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Geoffrey Perrin has kindly allowed me to make it available online at www.margaretmarks.com/Transblawg.

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A Short German-English Glossary of the Juvenile Criminal Law

I. Introduction: the principles followed in the compilation of the glossary
The following “Short German-English Glossary of the Juvenile Criminal Law” is intended first and foremost as a practical tool for the translator who is sometimes called upon to offer his services in the field in question.

The German terms come from the juvenile criminal law of the Federal Republic of Germany. The English equivalents suggested have principally been arrived at in three different ways: either they have been taken directly from the terminology of the law of England and Wales where there seems to me to be a high degree of correspondence between the German and English practices (e.g. the translations of “Erforschung der Täterpersönlichkeit” and “Fürsorgeorterreichung”); or they have been based on terms in use in England, but then modified slightly to reflect more exactly the true nature of the German measure (e.g. “Maßregel der Besserung und Sicherung”); or lastly, they represent a coining on my part in the absence of a corresponding or similar institution in the UK (e.g. “Zuchtmittel”).

To the purist in the field of terminology who would only allow the first of the three processes described above, the state of affairs just outlined may well appear less than satisfactory. I fully understand this complaint; perhaps I may here be permitted the statement of a brief defence. The principles of terminology work, I would contend, can only be adhered to in their entirety where one is comparing like with like. These ideal conditions are not always given in the case of
legal systems, which typically represent the latest stage in a process of evolution which has taken place over many centuries in a particular country. This phenomenon was once commented on by André Donner, former President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, in the following fashion (we were speaking back in the days when the Community was still composed of the original Six):

"...it certainly is true that many fundamental concepts and systems are common to the law of every one of these Six, but in a way that is only able to the modern historian. We use the same terms and retain along the same lines, but the meaning thereof are entirely the different, because we suppose that in which identical terms we give them identical content. And that is just not correct, for the content of these terms has been developed and modernised in the course of its different legal histories... It would be in some way clarify the situation if among the Member States there were at least one with an obviously different system of law, for example England, for then no one could continue to argue as though there were no legal diversities and to presume in a matter of course that every Member State has exactly the same notions as his own legal system" (quoted by Evans 1982: 32)

André Donner obviously saw the great divergence exhibited in a number of areas between common law and Roman law systems as having clear advantages. Those of us working as translators may occasionally be forgiving for harboring other feelings!

It might be useful at this juncture to compare part of the systems of sanctions available to German and English juvenile courts. Let us suppose that a young person is before the court, and that either the seriousness of the offence or his antecedents (i.e. previous history) mean that careful consideration must be given to the possibility of curtailing his liberty in some way. The decision-making processes of the German and English courts might then look like this:

![Diagram](image)

**Figure 1:** The decision-making process in the Federal Republic of Germany

![Diagram](image)

**Figure 2:** The decision-making process in England and Wales

The essential “differentness” of the two systems will be apparent: even the points of departure for the deliberations of the two courts, as well as the criteria used along the way, are different. At first glance, the British order of things would appear to be the more straightforward one, but appearances, as ever, are deceptive! Since youth custody sentences are generally upwards of four months, one would assume that they represent a more severe penalty than detention centre orders. In a sense, of course, this is true: such was in fact the intention of the legislator, and it is also reflected in the terminology – “youth custody sentence” as against “detention centre order”. If, however, we now take a closer look at the actual regimes involved, a rather different picture emerges. Section 11 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 defines “detention centres” as

"places in which offenders not less than 16 but under 21 years of age who are sentenced to be detained in such centres under the Criminal Justice Act 1982 may be kept for short periods under disciplinary suit to persons of their age and description..."

Of youth custody centres, the same section has the following to say:

"... places in which offenders not less than 16 but under 21 years of age may be detained after training, instruction and work and prepared for their release..."
So whilst it is the disciplinary aspect of detention centres which is stressed, in the case of youth custody centres, the rehabilitation factor is more to the fore. In fact, detention centres represent the main vehicle for the "short, sharp shock" approaches to juvenile crime announced by the present Conservative government in Britain shortly after coming to power under Mrs. Thatcher in 1979. Unfortunately enough, the new legislation also proved somewhat confusing for — or open to abuse by — those called upon to operate it, and there was considerable criticism of some courts, after the Act came into force, for "moving offenders up the custodial tariff" to ensure that they would be placed in youth custody rather than a detention centre. This prompted the Home Secretary (Ian Macmillan) at the time to give the courts a public reminder that their primary task was to decide on a length of penalty appropriate to the seriousness of the offence. Once this had been fixed, the type of accommodation would in most cases follow as a matter of course. There could be no question of the courts manipulating things so that the deprivation of liberty took one form rather than another.

