ABSTRACT
In this paper, I would like to draw attention to the fact that both European and national non-sexist language policies (NSLP) are not receiving the attention deserved when terminology resources are being compiled. The focus of my research is monolingual and bilingual terminology banks/dictionaries in English and in Spanish which still ignore both their own country’s and the EU’s NSLP.

My claim is that already in 1990 the Committee for Equality between Women and Men of the Council of Europe strongly recommended “that governments of member States promote the use of a language reflecting the principle of equality of the women and men and, take all measures they consider appropriate with a view to [...] bring the terminology used in legal drafting, public administration and education into line with the principle of sex equality”. But since then very few measures have been taken to implement non-sexist language in private and public terminology data bases which include agentives (linguistic forms that indicate an agent, as job titles, etc.). In English, they continue incorporating terms which the NSLP have encouraged to ban (e.g. job titles marked with feminine suffixes) without a usage note. Sometimes they are even reluctant to incorporate widely used terms neutral or unmarked for sex. In Spanish, as in most Romance languages, terminology databases and dictionaries just ignore the feminine job title and do no attempt to incorporate sex-specific female terms. As a result, agentives in the masculine grammatical gender are taken to represent both feminine and masculine sexed terms, and translators often find difficulties in naming women.

I will end by showing the Spanish-English-Galician glossaries our team is creating to partly fill that gap (http://gentyll.uah.es/gentyllp/project/pspres.html). Their aim is to provide both terms and legal and linguistic information, difficult to find in current terminology banks/dictionaries.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

SHORT BIO-SKETCH

Dr. Mercedes Bengoechea

- Dean of the Faculty of Filosofía (Universidad de Alcalá, 2002-2009).
- Main fields of research: language and gender, feminist lexicography and translation, sociolinguistics, legal language.
- Member of IGALA (International Language and Gender Association) Advisory Council.
- Some of the peer-reviewed journals that have published her investigation: Textual Practice, Pragmalenguística, Revista Iberoamericana de Discurso y Sociedad, Journal of English Studies, Estudios de Sociolinguística, European Journal of Women’s Studies, Spanish in Context, Current Issues in Language Planning, Gender and Language.