Glossary of terms used in terminology

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This glossary is intended to demonstrate sound principles of compilation without being excessively rigid or elaborate. The following guidelines were established before compilation and the formulation of definitions.

Guidelines for compilation

Corpus and criteria for selection

The terms selected are those found necessary by the authors for the teaching of their introductory courses in terminology, as available from their course-books or lecture notes, illustrative material, and handouts to students. In particular this means that the glossary contains both specific concepts and their abstractions or the general phenomena required for their understanding.

Scope

This glossary takes a broad view of terminology to include neighbouring domains of relevance to students of terminology.

General subject field: terminology
Subfields: theory of terminology, terminography, terminological data banks, elements of a terminological record
Terms from related fields: selected terms from lexicography, linguistics, translation, and documentation.
Methodology

1. Term forms. The most commonly occurring term is chosen as headword and recorded in its canonical form.

2. Rules for definitions.
   Define analytically by referring the term to the immediate superordinate concept and then synthetically by listing differenciating features.
   Define in a single sentence; further information of an explanatory nature is to be presented in brackets.
   Define abstract concepts with reference to specific concepts, if possible.
   Use comparable introductory formulae for the same type of concept, e.g.: “X is a property, a process, a relation ...”.
   Define concepts and not terms. (This means that a definition cannot read “… is said of …”.)
   Define nouns by means of nouns, etc.
   Be consistent in exemplification.
   Be consistent in the use of explanatory notes.
   Use an introductory phrase to identify concepts borrowed from other domains; e.g., “In documentation ...”, “In translation ...”, “In lexicography ...”.
   Indicate inessential elements inside a definition by using “(...)”.

3. Examples. Examples are only given where they appear to be useful.

4. Conventions.
   Synonyms and variants are given after the entry term separated by a slash (/).
   “See also” references point to related terms and antonyms.
   “See” references are indicated by an arrow (⇒).
   The headwords of this glossary, with the exception of “term” and “word”, occurring in the definitions are marked in bold characters.

Note: The Spanish terms in this glossary have been verified by Professor Teresa Cabré of the Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.
Glossary

A

[en] abbreviation
[fr] abréviation (f)
[es] abreviatura (f)
[def] A reduced form of a term or word which is produced by the omission of some of its letters.

[en] acceptability / reliability
[fr] fiabilité (f)
[es] fiabilidad (f)
[def] The degree of usability of a term.

Note: Reliability can be established on two levels:
monolingually by attestation in one or several documents, for example, in industrial standards;
in translations by reference to the usage of the same term in original documents of the target language, i.e., whether the term is widely used or whether its usage is restricted to translated documents.

[en] acceptability code / acceptability rating / reliability code / reliability rating
[fr] code de fiabilité (m) / code de pondération (m)
[es] código de fiabilidad (m)
[def] On a terminological record, the symbols or expressions which are used for indicating the degree or range of usability of a term.

[en] acronym 1
[fr] acronyme (m)
[es] acrónimo 1 (m)
[def] An abbreviation formed by letters taken from a complex term.

Note: An acronym may function as a term and may be pronounced like a word or like a sequence of separate letters.


[en] acronym 2 ⇒ letterword
affix

affixe (m)

afijo (m)

A lexical element, which is not itself a word and which can be added before, inside, or after the base form. See also: prefix, infix, suffix.

Note: Affixes modify the meaning, the reference, or the function of a word or term.

affixation

affixation (f)

afijación (f)

The process of adding prefixes, suffixes, or infixes to the base form of a word or term in order to create new lexemes or to change the grammatical category of a word/term.

alphabetic ordering

classement alphabétique (m)

orden alfabético (m)

The process and method of ordering the entries of a reference work according to the traditional sequence of the alphabet.

anglicism 1

anglicisme 1 (m)

anglicismo 1 (m)

A word or term which forms part of the English language when it is used in other languages.

anglicism 2

anglicisme 2 (m)

anglicismo 2 (m)

A word or term borrowed from the English language.

antonym

antonyme (m)

antónimo (m)

A word or term which is the opposite of another in one meaning relation.

antonymy

antonymie (f)

antónima (f)

The relationship of opposite meanings between a word or term.