One now begins to get some idea of the difficulties involved in terminology work in this area. Since "Jugendarrestanstalten" in Germany place much more emphasis on reform than punishment, I decided that "detention centre" on its own would not be acceptable as a translation — a "glose" or appendage in some form was needed. After some thought, then, I came up with "detention centre for educative training". Another kind of difficulty arose with the term "Jugendstraf". As the most severe sanction available under the juvenile criminal law in Germany, this has obvious similarities with youth custody in England and Wales. However, since the concept of "youth custody" only came into existence with the 1982 Act referred to above (to replace the long-standing institution of borstal), it is not yet likely to be widely known and understood outside Britain. It also has the disadvantage of potential ambiguity, since the word "custody" can occur in other contexts — notably, "removal in custody". For these reasons, then, I have also included the term "youth imprisonment" in my glossary as an alternative. (I must confess that I was not aware of this as a potential candidate until I discovered that it had been proposed as long ago as 1972 - see bibliography following the glossary - in a report on the West German system prepared by the UK Advisory Council on the Penal System.) Whilst preferable from the point of view of international comprehensibility, the word "imprisonment" is one closely associated with the adult criminal law, and the German legislator was particularly concerned that a distinction should be made between the concept of "Strafém" as understood in the general criminal law and "Jugendstraf" (see note [1] above to section 17 of the "Jugendarrestanstalt" commentary by Brunner (1975)). This, it might be observed, contrasts somewhat with the situation in England yet again, where the 1982 Act makes quite clear that both youth custody and detention should be ordered wherever an adult in a similar situation would be liable to a prison sentence.

One might well ask, of course, why I got myself into these difficulties in the first place by choosing the juvenile criminal law of England as the source for my English renderings. A fair enough question, but it leads us in turn to the far more general one: where do we take our language from when working as terminologists in the soft sciences, which, in addition to law, include education, economics and finance, and politics and government (especially local) — in other words, all those fields which can vary enormously in form and internal structure from one country to another? In the present case, I chose England and Wales because this is the system with which I am myself most familiar, and also because I assumed — modestly — that my glossary was most likely to be used in a European context (i.e., by persons with some knowledge of conditions in England). I agree, however, that I could equally well have chosen the USA or an anglophone African country as my source. In the final analysis, the determining factor when working in the soft sciences will probably be (as I have suggested here and elsewhere) the audience for whom the glossary is intended — or more precisely, the terminologist's knowledge of the background and previous experience of that audience.

We could also contemplate, of course, working from a variety of "source systems". For example, I mentioned above that the English juvenile criminal law has no exact equivalent in its official terminology of the concept of "Zuchthaus", and I therefore resolved to provide a translation of my own. If, however, I had searched long enough in the literature of the American juvenile criminal law, I might perhaps have come up with something. I can see no objection to this kind of approach. After all — to dwell on our present concern — what we are primarily seeking to do here is match appropriate English labels to chunks of German reality, not compile a list of terms currently in use in the juvenile criminal law of England. And where we take these labels from is, by comparison, of secondary importance. If we did mix British and American terms, then naturally, we would need to go through the list again afterwards, standardising spellings (e.g. "offence", for example, is AE "of-"ence").

