

# 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



- (1) Jede Sprache, und erst jede Terminologie, **bildet ein Begriffs- und Bennenungssystem.** (Wüster, [1972] 1981 :78)
- (2) Das **Reich der Begriffe** wird in der Terminologie als **unabhängig** vom **Reich der Bennenungen** (=Termini) angesehen (Wüster, [1972] 1981:1)

# 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

# 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?

Zauner, Adolf. 1902 : *Die romanischen Namen der Körperteile. Eine onomasiologische Studie*. Erlangen: K.b. Hof- und Universitäts-Buchdruckerei von Fr. Junge (Junge & Sohn)

# Terminological Work



Bruno Quadri – 1952

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

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

Quadri, Bruno. 1952. *Aufgaben und Methoden der Onomasiologischen Forschung*. Bern: A. Francke AG Verlag

# 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)

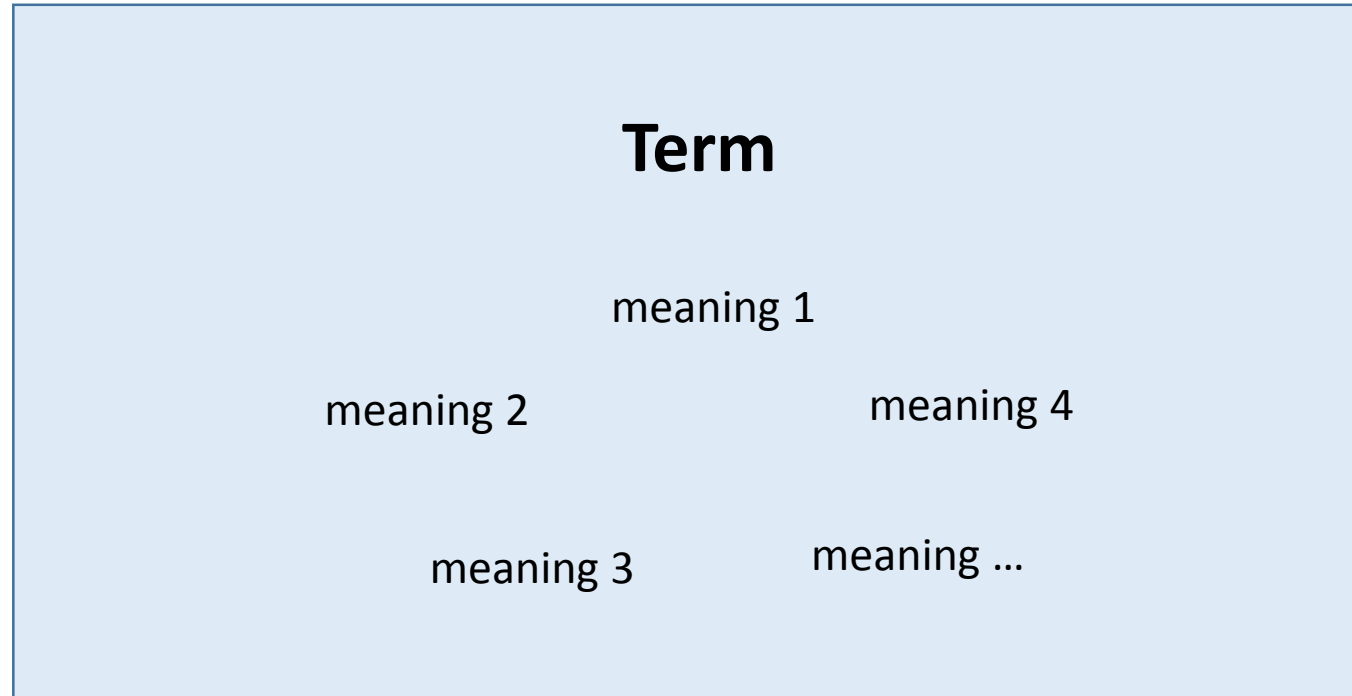
## **polysemy**

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

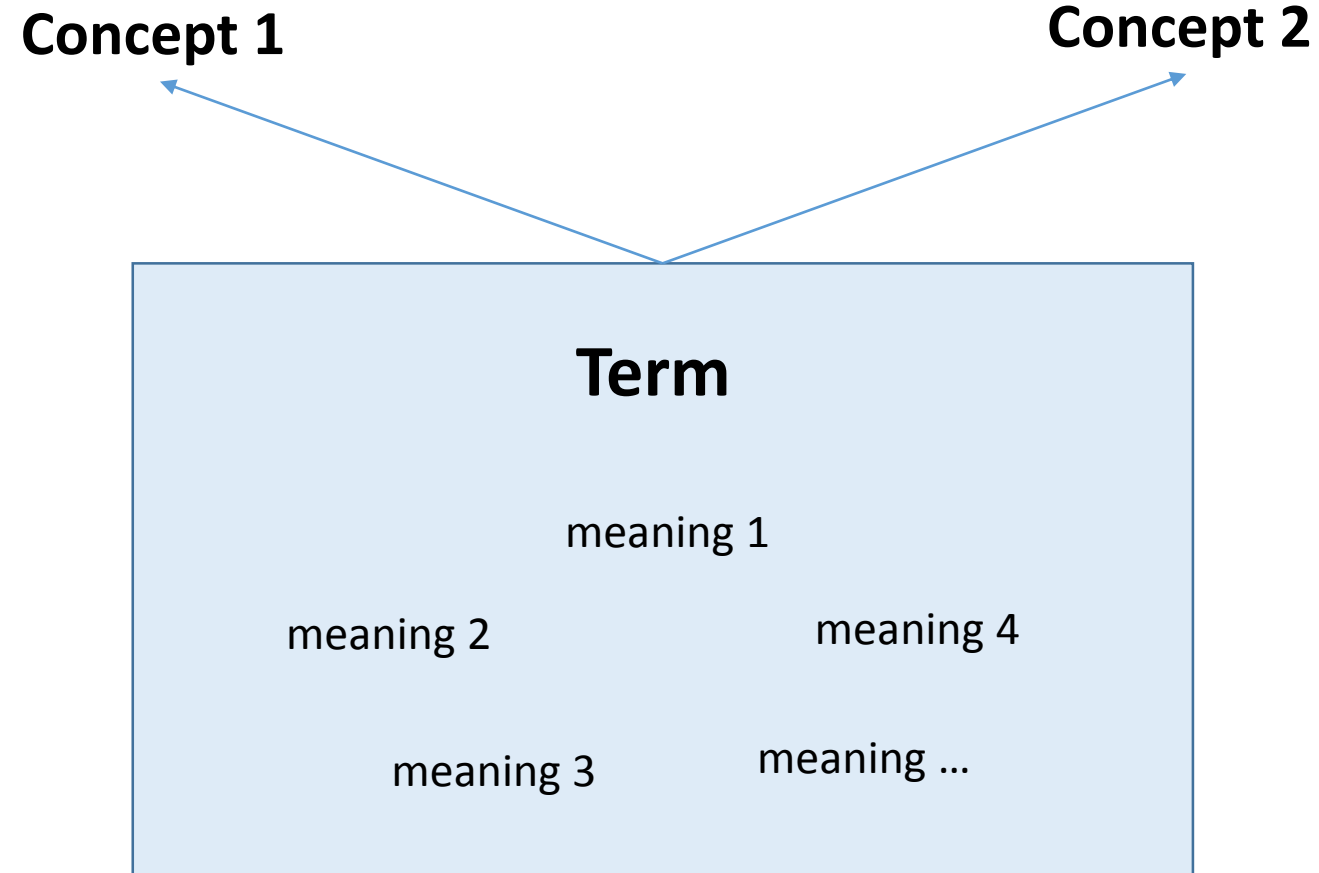
*«Property of a signifier to refer to several signified having common semantic features»*



