

VOCABULARY OF TERMINOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This ISO Recommendation contains the Vocabulary of Terminology, included in class 1 of the Recommendations prepared by ISO/TC 37, Terminology (Principles and co-ordination).

The purpose of the Vocabulary is to provide a certain number of basic terms used in terminology and lexicography.

Its use is recommended for all terminological work in the field of standardization.

The Vocabulary contains the technical terms used in the ISO Recommendations enumerated in the Foreword. The Vocabulary is therefore fundamental for the use of all these documents.

The majority of the terms, however, found in the Vocabulary, correspond to the ISO Recommendation R 704, Naming principles. This document provides a great number of examples for the application of terms.

1. THE UNIVERSE (No.1)

1

Individual object ; particular object ; individual : Any phenomenon of the outer or inner world which is observed (or can be observed) by a man at a given moment.

Examples : Socrates as a living person capable of being touched ; this tree in our garden ; a given spot on this tree ; the fall of this tree ; that physical or psychic pain which I feel at the moment ; this perception or mental image.

2. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS (No.2 to 30)

2.1 Concepts and concepts systems (No.2 to 26)

2.1.1 Concepts (No.2 to 8)

2

concept : Any unit of thought, generally expressed by a term (31), a letter symbol (48) or by any other symbol.

Concepts may be the mental representation not only of beings or things (as expressed by nouns), but, in a wider sense, also of qualities (as expressed by adjectives or nouns), of actions (as expressed by verbs or nouns), and even of locations, situations or relations (as expressed by adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions or nouns).

A concept may represent only one individual object (1) or — by "abstraction" — comprise all individuals having certain characteristics (3) in common.

Furthermore a concept may arise from the combination of other concepts, even without regard to reality. The number of concepts (represented by terms) which may be combined to form a new concept (term) is limited by the fact that in a proposition a concept can only be either subject or predicate, but not comprise both.

Examples : The concepts expressed by the terms Socrates, Greece ; man, hammer, cross-pane hammer, round, roundness, magnetic permeability ; to revolve, revolution, number of revolutions per unit of time, space, force, square root ; above, in front of, while, centaur, Neptune (the planet, as already known by calculation before its discovery), ekasilicon (i.e. the chemical element predicted by Mendeleef in his periodic classification, afterwards named Germanium).

3

characteristic (of a concept) : Any of the properties that constitute a concept (2).

Example : Among the characteristics of the concept "tree" are reproductiveness, a woody trunk, and ramification at a certain height.

Some types of characteristics, especially characteristics relating to material objects, are enumerated under 21 to 25.

4

connotation ; intension (of a concept) : The aggregate of all characteristics (3) which constitute a concept (2).

5

genus (of...) : Concept a is a "genus" of a concept b, if b possesses the same characteristics (3) as a, and one or more additional characteristics.

Example : The concept "tree" is a genus of the concept "apple-tree".

6

species (of...) : Concept b is a species of concept a if a is a genus of b.

Example : The concept "apple-tree" is a species of the concept "tree".

7

extension¹(by resemblance) ; denotation : The aggregate of all imaginable species (6) of a concept (2), considered separately. Also the aggregate of all individual objects (1) ever covered by that concept.

The species considered must all have the same degree of abstraction (see 13).

Example : The extension of the plant genus "fir-tree" comprises (in the light of the present knowledge) 30 species, among them e.g. "silver fir", the "Nordmann fir"(of the Caucasus) and the "balsam fir"(of Canada).

8

extension²(by composition) : The aggregate of all parts of a whole, considered separately.

Example : All wheels of a gear, even when the latter is taken to pieces.

2.1.2 Systems of concepts (No.9 to 20)

9

system of concepts : A group of concepts (2) connected by logical or ontological relations. Such a system is constituted by horizontal or vertical series of concepts (see 13), or at least by one such series.

Logical relations are based on resemblance of the concepts. They produce typically a genus-species system (10).

Ontological relations are based on the contiguity, i.e. on the contact — in space or time — of the individuals (1) representing the concepts. The types of ontological systems most important in technology are the whole-and-part system (11) and the development system (e.g. the genealogical table of an individual animal, of a product or of a language).

Example : See 10, 11, 12, 13.