There is yet another, more radical approach to terminology work in this area which I do not myself consider to be a viable possibility, but which should perhaps be mentioned in passing. We have referred above to the danger of false associations which can arise from employing the terminology of a particular national system (our example was "detention centre" as a rendering of "Jugendarrestanstalt"). This problem might be depicted graphically as follows (the diagram obviously owes something to the famous "meaning triangle" of Ogden and Richards):

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Figure 3: The conceptual gap in terminology work in the soft sciences

The foregoing representation is, I think, self-explanatory: our task is to find non-technical equivalences — or bridging the conceptual or referential gap. One way we might tackle this is by creating, in English, a whole new terminology, neutral with respect to the terms actually in use in all the English-speaking countries of the world. To take the criminal law as an example: we would no longer speak of "offence" or "crime" but, say, "punishable act", and what is denoted by the German "Strafem" would not be "prison" or "penitentiary" but "institution for those convicted of punishable acts". Such an undertaking would clearly be time-consuming and strenuous with all kinds of pitfalls. Perhaps the biggest would be to avoid directly out of our own decision to sever the bond between the term and a particular English-speaking social order: for the cultural context of a word is part of its meaning, and once this context is no longer given, we are obliged to take recourse to linguistic comprehension (i.e. packing enough information into it to remove any ambiguity to its intended referent). This, in turn, of course, is likely to produce some long-winded designations whose practical value is subject to a large question mark.

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What we need to do here is avoid overstating the problem. Firstly, we should not forget the role played by the reader in that communicative process which is translation: the translator, I feel, has a right to expect that his work will be approached in an intelligent and disciplined fashion — in other words, that the person reading an English translation of a German text will make the same mental effort required to bear in mind that the English terms refer to German reality, and thereby avoid the misleading associations we have spoken of above. Secondly, any term in use is usually embedded in a longer stretch of language — the text — which contains enough information in many cases to disambiguate that particular term. In short, there is no real practical need to devise a whole new set of labels, starting from scratch. In fact, inventing our own terms should always be the last resort in any given instance. If my own experience is typical, it is only in the minority of cases — round about 30% of the terms in the present glossary — that the target-language culture is totally devoid of a comparable feature, and therefore term, which we can at least use as a starting point in making up a term. All that is then needed to bridge the conceptual gap in some instances is an appropriate gloss. (For example, I think we can say with some certainty that the variety of "Rechtsbehelfe" available in Germany far exceeds anything we can find in common law systems. Yet many of these terms can be satisfactorily rendered into English by suitable variations on the theme of "appeal"; appeal on points of law and fact, appeal on points of law only, time-limited appeal, and so on.)

In a way, then, terminology work in the soft sciences will frequently be to some extent arbitrary (as regards the national system we select as our primary source of linguistic material), but also pragmatic. And it is these two criteria that I would adduce to defend my decision to embed terms actually used in Britain, or even to invent new terms. But since we take the step of elaborating one's own terminology, then the actual process of arriving at the new term can never be arbitrary. To start with, we should always avoid producing a term which sounds odd to the native speaker or which totally fails to give him a fair idea of what is meant as regards his normal usage. Our aim is to aim at an end-product that catches the true "flavour" of the institution or practice we are designating, which in turn means that there will often be a strong case for creating a term embodying conceptual as well as conceptual meaning (Leech 1974) — again, our rendering of "Jugendarmee" would be an example here. At the same time, terms which are so long as to be unwieldy will — as I have already suggested — generally be unacceptable.

One or two further observations on the approach I have adopted in compiling my list: in a number of instances, I have provided glosses in inverted brackets — the translator will decipher himself, of course, whether the circumstances call for them to be included, either by building them into the text he is producing, or in the form of footnotes. In some cases, I have not hesitated to use terms which are now obsolete as regards official use in Britain where I feel these are suitable for conveying a German concept (e.g. "mindemeanour" or "Verfehlung"). The soft sciences are perhaps far more prone to rapid obsolescence in the terminological field, since they are precisely those spheres of life which are most at the mercy of the whims of governments as they come and go. If one were to reject a term simply because it ceased to be employed efficiently a year or two previously, the terminology job would become even more difficult! Nor should one underestimate the "human factor", of course. The more into the street a funny habit of continuing to use terms which Acts of Parliament have seen fit to abolish, a good enough reason being "bombast" which is almost certainly still more familiar to the majority of people in England than "youth custody (centre)". My only reason for not including "bombast" in the glossary as a rendering of "Jugendstrafe" was its semantic opacity, and the fact that other terms were available.