Note: The opposites normally considered are: negative-positive, presence-absence, superior-inferior, etc.
area of usage

domaine d’emploi (m)

uso (m)

The range of texts or topics in which a term is used.

article => dictionary entry

artificial language

langue artificielle (f) / langue formalisé (m)

lenguaje artificial (m)

A means of communication, the lexical and syntactic rules of which are absolutely determined prior to its use.

author

auteur (m)

autor (m)

On a terminological record, the terminologist responsible for the content of the record.

base form / base / stem

base 1 (f)

base (f)

The root or a variant of the root of a word or term to which grammatical or derivational affixes and other lexical items can be added.

Ex.: ward-er, mile-age, clean → clean-lines, clean-ly, un-clean; unclean → unclean-liness.

borrowing 1

emprunt 1 (m)

préstamo 1 (m)

The process of using a term of one language for naming the same concept in another language, or, inside one language, the use of a term belonging to a particular subject field in another field.

borrowing 2

emprunt 2 (m)

préstamo 2 (m)

A lexical or terminological unit originally belonging to one language that is used in another.

Ex.: parachute, fuselage, grauwacke
The transfer of the meaning of a word or term from one language into another by means of translating its constituent elements.

Ex.: secretary general, sergeant major

The form in which a word or term appears as a headword or entry term in a dictionary.

The classes of concepts established in a conceptual system.

The semantic element which together with others constitutes the intension of a concept.

Note: Characteristics are the semantic primitives which terminology shares with the general lexicon and which constitute the nexus between words and terms. Single characteristics can constitute independent terms. Being primitives, characteristics are not defined in terminology but are taken as axiomatic. They form the building blocks for more complex concepts. By being related to a domain, characteristics are limited in their generality. Being distinctive properties of concepts, they can be used for the construction of a system of opposites in order to build up a conceptual structure.

Ex.: such general values as “blue”, “long”, “warm”; such general processes as “colour” (apply colorant), stretch (make longer), “warm” (apply heat); such general objects as “air”, “water”, “heat” (without concern for their direct constituents); and such general relations as “together”, “distant”, “after” (temporally sequential), which may but need not have found a single-word form.
Glossary of Terms Used in Terminology

[en] citation
[fr] citation (f)
[es] cita (f)
[def] A reference to an example taken from a running text, or the occurrence of the same expression marked as "citation" in a text.

[en] citation form ⇒ canonical form
[en] class
[fr] classe d'objets (f)
[es] clase (f)
[def] The group of objects to which the same characteristics can be attributed.

[en] classification
[fr] classification (f)
[es] clasificación (f)
[def] The process of attributing a concept to a category.

[en] clipped compound 1
[fr] mot-valise 1 (m)
[es] acrónimo 2 (m)
[def] A term or a word constituted of morpheme elements taken from two or more words or terms.

Ex.: modem, vertijet

[en] clipped compound 2
[fr] mot-valise 2 (m)
[es] acrónimo 3 (m)
[def] A term or word consisting of two reduced lexical elements, namely, the initial element of the first word or term and the final element of the second word or term.

Ex.: bionic, stagflation

[en] clipping
[fr] troncation (f)
[es] truncación (f) / reducción (f)
[def] The process of producing new words or terms out of elements of one or several words or terms.

[en] code
[fr] indicatif (m)
[es] código (m)
[def] A symbol or expression from a closed set of elements which represents information about a concept or a term.
co-hyponym / coordinated term

In a hierarchical classification, a subordinate term at the same level of classification as another term.

complex term
terme complexe (m)
sintagma terminológico (m)

A term consisting of a terminologised and syntactically linked sequence of terms and words, which designate a single concept. See also: concept, term.