10

genus-species system : A system of concepts (9) connected by a logical relation (see 9), viz. by the genus-species relation (see 5, 6).

Example : The flora of the world or of a region, analysed with regard to the relationship of the plants. See also 13.

11

whole-and-part system : A system of concepts (9) connected by one of the ontological relations (see 9), namely by the whole-and-part relation.

Examples : The flora of the world or of a region, analysed with regard to the geographical distribution of the plants; the aggregate of the concepts corresponding to the parts of a machine, or to the countries, provinces and districts of a continent. See also 13.

12

mixed system of concepts : A system of concepts (9) connected by more than one type of relation at once (see 9), particularly the combination of genus-species systems (10) and whole-and-part systems (11).

Example : The concepts grouped in the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC).

13

series of concepts : A sequence of related (see 9) concepts (2) in which every concept has only one immediate predecessor and one immediate follower. One or more series of concepts constitute a system of concepts (9). A series is a linear system.

In a "horizontal series" the concepts are coordinated, i.e. they have the same degree of abstraction or division. Such a series is established by variation of a characteristic (3). In a "vertical series" the concepts are subordinated to each other.

Examples of a logical series (1) :

(1.1) **Horizontal** : all species of a genus of plants ; the degrees of military rank or of temperature, different sizes, etc.

(1.2) **Vertical** : the species, the genus, the family and the class to which belongs a given plant.

Examples of an ontological series (2) :

(2.1) **Horizontal** : the head, the collar, the shank and the end of a bolt.

(2.2) **Vertical** : the table of the geological ages ; the series of the (male) ancestors of a man.

14

classified system of concepts ; classification : A [system of concepts (9) the structure of which is specified.

Examples : The scientific system of classification of plants ; the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC).

15

graphical representation of a classification : A table of the concepts (2) constituting a [system of concepts (9) in which the interrelations between the concepts are shown by a pyramid-like arrangement (= by a family tree).

16

schedule of concepts : A list of such concepts (2) as constitute a [system of concepts (9) in which the interrelations between the concepts are shown by linear sequence combined with an arrangement in steps, with the use of various typographic founts or with a system of notation.

17

field (of knowledge) ; subject (field) : A specialized sphere of the activity of human mind.

Examples : A branch of science, the technique of a particular profession.

18

specific concept (in a given field) : A concept (2) pertaining primarily to a given field (17).

Examples : In automobile engineering, the concepts "automobile" and "limousine".

19

borrowed concept : A concept (2) frequently used in a given field (17) but belonging primarily to another field.

Examples : In automobile engineering the concepts "lubricating oil", "fuel", and "shaft".

20

concept exceeding the given field : A concept (2) belonging to a larger field (17) of which the given field forms a part.

Examples : In automobile engineering, the concept "wheel".

2.1.3 Types of characteristics (No.21 to 25)

21

intrinsic [inherent] characteristic : A characteristic (3) referring to an object in itself, not in its relation to another.

Examples : Shape; size; material; colour.

22

extrinsic characteristic : A characteristic (3) belonging to an object only in its relations to another. Frequently occurring types of extrinsic characteristics are the [characteristics of origin (23) and of purpose (24).

Examples : See 23, 24.

23

characteristic of origin : An [extrinsic characteristic (22) indicating where, through whom or how an object comes into existence or use, or becomes known.

Examples : The discoverer, inventor or describer of an object, its producer or supplier, the place of its production (town, country), its mode of manufacture.

24

characteristic of purpose : An [extrinsic characteristic (22) indicating the purpose which an object serves.

Examples : Mode of employment ; the field of application ; the assembly location or position.

25

equivalent characteristics : Different characteristics (3) which, nevertheless, may be substituted for each other in a given intension (4) without modifying the expression (7).

The interchangeability of characteristics is caused by an accidental [ontological connexion (see 9), not by logical equivalence.

Examples : The characteristics "equilateral" (= having all the sides equal) and "equiangular" (= having all the angles equal) in the concept "equilateral [equiangular] triangle"; "convex lens" = "converging lens".

2.1.4 Combination of concepts (No. 26)

26

disjunction; logical addition : Addition of the extensions (7) of several concepts (2).

The result is a genus (5) of the original concepts, and these are species (6) of the result. It is called "disjunction" or "logical sum".