Some terms which have been included (e.g. "Jugendamt", "Vormundschaftsgericht") clearly enjoy an application wider than just that of the juvenile criminal law. This is both inevitable and desirable, since in the Federal Republic of Germany, there is a planned interlocking — both in legislation and in actual practice — between the juvenile justice system and general welfare provision for the young. I stressed at the beginning of these remarks that I view the glossary below first and foremost as a practical aid: this was the main reason for keeping it as short as possible. Here I have been guided, firstly, by frequency of occurrence — hence I have included "Akte", "Anklage" and "Beschuldigter", but not "Anschuldigter". (Having thought up that particular synonym, though, I suppose I had better deal with it — the word does after all occur in §40 of the "Jugendgerichtsordnung"! A suitable rendering might be "the person charged". If it were then necessary to contrast "Anschuldigter" with "Anklagter", the latter might be glossed as "the accused against whom main proceedings have been opened". The three German terms, it might be added, contain a sense-relation with one another (Ljoss 1969), not paralleled in the official terminology of the English criminal law.) The same principle of brevity and practicality was also the basis for my decision to leave out, with few exceptions, the very basic terms of the criminal law such as one might expect to find in any bilingual legal or even general dictionary. Where I have included basic concepts, this is usually either because I am not satisfied with the renderings suggested in standard dictionaries, or because the term in question combines with other words to yield terms which are specific to the juvenile criminal law (e.g. "heranwachsender Sträfling").

I have mentioned on a number of occasions already the three main paths followed in arriving at the English terms in the list. Those which represent coinings are indexed as such by an asterisk. Distinguishing between the other two categories — onomatopoeia, and taken in modified form, from the English legal literature — is something I decided against, however. There were two main reasons for this: firstly, both categories have a common essential feature (provenance), and secondly, I did not wish to overload the glossary with information which added nothing to its strictly functional role. (Cf. however Köhnen 1972 in the bibliography.)

A special word must be said about the translation of the concept "erzieherisch", which runs throughout the German literature. One often finds this rendered in English as "educational" (see the various documents of the Council of Europe relating to this field, for example). This adjective is, for me, strongly redolent of formal, organized education — schools, universities, and so on — and as such, closely related to the German notion of "Bildung". In my view, it is "educative" which gets nearer to "erzieherisch". For a long time, this was really little more than a subjective force on my part: although one or two other native speakers of English with whom I discussed the problem shared my intuition, I sought in vain for confirmation in monolingual English dictionaries or standard works of reference such as Fowler's "A dictionary of modern English usage". Now, however, I can only plead silence that my thesis is borne out by the entries for "erbildungsfähig" and "erbildungsfähiger" in the English-German section of the Collins-Klett "Großwörterbuch Deutsch-Englisch / Englisch-Deutsch".

I must conclude this introduction by acknowledging my sources. To indicate the origin of every single idea for solving terminological problems, or every text which has led to a fuller grasp of a particular topic, would be, for the translator, akin to a solo ascent of Everest without oxygen! For those of us working in the language professions, the world is our oyster: no translator ever picks up a newspaper score in the knowledge that he can sit down and relax — the "danger" of finding something even as relevant as his work is too great! This does not free us from the obligation, however, to mention at least our main sources. The books and other writers I have found most useful I have included in the bibliography to be found after the glossary. As regards human sources, I must make special mention of two Herl Ministerialrat Herr Vielmian, head of section (Kierfenthaler) for juvenile criminal law at the Federal Ministry of Justice in Bonn, and Herr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, local court judge (Richrath am Amtsgericht) and formerly assistant to Herr Vielmian at the Ministry. Both of them, in addition to putting at my disposal the documents of international communications with an active interest in the field in question (Council of Europe, United Nations), have given generously of their time — and patience! — to explain certain concepts and features of the juvenile criminal law in the Federal Republic of Germany which were not accessible to my immediate comprehension. Any comparison "breakdown" may that will be reflected in the glossary are, of course, attributable entirely to me.