Note: Complex terms are formed from other terms by such logical processes as composition, determination, disjunction, and conjunction of concepts, etc. (Concept A + concept B = concept C.) More complex formations come into being when complex concepts are combined with simple concepts or other complex concepts. In all cases the nature of the relationship, the nature of the link between conceptual entities determines the nature of the new concept. A material concept applied to an activity/process concept may limit the scope of the activity to a particular material but may also indicate the instrument used for the performance of the activity. Alternatively concepts are formed by concepts to which certain characteristics have been added as significant distinguishing features. (Concept B + characteristic N = concept Q.)

compound

A word or term constituted of several words or terms.

compounding / composition
composition (f)
composición (f)

The process of forming words or terms on the basis of lexical elements capable of independent usage in a language.

concept
concepto (m)

An abstract unit which consists of the characteristics of a number of concrete or abstract objects which are selected according to specific scientific or conventional criteria appropriate for a domain.
**Note:** Simple concepts are abstractions formed from sets of characteristics which are applied or limited in scope to a particular domain.

Concepts are formed on chosen and limited characteristics only. In general denotation “blue” covers a fairly wide range of hues, the limits of which are set by convention but which are flexible enough to allow interpretation. As a concept, “blue” is more restricted, and its limits are set by the domain in which it is defined.

**Ex.:** The concept of “blue” in a colour chart is limited by the contiguous colours that appear in it; in optics it is limited by the other colours in the spectral band. The concept “heat” is different in cooking and in weather reporting.

[en] conceptual field
[fr] champ conceptuel (m)
[es] campo conceptual (m)

[def] A group of concepts which are semantically linked and which may be grouped around a keyword.

**Ex.:** The extension of the conceptual field “seat” covers “chair”, “bench”, “stool”, etc.

[en] conceptual relationship
[fr] relation conceptuelle (f)
[es] relación conceptual (f)

[def] The ontological or logical association that can be established between concepts.

[en] conceptual (tree) structure
[fr] arbre de domaine (m)
[es] arbol conceptual (m)

[def] A representation of the structure of the concepts which belong to a subject field or domain.

[en] conceptual system / knowledge structure
[fr] système conceptuel (m)
[es] sistema conceptual (m)

[def] A structured system of concepts which reflects the conceptual relationships established between the constituent concepts of the conceptual system and where each concept is determined by its position in this system.

**Note:** For the purpose of constructing a conceptual system of the domain, we are interested only in those characteristics of a concept which are sufficient and necessary, i.e., “essential”. Other constituent characteristics may be given special status, according to the differentiating role they are assigned in the conceptual system of a domain.
conceptualisation

The process of forming concepts by the selection and combination of characteristics.

concordance

The complete listing of the words or terms in one or several texts together with a notation of their place in the text.

connotation 1

The relationship between the linguistic sign and the meanings associated with it besides its denotation.

context

A textual unit of varying length surrounding a term or word inside a text and on which the meaning of the word or term may depend.

Note: There are several types of context:
the defining context which explains the concept;
the encyclopedic context which provides information on the nature of the concept, its parts, function, etc.;
the context of usage which illustrates the areas of discourse in which a word or term is used;
the formal context, which illustrates the morphological behaviour of a term or word;
the metalinguistic context which informs about the autonomous use of the term.

coordinated term ⇒ co-hyponym
Glossary of Terms Used in Terminology

[en] coordination
[fr] coordination (f)
[es] coordinación (f)
[def] The relationship of two concepts at the same level of a hierarchical classification and under the same superordinate concept.

[en] copyright
[fr] droit d’auteur (m)
[es] derechos de autor (m) / copyright (m)
[def] The exclusive right to commercialise a literary work.

[en] corpus
[fr] corpus (m)
[es] corpus (m)
[def] A body of written text and/or oral discourse used for linguistic or terminological processing.

[en] country code
[fr] indicatif de pays (m)
[es] indicador de país (m)
[def] On the terminological record, a symbol or expression which identifies the country of origin of a term.

[en] cross-reference ⇒ reference 1
[en] cross-reference record
[fr] fiche de renvoi (f)
[es] ficha de envío (f) / remisión (f)
[def] A terminological record card which refers from one element of a terminological record to the complete record where all data on the term are assembled.

D

[en] date of source text
[fr] date de la source (f)
[es] datación (f)
[def] On the terminological record, the date of the first occurrence of a term in a reliable document.