Example : Disjunction of the species "boy" and "girl" gives the genus "child".

2.2 Definitions (No.27 to 30)

27

definition^I: Verbal description of a concept (2).

Example : Cf.28, 29, 30.

28

definition by genus and difference, definition by [intension [connotation]; intensional definition ; definition^{II}(in its classical meaning) : Determination of the intension (4) of a concept (2).

Example : An "aircraft" is any air-supported vehicle.

29

definition by [extension [denotation]; extensional definition : Determination of the extension (7) of a concept (2).

Example : The concept "aircraft" comprises balloons and airships, kites and gliders, and flying machines.

30

definition by context ; contextual definition : Definition (27) by way of an example from actual usage, i.e. by way of an implied equation.

The term (31) to be defined is shown in a sentence the whole meaning of which is known or may be guessed.

Example : He went from Europe to America in 24 hours, using an...(aircraft).

3. TERMS (No.31 to 94)

3.1 General (No.31 to 38)

31

term (for a concept) : Any conventional symbol for a concept (2) which consists of articulated sounds or of their written representation (= of letters).

A term may be a word (66) or a phrase (72).

Example : See 32, 33.

32

technical term : A term (31) the use or sense (83) of which is restricted to the specialists of a particular [subject field (17)].

Examples : revolution, number of revolutions; number of revolutions per unit of time.

33

general term : A term (31) forming part of the common language.

Examples : number ; time; per; of.

34

preferred term : A term (31) the use of which is recommended in a standard.

35

permitted term : A term (31) the use of which, as synonym (92) of a [preferred term (34), is admitted in a standard.

36

deprecated term : A term (31) which should be avoided, according to a standard.

In the British standards there is also a category between deprecated and permitted (35) terms. It is called alternative terms. These terms are not bad but superfluous, and are to be abandoned gradually.

37

terminology²; nomenclature : The aggregate of terms (31) representing a [system of concepts (9), particularly in a special field (17)].

In some fields (17) the two terms are not full synonyms (92). In biology e.g. nomenclature refers to the names of the plants and animals, terminology however refers to their parts and properties.

38

terminology¹(science) : The [field of knowledge (17) treating of the formation and naming of concepts (2), either in a special subject field (17) or of the aggregate of all subject fields.

3.2 External form of terms (No.39 to 49)

39

external form (of a term) : The aggregate of sounds (or phonemes, 41) or of letters constituting a term (31).

40

phon(et)ic form : The [external form (39) of a term (31), as formed by sounds (or phonemes, 41)

41

phoneme : Any distinctive phonic element of a given language, if possible represented by one letter. Two or more different sounds constitute only one phoneme in a language if they may be interchanged in the spoken words without changing the meaning of the words.

Example : In French the sounds "l" and "r" are two phonemes because such words as F galant and F garant represent different concepts. In Japanese however the sound "l" and "r" constitute one phoneme only, they can be exchanged without modifying the sense of the word.

42

written form : The external form (39) of a term (31), as formed by letters.

43

prototype (form) : The model (66, 67) after which the external form (39) of other words is patterned. For the words constructed of greco-latin morphemes (59) the prototype form presents that stage of development which does not yet show national peculiarities but from which the national forms can be derived by regular assimilation ("transposition", 44).

Example : The prototype form radi/a/t/or corresponds to the following national forms, which are equally regular : DER radiator F radiateur I radiatore S radiador.

44

transposition : The regular assimilation, to a given language, of the external form (39) of words (66, 67) which have been constructed regularly in another language from greco-latin morphemes (59).

Example : See 43.

45

abbreviated term : A term (31) formed by omission of one or more parts of a given term. It is either an abridged [phonic form (40), or a spoken abbreviation (46).

Examples of abridged phonic forms : short (= short circuit) ; bus (= omnibus).

46

abbreviation : An abridged [written form (42) of a term (31).

Many abbreviations are also spoken, i.e. used as [abbreviated terms (45).

Examples of non-spoken abbreviations : Mr.(= mister);Ca(= calcium);sin(= sinus); cf.(= L confer = compare).

Examples of abbreviations spelled out : kV; Pkw (in German; = passenger car); USA; IEC; PTT (= postes, télégraphique, téléphonique); TSF (= télégraphie sans fil = radio).

