THE LINGUISTIC DIMENSION OF TERMINOLOGY SCIENCE

Theoretical Foundations of Terminology Science and Applications

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Terminology work is multidisciplinary and draws support from a number of disciplines (e.g. logic, epistemology, philosophy of science, linguistics, translation studies, information science and cognitive sciences) in its study of concepts and their representations in special language and general language. It combines elements from many theoretical approaches that deal with the description, ordering and transfer of knowledge.

ISO 704:2009, p. v
Double dimension of terminology


(2) Das Reich der Begriffe wird in der Terminologie als unabhängig vom Reich der Bennungen (=Termini) angesehen (Wüster, [1972] 1981:1)

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Terminological work

(1) Concepts are the starting point of all terminology work (Wüster)

(2) Terms, as lexical units, are the starting point says Cabré (2003)

→ 2 different ideologies → 2 different methods

onomasiological approach vs semasiological approach
Terminological work

A terminologist begins by analysing discourse texts which refer to objects to see how they are designated in language.

By analysing a certain number of discourse texts, the terminologist can get an understanding of the properties of the various referents in the different discourse texts, so as to determine those properties that can be abstracted as characteristics, as opposed to those properties that are unique to an individual object and, therefore, cannot be seen as characteristics.

ISO 704:2009, p. 5

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Terminological work

Adolfe Zauner (1902) introduces the term “onomasiology”

(1) What is the concept (Begriff) associated with the form?

(2) What is the meaning (Bedeutung) of the word?


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Terminological Work

Bruno Quadri – 1952

What are the requirements that a linguistic analysis must meet to be considered onomasiological? (1952, p.6)

[Welche Veraussetzungen muss eine sprachliche Untersuchung erfüllen, um als onomasiologisch bezeichnet werden zu können?]


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Lexical semantics issues

polysemy

relation between designations (3.4.1) and concepts (3.2.1) in a given language in which one designation represents two or more concepts sharing certain characteristics (3.2.4)

polysemy

Propriété d'un signifiant de renvoyer à plusieurs signifiés présentant des traits sémantiques communs

«Property of a signifier to refer to several signified having common semantic features»
polysemy

Term

meaning 1

meaning 2

meaning 3

meaning 4

meaning ...

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«polyreference »

Concept 1

Term

meaning 1

meaning 2

meaning 3

meaning 4

meaning ...

Concept 2
«monoreference »

Term

meaning 1
meaning 2
meaning 3
meaning 4
meaning ...

Concept 1

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synonymy

relation between or among terms (3.4.3) in a given language representing the same concept (3.2.1)

Note 2 Terms (3.4.3) which are interchangeable in all contexts (3.6.10) are called synonyms; if they are interchangeable only in some contexts, they are called quasisynonyms
synonymy

terme 1

synonyme

terme 2

designe

designe

concept

terminological synonym
synonymy

terminological synonyms are rare

It seems probable, and many semanticists have maintained, that natural languages abhor absolute synonyms just as nature abhors a vacuum (Cruse 1986, p. 270).

speech synonyms are very frequent
synonymy

Concluding remarks

La reconnaissance, l’autonomie et l’unité d’une science et d’une pratique terminologiques reposent sur des distinctions théoriques concernant connaissances et langage

Alain Rey, 1979, Terminologie: noms et notions, Paris: PUF, p. 17
There is nothing more practical than a good theory

Kurt Lewin, 1940