

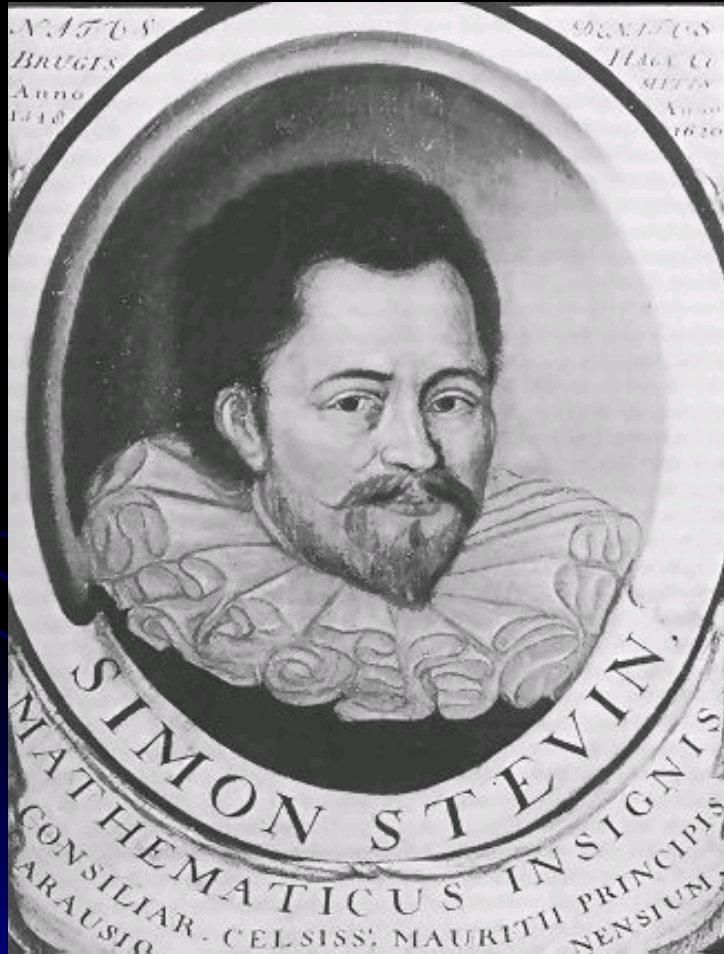
Towards a Linguistic World Order

*“The knowledge of words leads to
the knowledge of things”* **Plato** (~400 BC)



Simon Stevin

(Bruges 1548-The Hague 1620)



- mathematician, engineer, linguist and terminologist
- language of the people is the language of education and science
- enriched the Dutch scientific language

Multilingualism and the EU

- 10th anniversary MLIS, first multilingual initiative for Europe (1996)
- Maintain linguistic diversity of Europe in the networked society
- Languages: social, cultural, economical and political
- Terminology a key issue for MLIS
- New political start with a 'Multilingualism' Commissioner and a *Communication* (2005)

Multilingualism and the EU

- High Level Group on Multilingualism and ministerial conference on multilingualism
- EC study: trend in non-English-speaking countries towards teaching through English, instead of national or regional languages
- University teaching through English effects scientific terminology development and professional language development

Language communities

- Language, key to establishing a community of people, to communicate knowledge, to a knowledge society
- Language diversity helps to survive globalisation
- Language care is the responsibility of language communities and their countries
- Countries show no sense of urgency, but the tide is turning

European Language Infrastructure Framework Program for RTD

- *Linguistic Infrastructure for Europe*, basis for Language Technology research program and MLIS (EC report, 1992)
- Strategy Forum Research Infrastructures, 35 projects planned, 4+ B€ (ESFRI, 2006)
- Common Language Resource and Technology Infrastructure, 108+ M€, ~20 distributed centres (CLARIN)

Language and Terminology

- There is more terminology than there is in language
- No fundamental difference between lexicology and linguistic terminology
- Terminology policy and planning is implied by language policy and planning
- Terminology negligence is language negligence

Terminology focus

- Real need: up-to-date and accessible terminology collections for specialists, terminologists, media, public and private organisations, everybody
- TDC project demonstrated no level-playing field in Europe
- Governments co-finance sectors to maintain existing collections and develop new terminology
- EAFT a terminology platform for all professions

Administrative terminology

- CEN/ADNOM: connecting European administrative nomenclature collections and establishing conceptual equivalences
- Techniques to connect are available, the underlying administrative terminology data banks are not
- ADNOM Declaration (December 2005)
- Governments to care for their own terminology and communication with citizens

Summary

- *People enjoy who they are in the globalising world: their social structures, cultures, languages*
- Charter of the linguistic world order
- Native languages as the language of education, profession and research
- Terminology is a cornerstone of language and knowledge development
- Governments, public & private organisations to take up their specific responsibilities
- EC and UNESCO to complement national and regional governments.