Examples of spoken abbreviations : See 47.

47

acronym (5) : An abbreviation (46) — as to the origin — composed of initial letters (or syllables) of several words (67) and used as a spoken word, i.e.as [abbreviated term (45).

Examples : Unesco ; radar (= radio detection and ranging) ; maser (= microwaves amplification by stimulated emission of radiation). In some languages : UNO; ISO (in other languages these abbreviations are spelled out).

48

letter symbol : A symbol of a concept (2), consisting of one or more letters written without full stops ; particularly one which designates a fundamental scientific notion (a quantity, a unit, a chemical element etc.).

Examples F(= mechanical force); cm (= centimetre).

49

graphical symbol : A figure representing a concept (2).

Examples : Two interlaced circles as the symbol for a transformer ; a lightning arrow as symbol warning against introduction.

(5) Provisional concept which has to be studied more carefully.

3.3 Writing (No.50 to 53)

50

Phonetic [spelling [writing] [alphabet] : A system of letters (or its use), in which there is a one-to-one correspondence between the letters and either certain sounds or certain phonemes (41).

Example of phonetic spelling of sounds (strictly "phonetic spelling") : The alphabet of the International Phonetic Association.

Examples of (approximate) phonetic spelling of phonemes ("phonemic spelling") : The Esperanto alphabet (used in the "logatoms" established for the measuring of intelligibility by the International Consultative Telephone Committee CCIF); the Cyrillic alphabet.

51

historical [etymological] spelling : A system of spelling in which certain phonemes (41) are written differently depending on the origin of the word.

Example : fool, but phonetic.

52

transliteration : Transformation of a text, letter by letter, into another alphabet, irrespective of the sounds as actually pronounced.

Example : The international ISO system for the transliteration of characters of the Cyrillic alphabet into those of the Latin alphabet.

53

transcription : Transformation of a text into another alphabet for the purpose of suggesting the pronunciation to the reader.

Example : Transcription by means of a [phonetic spelling (50)]. Transcription of Russian names in newspapers using the Latin alphabet.

3.4 Internal form of terms (No.54 to 82)

54

internal form ; literal meaning (of a term) : Basic meaning of a [complex term (56) or of a [transferred term (80)]. The literal meaning of a complex term determines its structure ; that of a transferred term is its [primary meaning (81)].

Examples : The internal form of the term horse power is the combination of two concepts "horse" (the animal) and "power" (rate of work), in this order and without specification of the relation existing between them. The internal form of the term "head" (of a key or cotter) is the "head of an animal"

55

motivated term : A term (31) the [resultant meaning (84) of which is derived from its internal (54) or phonic (40) form].

In the first case the motivated term is a complex (56) or transferred (80) term, in the second case an onomatopoeic word.

3.4.1 Grammatical analysis of complex terms (No.56 to 74)

56

complex [term [form]; combination of morphemes ; word combination : A term (31) containing several [terminological morphemes (60)]. It is either a compound (68) or derivative (69), or a phrase (72).

Examples : See 68, 69, 73, 74.

57

analysis of the grammatical form (of a term), grammatical analysis (of a term) : Separation of a [complex term (56) into its constituents (58).

58

constituent; component (of a term) : Any part of a [complex term (56) which has a meaning (83) of its own. A component is either an indivisible element (= a morpheme, 59) or a complex term by itself. The first step of [grammatical analysis (57) separates the "immediate constituent" (= "members"), of which there are normally two.

Example : The oblique stroke inserted in the term *shaping machine / for the cutting of gear teeth* separates the two immediate constituents.

59

ultimate constituent (of a term) ; morpheme; word element : Any indivisible constituent (58) of a term (31); i.e. a constituent which cannot be separated into other elements without losing its meaning (83). A morpheme can be either a root (61) or an affix (62) or an ending (65).

Example : In the term *shap/ing/machine /for/the cutt/ing/of/gear/teeth/* the morphemes are separated by oblique strokes.

60

terminological morpheme : Any morpheme (59) which expresses more than merely syntactic relations, i.e. one that is not an ending (65). It is a root (61) or an affix (62).

