

## 6. Summary and conclusions

The aim of this doctoral thesis has been to describe the terminology created and used by the EU in the field of development cooperation since 1957, and to portray the conceptual and terminological changes in this area over time. Furthermore, it is meant to illustrate how a corpus-based approach can be adopted in a diachronic analysis to identify and explore terms and concepts in a particular field. A corpus-based approach to terminology has been chosen for it offers several advantages over traditional, paper-based approaches. In fact, the idea of looking at terms in a variety of contexts, as is only possibly by using a corpus, assists in gathering information about and developing an understanding of the concepts involved. The analysis of corpora, especially when dealing with long and comprehensive texts, facilitates the identification of terms and the compilation of conceptual descriptions. While the application of WordSmith tools to generate key words and word clusters can be considered standard practice, this analysis is enhanced by the establishment of terminological domains, which represents a useful way of organising and structuring terms. In addition to providing the *status quo* of the EU's terminology in the area of development cooperation, the investigation of corpora from different periods of time permits the identification of changes at a terminological as well as a conceptual level. It also allows the consideration of the historical background and potential ideological forces at work in order to explain the linguistic phenomena.

The EU's development cooperation policy arose from the colonial history of some of its Member States, particularly France. Whereas nowadays the EU is active in virtually every part of the world, the relationship with a group of countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific was incorporated into the Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957. The EU's close ties with these states were maintained via several Conventions, viz. two Yaoundé Conventions in the 1960s and four Lomé Conventions in the 1970s and 1980s, and are currently enshrined in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, which was signed in 2000. The official texts, protocols and declarations produced in the meetings between the EU and the developing countries have been used to compile ten corpora, each of which represents a particular stage in the relationship between the two groups of countries.

The analysis of these corpora shows that the language used by the Community in the early stages of its development cooperation policy was influenced by its colonial past. The African States were bound to the

Community in the form of an Association and were referred to as the *Associated States*, as if they did not have an identity of their own. The provisions of the Treaty of Rome and the Yaoundé Conventions governed two areas, namely trade and aid, which have been at the core of the EU's development cooperation policy ever since. Apart from the terms *technical cooperation*, *financial and technical cooperation* and *European Development Fund*, all of which were coined in Yaoundé, the terminology used in these domains at that time was not particularly distinctive or sophisticated.

The Lomé Conventions represented a clear break with the past. The former colonies of the EU Member States had gained independence and established the ACP Group, representing the developing countries' counterpart to the EU. The areas of cooperation were expanded and the Conventions provided new and innovative aid instruments such as STABEX and SYSMIN. Furthermore, the rules in the area of trade were changed to the ACP States' advantage, which raised hope and confidence among these States. The terminology used in the Lomé Conventions reflects the increase in the level of sophistication and detail in the new framework of ACP-EC cooperation. With cooperation spreading to ever more areas and subjects, the language became more distinctive and multi-faceted. As a consequence, the analysis of the Lomé corpora yielded not only more but also more meaningful results. Fuelled by the evolving politicisation of the European Economic Community and the creation of the European Union, ACP-EC cooperation was increasingly extended to include political elements. This is reflected in the language used in Lomé IV and Lomé IV *bis*, which include the terms *human rights*, *rule of law* and *political dialogue*. The influence of multilateral institutions, in particular the IMF, increased the trend towards aid conditionality. In order to receive financial resources, the ACP States were obliged to implement reform programmes, which had to meet with the approval of the EU or the IMF. The terms *structural adjustment support*, *support programmes* and *adjustment programmes* were introduced in this context.

Pressures from within the EU as well as outside events and developments led to a major overhaul of ACP-EC cooperation and the end of the Lomé era. A new agreement was signed in Cotonou in 2000, referred to as the *ACP-EC Partnership Agreement*. The idea of partnership is, in fact, the main theme of the Cotonou Agreement. Its key elements are political dialogue, development cooperation and economic and trade cooperation, which, in terms of key words, word clusters and terminological domains, account for a considerable part of the terminology used. However, one of the key changes in the area of

trade, namely the conclusion of so-called *Economic Partnership Agreements*, suggests that the relationship between the ACP States and the EU might, after all, not be based on partnership at all. Furthermore, the aid system has been changed in that the ACP States' performance is now a key criterion for determining the financial resources that are allocated to them, with the terms *review(s)*, *evaluation(s)* and *monitoring* providing evidence of this new form of aid conditionality.

Over the last fifty years, the European Community and the ACP States have tried to build up various forms of cooperation and to foster development in several areas. While the word *cooperation* was not even mentioned in the Treaty of Rome, the Yaoundé Conventions used the term *financial and technical cooperation* to refer to the provision of financial resources and know-how to the ACP States. This term was maintained for twenty years and was only replaced with the term *development finance cooperation* in Lomé IV. The term *technical cooperation*, which refers to one of the two main elements of development finance cooperation, has always existed and still exists as an independent term, unlike the term *financial cooperation*, referring to the second element, which has only recently been established as an independent term in the Cotonou Agreement. The word clusters *development cooperation* and *ACP-EEC cooperation* (later: *ACP-EC cooperation*), two very general terms used to describe the countries' joint efforts, were only coined in the Third Lomé Convention in 1984. The terms *industrial cooperation* and *agricultural cooperation* refer to concepts introduced in Lomé I and Lomé III respectively, both of which have been abandoned in the Cotonou Agreement. By contrast, the terms *regional cooperation* and *trade cooperation* refer to concepts which are both still in use, with the latter now subsumed within the term *economic and trade cooperation*.

As far as the key word *development* is concerned, the corpus analysis shows that the objective of ACP-EC cooperation has always been to promote the economic and social development of the ACP States. This idea has been maintained in the Cotonou Agreement, which includes the terms *economic development*, *social development* and *economic and social development*. While the Lomé Conventions pointed out the importance of industrial development, the latter is no longer mentioned in the Cotonou Agreement. Since Lomé III, the contracting parties have clearly emphasised the area of trade, reflected in the terms *trade development* and *development of trade*. Several new forms of development appear in the Cotonou Agreement, as illustrated by the use of terms such as *institutional development*, *private sector development* and *sustainable development*.

This research has shown that the language used in the texts governing the relations between the European Union and the ACP Group has been undergoing continuous change. It has been shaped by events and developments taking place within the two groups of countries involved as well as by external forces. ACP-EC cooperation will be subject to further changes, as the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement is already under way and a third revision may be expected in 2015. Eventually, Cotonou will be followed by a new agreement, which may or may not continue the tradition of its predecessor. While the results of the revisions and the future generation of ACP-EC agreements will again depend on innumerable internal and external factors, it is safe to say that changes will once more be effected, both in terms of concepts and language.