[en] date of terminological entry
[fr] datation de la fiche (f)
[es] datación (f) / fecha de la creación de la ficha (f)
[def] On the terminological record, the date of the start of production of a terminological record.
The term which is being defined.

The explanation or description of a concept contained in a definition.

The text type whose first element is the definiendum and the second element of which consists of the definiens, i.e., known terms which permit its sufficient and necessary differentiation from other concepts.

In terminology, definitions are fixations of a concept by reference to other concepts and characteristics. They are expressed in the form of equations with the term of the concept to be defined on the left-hand side and usually, a single noun phrase on the right-hand side. Because it is customary to express the definition in a single sentence, this noun phrase may be quite complex. Definitions can be minimal, i.e., give only as much information as is required to differentiate the concept clearly from others in the same domain. Other definitions are exhaustive and provide what can be described as encyclopedic information.

The process of describing a concept as part of a conceptual system by means of reference to other concepts or characteristics of the concept.

The process of identifying the terminological status of a lexical unit which has been extracted from a corpus.

The process of assigning a term to a concept.
Glossary of terms used in terminology

[en] denotation / reference
[fr] dénotation (f)
[es] denotación (f)
[def] The relationship between the linguistic sign and the concept which it represents.

[en] derivation
[fr] dérivation (f)
[es] derivación (f)
[def] The formation of words or terms by adding affixes to the root or a base form.

[en] designation 1
[fr] désignation 1 (f)
[es] designación 1 (f)
[def] A linguistic or other symbol which represents a concept.

[en] designation 2
[fr] désignation 2 (f)
[es] designación 2 (f)
[def] The process of naming an object or a concept.

[en] determinant
[fr] déterminé (m)
[es] determinante (m) / núcleo (m)
[def] The element of a terminological unit which is qualified by a determiner.

[en] determiner
[fr] déterminant (m)
[es] complemento (m)
[def] The element of a terminological unit which modifies or restricts the meaning extension of the unit to which it is attached.

[en] diachrony
[fr] diachronie (f)
[es] diacronía (f)
[def] The historical evolution of linguistic facts.

Note: Diachronic linguistics includes historical and comparative linguistics.

[en] dictionary
[fr] dictionnaire (m)
[es] diccionario (m)
[def] A document which contains a list of lexical units and relevant information about them, arranged in a conventional, usually alphabetical sequence.
dictionary entry / article / dictionary article
article de dictionnaire (m)
articulo de diccionario (m)
A constituent part of a dictionary which assembles the information concerning a headword/entry term.
differentia (pl)
differentia (pl)
differentia (pl)
The second part of the analytical (classical, Aristotelian) definition which lists the characteristics which distinguish a term from its co-hyponym(s) or other related terms.
discourse 1
discours 1 (m)
disccurso 1 (m)
The process of oral linguistic expression.
discourse 2
discours 2 (m)
discuso 2 (m)
An observable linguistic utterance, as distinct from the abstract system of language.
disjunction
disjonction (f)
disyunción (f)
The process of combining the extensions of two or more concepts into a single concept.
Ex.: The concept “parents” results from the disjunction of the concepts “father” and “mother”.
documentation thesaurus
thésaurus documentaire (m)
thesaurus (m) / tesauro (m)
A reference work containing a collection of lexical units of a particular subject field which is structured according to pre-established semantic relationships and which is used for analysing the content of documents, for indexing or otherwise classifying documents, and for the retrieval of documents.
Note: The lexical units can be standardised and subdivided into descriptors and nondescriptors.
domain

domaine 1 (m)

Área temática (m)

The subject field, area of knowledge, discipline, production process, or method in which a concept is being used.

Note: All domains, regardless of whether they are subject fields, areas of knowledge, disciplines, production processes, or methods, are determined and delineated by specialists from time to time and changed as required. Domains have single or multiple structures which are usually linguistically expressed through a network of definitions, but can also be graphically represented as hierarchies, networks of nodes and links, etc.

doublet

doublet (m)

doblete (m)

A word of the same etymological origin, but having a different form and usage.

