

Sõjakooli Sõnastik

Estonian-English Reversible Smart Phone Dictionary of Military Terms and Relevant Vocabulary

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<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mobi.lab.wardict>

Description

The smart phone dictionary for Android phones and tablets is being developed by a team that includes a translator, terminologist, English teachers, native speakers of English (a linguist and a person with a military background), and servicemen as needed. As of April 2015 there are about 1200 entries.

Entries come from two main sources: translations and curricula of the ENDC. All entries are harmonized with language and subject matter experts before entering them in the dictionary, e.g. firearm parts were synchronized with a firing instructor, terminologist and English native speaker before teaching the subject in English classes. In this way, in addition to making specialised vocabulary available, a more harmonized use of specialised language is ensured both in English and Estonian.

Features:

- Military terms and relevant general vocabulary (environment, medicine), phrases;
- Fields: education, structure of the ENDC and EDF, weaponry, equipment, R&D, administration and services, general military (flexible, can be added or deleted anytime);
- Entry fields in L1 and L2: word/term, abbreviation, definition, field, source (for definition), note;
- Works offline and renews every two weeks;
- Can be linked to MemoQ and other translation environments.

Word or Term?

Although the difference between a term and a word is very clear in theory, it is less clear in reality. As a general rule, a word becomes a term when defined or explained.

In order to decide whether a linguistic unit is a term or not, the needs of potential users (servicemen, students, employees) are taken into account. For example, *densely forested* does not have to be defined in a military setting, although it should probably be clearly defined in a dictionary of forestry in order to distinguish it from other types of forested areas.

Points of Discussion

Considering the hard work that definition compilation entails, very often notes are added instead of definitions, e.g. *trigger* (in a *pistol, assault rifle*); *trigger bar* (in a *pistol*): here a note indicates which weapons have a particular part instead of defining it.

The terms that signify basic military concepts (e.g. *ammunition, pistol, assault rifle*) are not defined, as potential users are expected to know the meaning (compared with civilians who might not be able to distinguish between *pistol* and *assault rifle* (calling them both *weapon*), or *armoured personnel carrier, infantry fighting vehicle*, and even *main battle tank* (calling them all *tank*)).

One issue to be settled with regard to linking the dictionary to a translation environment is how to handle single/multiple L1 entries with multiple L2 equivalents, e.g. *branch, arm* and *service arm* for *relvaliik*; or *loomevargus, plagiaat* for *intellectual property theft, plagiarism*, without creating separate entries for one and the same concept.