2. A short German-English glossary of the juvenile criminal law

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| B | belege | beweise | die festgezogenen (im Jugendstrafverfahren) |

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70
die Berufung
der Beschuldigte
der Beweislegung
der Beweisbelehrer
der Beweisplan
E
die Einheitsstrafe
Einstellung des Verfahrens
der Einstiegsarrest

die Einweisung (in die Jugendstrafanstalt, in die Jugendarrestanstalt)
die Entlassung (aus der Strafanstalt)
Entschuldigung beim Vorstatten
der Entwicklung und Erziehungs-
defizite

die Erziehung der Fahrtreue

die Erziehungsanstalt

die Ermittlungen
der Erziehungsbeistand
der Erziehungsbehörde
der Erziehungsbehördesystem
die Erziehungsheim

die Erziehungsstätte

die Erziehungsstättenrat
die Erziehungsregister

F
das Fahrverbot
der Freistellung
der freiwillige Sanktion
die Führungsaufsicht
die Fürsorgerechtigkeit

G
gemeinsame Arbeitsleistungen
Gesetz für Jugendwohlfahrt
gesetzlicher Vertreter

H
das Hauptverfahren
die Hauptverhandlung

I
informelle Verfahrensverlegung

J
das Jugendamt
der Jugendarrest
Freistellung
Kurzarrest
Dauerstrafe

die Jugendarrestanstalt
die Jugendfürsorge

das Jugendgerichtsgesetz
die Jugendgerichtshilfe
die Jugendgerichtsverfassung
die Jugendhilfe
die Jugendkammer

die Jugendkriminalität
der Jugendliche
ein geringerter Jugendlicher
ein verhältnismäßig jugend-
lcher

die Jugendpflege

der Jugendrichter
das Jugendstrafgericht
der Jugendstaatsanwalt
die Jugendstrafanstalt
die Jugendstrafeneinrichtung
das Jugendstrafverfahren
die Jugendstrafvollzug

K
die kriminobiologische Untersuchung

M
Maßregel der Bestimmung und
Sicherung
ambulante Maßregel
institutionale Maßregel

N
die Nebenstrafe
offener (geschlossener) Vollzug
prison sentences served in open (closed) establishments

der Personensorgeberrechtige
the person given the right of personal custody (of a child or young person)

Rechtsaffen
law-abiding

einen rechtschaffenen und verantwortungsbewussten Lebenswandel führen
lead a law-abiding and responsible life

das Rechtswiderrufverfahren
appeal proceedings

die Revision
appeals on points (a point) of law only

die Schadensersatzschuld
reparation

die Schuldunfähigkeit
criminal liability/responsibility

sofortige Beschwerde
*time-limited appeal

straftaten

criminally liable/responsible

Kindheit
Children under 14 years have not attained the age of criminal liability/responsibility

straßverfahren
*capable of recognizing the wrongfulness of an act and of returning accordingly

der Straftäter
young offender

jugendlicher Straftäter
young adult offender

herauswachsender Straftäter
*subsidary principle;

das Subsidiaritätsprinzip
*lesser-measure principle (principle of never imposing a more severe measure where a less severe (subsidiary) one will suffice)

T

die Tatverdächtige
suspect

U

Überweisung auf den Vormundschaftsrichter
referral to the guardianship court judge

die Unwahrheit (der unbestimmte Jugendstrafe in eine bestimmte oder des Freisetzungs in Kurzarrest)
commutation of (an indeterminate sentence of) youth imprisonment to a determinate one, or of weekend detention to short-term detention

Unterbringung zur Beobachtung
admission to a special institution for observation

die Untersuchungshaft
remand centre

V

Regelungen der Aufsicht
*regulations governing remand in custody

die Verwesenheit
formal warning; reprimand

Vollzugsleiter
*the person supervising enforcement of the measure imposed (the juvenile court judge who heard the case in question)

der Vollzugsleiter
*the person supervising execution of the custodial measure imposed (in the case of „Jugendarrest“, the juvenile court judge in whose area the detention centre is situated; in the case of „Jugendstrafe“, the youth prison governor)

das Vormundschaftsgericht
guardianship court

das Verfahren
preliminary proceedings

W

Weisungen
directions (court instructions as to general conduct)

Z

Zahlung eines Geldbetrages zugunsten einer gemeinnützigen Einrichtung
payment of a sum of money to a charitable institution

Zuchtniß
disciplinary measures with educative intent

Note: English terms in the glossary preceded by * are coinings, i.e. suggested translations rather than terms actually in use.

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