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Basis, Basic and Basically

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¶ PROBLÈMES ET SOLUTIONS

¶ Basis, Basic and Basically

[Communication de Mr. Noel F. W. Gates, traducteur à la Société Centrale d'Hypothèques, Ottawa.]

“...Je vous envoie quelques notes sur les mots “basis”, “basic” et “basically”. Je dois y ajouter les formes verbales “basing” et “based”, qui s’emploie d’une façon analogue. L’usage de ces termes est si répandu qu’ils risquent de s’user très vite en tombant dans le cliché. La signification première de “basis” remonte au mot grec, qui désignait un piédestal; d’où l’idée dérivée de *base physique*. On exprime cette idée aujourd’hui par le mot *base*, pendant que “basis” se libérait progressivement de tout rapport associatif avec une base, pour exprimer métaphoriquement “élément de base, fondement, principe constitutif ou déterminant” — je paraphrase l’interprétation du *Shorter Oxford* (1956). Il est intéressant de noter que ce même dictionnaire est très bref quant à “basis”: “Of, pertaining to, or forming a base; specifically in architecture or chemistry”. Par contre, le *Webster’s Collegiate*, qui date également de 1936, commente ainsi ce mot: “Of or pertaining to the base or essence (C'est moi qui souligne); fundamental (as for example “basic fact”); constituting a basis (as for example “basic wage”).”

Les exemples donnés ci-dessous démontrent l’importance du sens “principe constitutif ou déterminant, essence, manière”; cette dernière acceptation est devenue si fréquente que “basis” supplante les mots *manner, way, fashion* qui ont longtemps fourni le point de départ des locutions adverbiales.

¶ 1. ON A WEEKLY BASIS

(Dit par une jeune Canadienne-française qui précisait combien de fois elle rendait visite à ses enfants). Paraphrase: “weekly”, “once a week”... tout simplement !

¶ 2. It's on that basis they got the money.

(Un de mes confrères, parlant de je ne sais plus quoi). Paraphrase: “That’s how they got the money”, ou plus exactement: “they got the money in accordance with those conditions.”

¶ 3. Based on the five quality grades in the appraisal of individual structures, the percentages for the whole study are as follows...

(Etude préliminaire de la condition des logements dans une ville canadienne). Paraphrase: “The percentage of structures falling under each of the five quality grades used in the appraisal is, for the whole study area, as follows...”

¶ 4. Based on the recommendations of the President’s Advisory Committee...

(Richard L. Steiner, Administrator, U.S. Urban Renewal Administration, dans une annonce datée du 28 août 1957). Paraphrase: “In accordance with the principles recommended by the President’s Advisory Committee...”

¶ 5. Among this group basic fear seemed to be that public housing might be carried to extremes... (*Journal of Housing*, Washington, D.C., Aug.-Sept. 1957, p. 277).

Paraphrase : "The essential fear of this group seemed to be that the opportunity might be taken to force large quantities of public housing on their communities..."

¶ 6. No final action had been taken of this writing but a public hearing had already taken place that served as a basis for the cutting, at least tentatively, of two controversial provisos from the list. (*Journal of Housing*, July 1957, p. 236).

Paraphrase : "At the time this was written no final decision had been taken about the proposed amendments. A public hearing had, however, made it possible for the draftsmen to remove two controversial provisos from the list, at least tentatively."

¶ 7 However, evidently this preference (i.e. liquidity preference) is often overshadowed by other factors. One, also mentioned by Mr. Durand in a letter to the reader who sent in this material, is the difference in point of view between various investors. Banks, for instance, like short term securities, because they owe money to their depositors on a short terms basis. On the other hand, insurance companies like long terms bonds because most of their liabilities don't come due for years. Another basic factor, of course, is whether borrowers at any given time are more interested in getting short loans or long ones. (*Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 16, 1957, p. 1).

Décomposons ce texte en ses structures principales pour pouvoir le comprendre : Paraphrase : "However, the relationship between the rates on long and short-term securities is evidently not determined by liquidity preference alone. Among other determinants, which may often be more powerful, are the purposes of different classes of investors. The ways in which these can differ is discussed by Mr Durand in a letter to the reader who sent us the data on interest rates. Such investors as banks, which must repay their liabilities within a short period, prefer short-term securities. Investors whose liabilities do not in general fall due for years can buy long-term issues more freely and life insurance companies invest in this manner. The pattern of demand for loans is as important as the pattern of investors' preferences. At one time the majority of borrowers may need long-terms, at another time short-term loans."

N. F. W. G.



¶ Bulletin linguistique de l'Académie canadienne-française

¶ Management

Employé seul, ce mot ne paraît pouvoir être traduit que par *direction*. Il désigne l'art de diriger, d'administrer. "Management engineer" se dit *ingénieur-conseil en organisation*. "Management engineering" se dit *organisation de la gestion des entreprises*.

¶ Planning

Est un terme dérivé du français "plan" et désigne la méthode de prévision, de préparation et de contrôle qui est à la base de l'organisation moderne du travail. La traduction proposée par le Comité d'étude en est *planification*, *planifier*, *plan*. Pour exprimer la qualité de ce qui est plan, l'Académie des Sciences recommande *planéité* qui représente les avantages de l'euphonie et de l'ancienneté, notamment en optique, plutôt que *planité* qu'elle écarte.

¶ Standard

Dans son sens général d'étalement, ce mot peut se rendre par *norme*, *normalisation*. Quant à "standardisation" et "standardiser", on conseille fortement de les éviter.