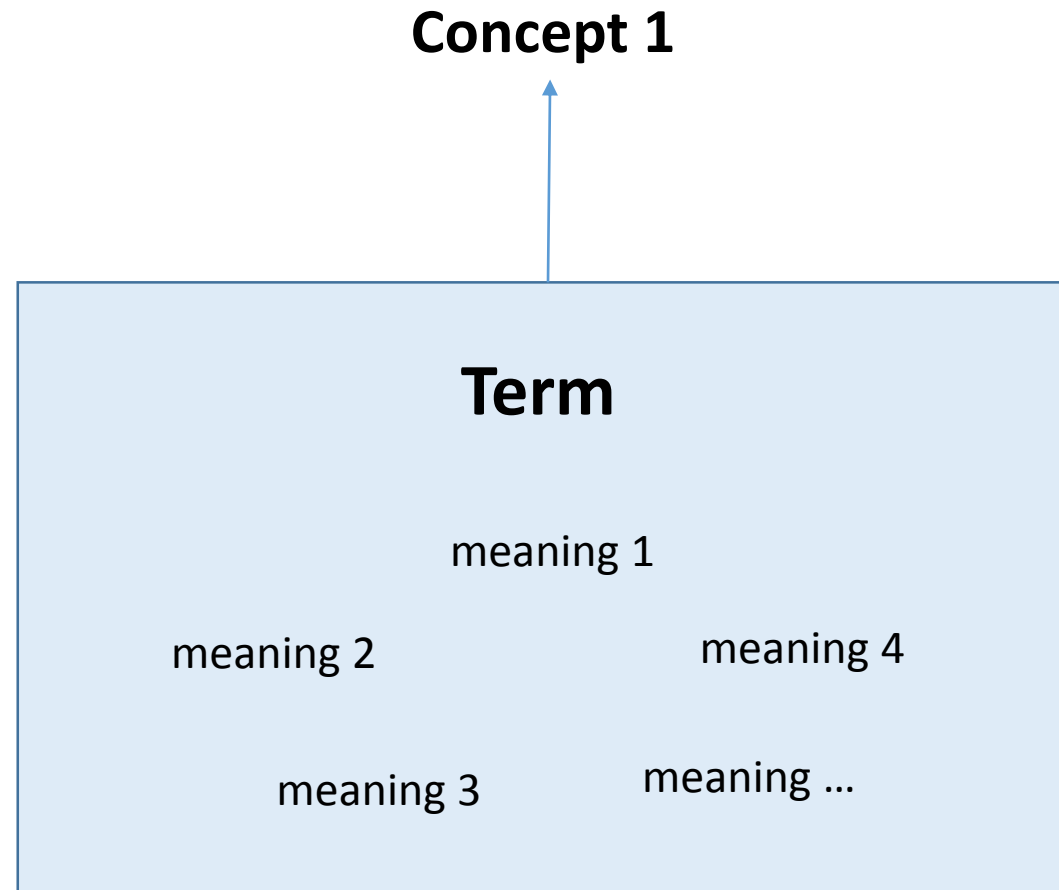
# polysemy



# «polyreference »



# «monoreference »



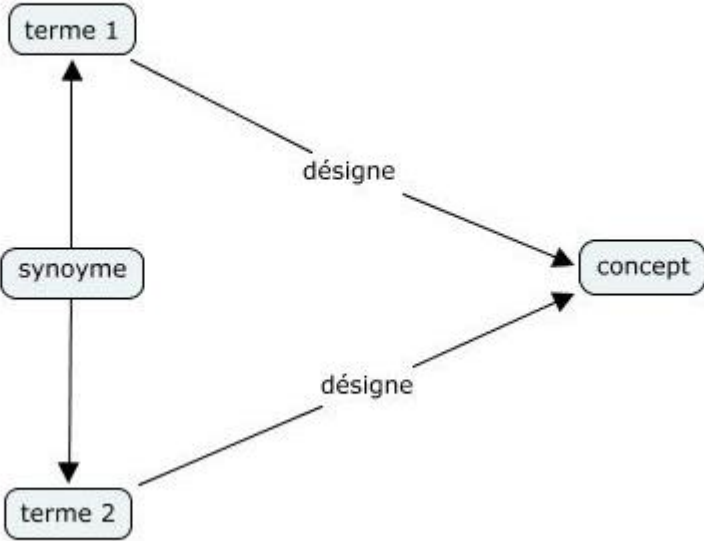
# synonymy

## 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



**terminological synonym**

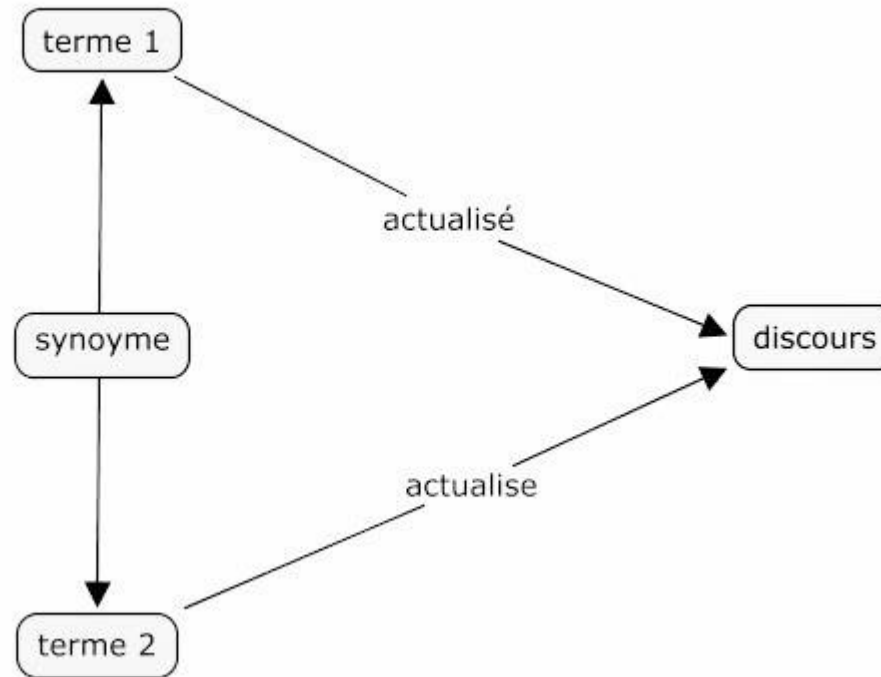
# synonymy

## **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



**speech synonyme**  
**synonyme discursif**

**Costa, Rute.** 2017. « Les normes en terminologie. Que faire des synonymes ? », Normes linguistiques et terminologiques : conflits d'usages [Eds. Danielle Candel et Hélène Ledouble] Cahiers de Lexicologie, 2017-1, n° 110, Paris: Classiques Garnier, p. 45-57 ISBN 978-2-406-07056-6

# Concluding remarks

La reconnaissance, l'autonomie et l'unité d'une science et d'une pratique terminologiques reposent sur des **distinctions théoriques** concernant **connaissance 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