BOOK REVIEW

Glossary of terms in library and information science
**(English – Hindi). Revised edition. New Delhi:
Faculty of Library and Information Science,
Indira Gandhi National Open University, 2018.
309p.**

A quick look through and what is immediately
revealing is that the *Glossary* does not hae either a
preface or an introduction. As a result, it is not known
what has been the objective and what methodology
has been followed for compilation.

Now, unlike many other LIS glossaries, this has
been compiled by a team comprising five members of
LIS faculty, two faculty members of School of
Translation Studies and Training, one member from
School of Humanities, all from IGNOU. In addition,
there were three experienced professionals from three
different universities and a retired librarian. Two
directors (one retired) of the School of Social
Sciences of IGNOU were also involved. It was quite a
big team comprising LIS experts, linguists and
administrators. What was perhaps lacking in the team
was a lexicographer.

The compilation is the revised version of the
Glossary brought out earlier. This seems to be the 2nd
edition, because there is every likelihood that the
subsequent editions of the *Glossary* will be brought
out in future and be dubbed as 3rd edition, 4th edition
and so on.

The *Glossary* includes well above 7,000 terms and
seems to serve the purpose of LIS professionals to a
great extent. I am told that it is meant for writing
textbooks, course materials, essays, etc., in Hindi, and
also for teaching in Hindi up to BLIS level. Glossaries
of subjects that are taught only in MLIS level such as
Bibliometrics are not included in it. For writing MLIS
textbooks, M Phil or PhD thesis in Hindi, this
glossary will not be sufficient. The *Glossary* also
includes highly selective Name list as well as
Institution index along with standard Hindi
transliteration.

In the *Glossary*, as far as I could see there is hardly
any or printing error. Paper and get-up are all
excellent. This is going to be a highly useful reference
tool for teachers, students, researchers, authors, and
even common men.

There is no mention of any price in the book.
Possibly, it will be distributed free.

To my knowledge, except IGNOU, no other LIS
departments numbering around 180 of the country [1]
has taken any pain to compile such a glossary.

There are certain lacunae in the *Glossary.* One of
them is the lexicographical errors. In dictionaries like
Oxford, Cambridge, Webster's and so on, words are
not capitalized except proper nouns. I am reproducing
the first five words of the *Comprehensive Glossary of
Technical Terms (Science)*[2] [English –Hindi] to
illustrate the point. Of the five words, it may be noted
that four words are not capitalized. The word that has
been capitalized is a proper noun.

aa channel
aa lava
A amplifier
aard-vark
aba

The first five words of the *Glossary* looks as
follows. All the words are capitalized, which should
have been in small letters.

Abbreviated Catalogue Card
Abbreviated Entry
Abbreviated Title
Abbreviation
Abnormal Readers

The other observation is with regard to the use of
singular and plurals. In dictionaries and glossaries, by
and large words are used in singular. I provide a few
examples where words in singular form could have
been used.

English	Suggested terms	Hindi equivalents
Abnormal Readers	abnormal reader	visāmānya pā**th**ak
Abstracting Tools	abstracting tool	sārkara**n** srot
Access to e-Journals	access to e-journal	i-jarnal abhigam
Accession Routines	accession routine	parigraha**n** nityakārya
Accidental Agents	accidental agent	ākasmik abhikartā/agent

It may be seen that all the English terms are in plural and their Hindi equivalents are in singular. The Hindi equivalent of 'abnormal' has been given as 'visāmānya' the recognized word in 'apasāmānya'. The Hindi equivalent of 'tool' as 'srot' may not be very correct, since 'srot' is also an equivalent of 'resource'.

In certain cases, terms in plural form are to be used. In the Glossary, they have been done correctly. Some examples:

Abstracting and Indexing Periodicals
Analysis of Library Records
Audio and Video Cassettes.

In some cases, Hindi equivalents could have been better. Examples:

English	Hindi equivalent (Given)	Hindi equivalent (Suggested)
Abridger	samk**sh**epa**n**kartā	samk**sh**epak
Abnormal Reader	visāmānya pā**th**ak	apasāmānya pā**th**ak
Actual user	vāstavik upayoktā	vāstavik upabhoktā
Analytico-Synthetic	vaishle**shi**-samshle**shan**ātmak	vaishle**shi**-samshle**shi**

The compilers did not make any claim about the comprehensiveness of the *Glossary*. Still I find some very common words which should have been found in the *Glossary* are missing. Just take the first twenty words of the *Glossary*, which are as follows:

Abbreviated Catalogue Card
Abbreviated Entry
Abbreviated Title
Abbreviation
Abnormal Readers
Abort
Aborted
Abridged Dictionary
Abridged Edition
Abridgement
Abridger
Absolute
Abstract

Abstract Classification
Abstract Proper
Abstracting
Abstracting and Indexing Periodicals
Abstracting and Indexing Tools
Abstracting Journal
Abstracting Service

I feel the following words also should have been included: AACR, abbreviate, abbreviated, abbreviated word, aberrant, aberrant copy, aberration, abridge, abridged, absolute location, absolute size, absorbent, absorbent paper, absorption, abstract bulletin, and abstracting periodical.

Nevertheless, the lacunae do not by anyway diminish the importance of the *Glossary*.

The need for a comprehensive LIS glossary (English – Hindi) cannot be overemphasized. The glossary is needed for writing textbooks up to MLIS level, and writing MLIS dissertation, M Phil and PhD theses in Hindi. It is also needed for writing articles, especially research articles in Hindi. Teachers will also need such a glossary for not only teaching but also evaluating theses written in Hindi.

Possibly this *Glossary* has been compiled keeping in view the need of IGNOU only. As IGNOU has already done the greater part of the job, with a little bit more effort and well thought out strategy it can definitely produce a comprehensive glossary to serve the purpose of all.

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References

1. Baba AM, First three nations library science education: USA, UK & India. Paper presented at the IASLIC 28th National Seminar, 2018 (Visva-Bharati, 27-29 Nov. 2018).

2. India. Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology. *Comprehensive Glossary of Technical Terms (Science).* 2 vols. 1973.