

Evaluating translation quality

European Language Social Science Thesaurus (ELSST)

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Project aims

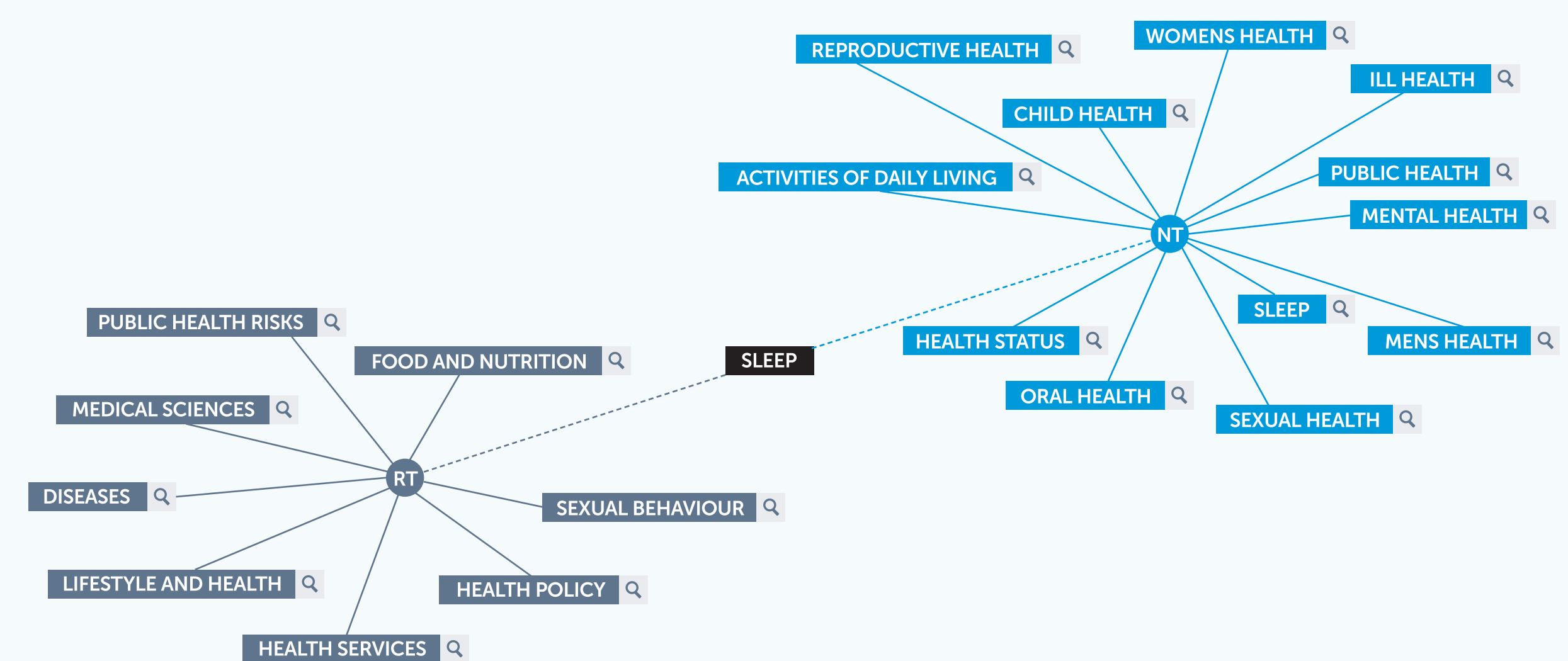
- To improve the quality of translated terms for the multilingual thesaurus (ELSST)
- To support multilingual search in the Data Catalogue of the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA).



The Thesaurus (ELSST)

- It is a network of terms representing concepts, in one or more European languages
- It improves consistency of indexing as standardised content is assigned the same index terms
- It improves search efficiency by eliminating ambiguity and solving the problem of synonymy.

Example of ELSST hierarchy for health:



Why and how we evaluated translation quality

Translation quality is crucial to:

- Support consistent indexing across different languages
- Enable multilingual search, i.e. search in one language to retrieve resources indexed in another

We used two evaluation methods:

- Criteria-based evaluation
 - We looked at how well terms met a set of translation quality criteria
- Task-based evaluation
 - We investigated how well terms improved the consistency of indexing across different languages
 - We looked at how well terms covered the semantic content of the survey questions they were used to index.

Project results

- We identified issues with some translations
- We found the criteria and task-based evaluation methods were complementary.

Read more about the project results at:
<https://seriss.eu/resources/deliverables>

Project impact

We used the results to:

- Improve the translation quality of ELSST by
 - Updating and revising ELSST Translation guidelines
 - Training ELSST translators
 - Applying them to ongoing ELSST content development and translation
- Inform research on indexing questions
- Inform best practice on when to index data within the data lifecycle.

Find out more on: <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/about-us/our-rd/seriss.aspx>