61

stem; root : A [terminological morpheme (60) which can be used either by itself as a word (67) — "root-word" (70) — or as basis of a derivative (69).

Examples : The words *word, in*. In the words *cutt/ing* and *shap/er/s* the stems have been spaced wide.

62

affix : A [terminological morpheme (60) which is used generally only as an appendix to a root (61). An affix is a suffix (63) or a prefix (64).

Examples : See 63, 64.

63

suffix : An affix (62) which follows the root (61), immediately or after another suffix.

Example : In the word *shap/er* the morpheme *er* is a suffix indicating an agent or a machine.

64

prefix : An affix (62) which precedes the root (61), immediately or before another prefix.

Example : In the word *pre/cede* the morpheme *pre* is a prefix denoting "before" or "in front".

65

ending ; termination : A final morpheme (59) of a word (66, 67) which expresses the grammatical inflexion, i.e. the case and the number of the nouns, and the tense and mood of the verbs.

Examples : In the words *gear/s* and *shap/er/s*, the morpheme *-s* indicates the plural.

66

word (in syntactic sense). A term (31) which is not complex (but a "root-word", 70) or which is an [asyntactic phrase (74).

Example : In English, a word in the syntactic sense may often be written as one or more [orthographic words (67), as e.g. *slideway* or *slide way*.

67

(orthographic) word : A term (31) the [graphic form (42) of which, when written in a text, is marked off by two successive empty spaces.

Examples : slideway ; slide-way ; F glissière ; F chemin ; D Bahn.

68

compound (word) : A word — orthographic (67) or, above all, syntactic (66) — the [immediate constituents (see 58) of which are roots (61) or derivatives (69).

Examples : slide way, slideway, F étaiu-limeur.

69

derivative (word) ; derived word : An [orthographic word (67) in which one of the [immediate constituents (see 58) is an affix (62).

Examples : shap/er; pre/cede.

70

root-word; morpheme-word : An [orthographic word (67) constituted by a single [terminological morpheme (60), i.e. by a root (61).

Examples : term; term/s; word; in.

71

word family : An aggregate of derivatives (69) from one and the same root (61) and of compounds (68) of it.

Example : The family condition, condition/ing, condition/al; air-conditioning, pre/condition, etc.

72

phrase; word group : A term (31) consisting of several [orthographic words (67).

Examples : See 73 and 74.

73

syntactic phrase : A phrase (72) whose members (see 58) are interlinked syntactically, i.e. by a relationship characteristic of the structure of sentences.

Examples : Shaping machine for the cutting of gear teeth ; cutting of teeth; conical teeth.

74

asyntactic phrase : A phrase (72) whose members (see 58) are interlinked asyntactically, i.e. by a relationship characteristic of the structure or [compound words (68).

Asyntactical phrases are rare in French, German and Russian, but not in English.

Example : The asyntactical phrase slideway is synonymous with the [orthographic word (67) slideway.

3.4.2 Terminological analysis of complex terms (No.75 to 79)

75

terminological analysis (of the meaning) (of a term) : The study of the meaning (83) of the constituents (58) of a [complex term (56), of implied ideas, and of the [resultant meaning (84) of the term.

Example : See 77.

76

determined [constituent [member] : The basic member (see 58) of a [complex term (56). It stands for a genus (5) of the [resultant meaning (84) of the complete term.

Example : See 77.

77

determining [constituent [member]; sub-member : The additional member (see 58) of a [complex term (56).

It denotes a characteristic (3) which transforms the genus (5), denoted by the [determined constituent (76), into a species (6).

Example : In the term planing machine = F machine à raboter, the constituent machine is the determined constituent (76), the remainder of the term is the determining constituent.

78

logical root (of word family) : A root (61) of a [word family (71) denoting a fundamental concept (2) common to the whole family.

As a rule, the logical root is represented by a root-word (70). Sometimes, however, there is no root-word in existence, or it exists in etymology only.

Examples : The root-words of the families eruption, eruptive and intelligent, intelligence were current in Latin (erumpere, intelligere); in the French language, however, they disappeared. In English only the modified root-word erupt has remained.

79

systematic terms : A series of [complex terms (56) whose structure reflects the structure of a [system of concepts (9).

