation procedure bringing about one-word terms. However, it is often the case that many new terms will be created by other procedures producing terms consisting of several words (i.e. head and modifiers). The modifiers are interesting because they express characteristics of the concept to be designated.
In our 187-term English-Efik terminological dictionary (complete with concept explanations, contextual examples, collocations, bibliographical data, graphics, etc), the

modifiers for multi-unit terms are adjectives and, more importantly, nominals. Some examples:

5.1 Simple adjectives (derived or not)

Term	Explanation	Efik equivalent + gloss
Pro forma amendment (US)	Pro forma amendments are 'nonsense' amendments in the House which may be offered only during the amendment process in the Committee of the Whole to obtain five additional minutes of debate time	**Ntaha** uneñede **Worthless** straightening

5.2 Reduplicated adjectives

Term	Explanation	Efik equivalent + gloss
Clean bill (US)	Frequently after committee has finished a major revision of a bill, one of the committee members, usually the chairman, will assemble the changes and what is left of the original bill into a new measure and introduce it as a 'clean bill'.	**Ket ket** nsek mbet **Orderly/tidied up** bill

5.3 Simple nouns

Term	Explanation	Efik equivalent + gloss
Explanatory memorandum (GB)	The member introducing a bill may have printed with it, at the beginning, a memorandum explaining its purposes, or its financial proposals. This is known as an explanatory memorandum.	Ñwed **uñwana** Book/note of **light**
Delegated legislation (GB) Synonym: Secondary legislation	In the British Parliament, this is law made by persons or authorities under powers accorded by an Act of Parliament. Delegated legislation is therefore law that is not directly made by Parliament.	Mbet **isuñutom** Law of the messenger/emissary

5.4 Complex noun phrases + Agentive prefix

Term	Explanation	Efik equivalent + gloss
Rider (US)	This is a so-called amendment which bears no relationship to the measure it seeks to modify, and is a ploy for ….	**Anana ebuana** uneñede Lacker of relation amendment

6. Conclusion: Let's share information on motivations we use in creating terms. Dictionary of motivations?