Examples : The chemical terms hex/ane (C_6H_{14}), hept/ane (C_7H_{16}), oct/ane (C_8H_{18}), etc.; hex/yene or hex/ene (C_6H_{12}), hept/yene or hept/ene (C_7H_{14}), oct/yene or oct/ene (C_8H_{16}), etc. hex/yne (C_6H_{10}), hept/yne (C_7H_{12}), oct/yne (C_8H_{14}), etc.

(The terms ending in -ylene are older and still much more used than these in -ene though these are recommended by the international Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry).

3.4.3 Transfer of meaning (No. 80 to 82)

80

transferred term : A term (31) used with a modified ("transferred", 82) meaning.

Examples : See 82.

81

primary [basic] [original] meaning; primary [basic] [original] sense : The primitive meaning of a [transferred term (80).

Examples : See 82.

82

transferred meaning : The [resultant meaning (84) of a [transferred term (80).

A transferred meaning arises from the [primary meaning (81) either by restriction of the meaning (specialization), by resemblance (metaphor), or by contiguity (metonymy).

Examples : From ball = globular body, comes ball = projectile (restriction). From head of an animal comes head of a key (metaphor). From tongue = organ of speech, comes tongue = language (metonymy).

3.5. Term-concept correspondence (No.83 to 94)

83

meaning; significance; sense (of a term) : A concept (2) corresponding to a given term (31).

84

resultant meaning (of a term) : The meaning (83) of a [complex term (56) or of a [transferred term (80, see 82) as resulting from the [terminological analysis (75).

Antonym internal form (54).

Example : See 82.

85

(verbal) designation; name (of a concept) : A term (31) corresponding to a given concept (2).

86

one-valued (a term); single-valued; monovalent : Having one single meaning (83) only.
Noun designating this quality : monovalence.

87

monosemantic; monosemous (a term) : Not being polysemantic (89).
Noun designating this quality : monosemy.

88

many-valued (a term); multiple-valued; plurivalent : Having two or more meanings (83).
Nouns designating this quality : multiplicity of meaning, multiple meaning, plurivalence. Multiplicity of meaning is either polysemy (see 89) or homonymy (see 90).

89

polysemantic; polysemous (a term) : Having two or more interdependent meanings (see 88).
Noun designating this quality : polysemy. A polysemantic term is called polyseme.
Polysemy is caused either by [transfer of meaning (see 82) or by different interpretation of a [complex term (56).

Example : The word head which can designate, following the case, a part of a living body or a part of a shaft key.

90

homonymous (several terms) : Identical in their external form (40 or 42), but different in origin (and meanings, 83). Two homonyms are homophones or homographs depending on identity of their [phonic or [written form (40, 42).

This definition corresponds to the usage in most languages. The English terms homonymous and homonyms, however, are much more often used in the restricted sense of homophonous and homophones.

Examples : the word son and sun (homophones) ; the two words tear pronounced teer and tare (homographs); arm = upper limb and arm = weapon (full homonyms).

NOTE. — Often in terminological lexicography no distinction is made between homonyms and the different senses of polysemes (see 89). In this case the term homonym is used in a wider sense comprising both.

91

ambiguous; equivocal (a term) : [Having several meanings (see 88) which may be taken one for another. even within a context (94 a).
Antonyms : unambiguous, unequivocal.

92

synonymous (several terms) : Having the same meaning (83) — exactly or nearly — but different [external forms (39). -

Noun : synonym.

Examples : The terms inductor and choking coil, cephalalgia and headache.

Note — In reality most synonyms are only quasi-synonyms (93).

93

quasi-synonymous (several terms) : Having nearly the same meaning (83), but different [external forms (39).

Examples : The terms solenoid and coil (in electrical engineering), convolvulus and bindweed (plant).

94

foreign [translational] equivalent ; corresponding foreign term : Term (31) from another language having the same [resultant meaning (84) as a given term.

The [internal forms (54) of two equivalent terms may be different; then one is not a "translation" of the other.

Example: The French equivalent of the English term head (of a key) is talon whose (literal) translation would be hecl.

4. VOCABULARIES, GLOSSARIES, AND DICTIONARIES

5. CONDITIONS OF THE APPLICATION OF TERMS (No.94a)

94a

context (of a term) : The text surrounding a term (31) or the situation in which the term is used.

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