Ex.: reasonable – rational, balm – balsam, frail – fragile

encyclopedia

encyclopédie (f)

enciclopedia (f)

A reference work which presents a survey of an area of knowledge under a sequence of keywords ordered in a conceptual or alphabetical sequence.

encyclopedic dictionary

dictionnaire encyclopédique (m)

diccionario enciclopédico (m)

A dictionary which presents both linguistic information and general-knowledge information about concrete or abstract objects in the form of articles in the alphabetical order of their headwords.

entry / entry word ⇒ headword 2

entry term ⇒ headword 1

equivalence

equivalence (f)

equivalencia (f)

The relationship of formal, semantic, or pragmatic correspondence between two linguistic units.
An expression in one language which has the same sense and reference as an expression in another language.

The origin and evolution of a word or term.

The method of communicating or formulating thought by means of language.

A group of words or terms which are considered to represent a certain semantic unit.

The totality of concrete or abstract objects to which a given concept can be applied and which it designates.

The extension of the concept “seat” comprises “bench”, “chair”, “stool”, etc.

The method of communicating or formulating thought by means of language.
figurative meaning
sens figuré (m)
sentido figurado (m)
The sense of a word or term which results from the transfer of the meaning of a concrete concept to an abstract concept.

Ex.: the use of “branch” (of a tree) when it is used to speak of “the branch of a science”.

foreign word / foreign term
xénisme (m)
extranjerismo (m)
A lexical form of one language when it is used in another language without being assimilated in spelling, pronunciation, and morphology.

Ex.: [in English] Camembert

gallicism 1
galisisme 1 (m)
galisismo 1 (m)
A word or term which forms part of the French language when it is used in another language.

Ex.: [in English] agrément, remontoir

gallicism 2
galisisme 2 (m)
galisismo 2 (m)
A word or term which is borrowed from the French language.

Ex.: [in English] agrément, remontoir

general language
langue générale (f)
 lengua general (f)
The system of linguistic communication for general purposes.

genus
genus (m)
genus (m)
In the classical (analytical, Aristotelian) definition, the nearest superordinate term, the extension of which is wider than that of the defined term and to which the definiendum is primarily linked.
geographical marker

marque géographique (f)

indicador de dialecto (m) / marca (de uso) dialectal (f)

On the terminological record, a symbol or expression which indicates the geographical area of usage of a term. See also: country code.

glossary

glossaire (m)

glosario (m)

A list of words or terms and their definitions or other explanation of their meanings.

hapax legomenon 1

hapax 1 (m)

hápax 1 (m)

A lexical unit coined for a single occasion and which exists therefore as a unique occurrence in a particular corpus.

hapax legomenon 2

hapax 2 (m)

hápax 2 (m)

A lexical unit, the sense and meaning of which depend entirely upon the unique context in which it occurs.

headword 1 / entry term

vedette (f)

lema (m) / voz 1 (f) / entrada 1 (f)

The term which constitutes the entry to a terminological record.

headword 2 / entry / entry word

entrière (f)

entrada 2 (f) / voz 2 (f)

A lexical unit listed in a terminographic or lexicographic collection which is being described or used as a point of reference.

heteronym ⇒ homograph

hierarchical classification

classification hiérarchique (f)

clasificación jerárquica (f)

The process of attributing a concept to a subordinate or superordinate category.
hierarchical relationship

relation hiérarchique (f)
relación jerárquica (f)

The association of concepts through their classes into superordinate and subordinate elements.

homograph
homographe (m)
homógrafo (m)

An orthographical unit which represents more than one word or term.

homonym
homonyme (m)
homónimo (m)

A term or a word which is phonetically and or graphically identical with another word or term but has a different meaning.

homonymy
homonymie (f)
homonímia (f)

The relationship between phonetically and/or graphically identical terms or words with different meanings. See also: polysemy.

homophone
homophone (m)
homófono (m)

A term or word which is phonetically identical with another word or term but has a different meaning.

hyperonym
hyperonyme (m)
hiperónimo (m)

In a hierarchical classification, a lexical unit which is superordinated to another.

hyponym
hyponyme (m)
hipónimo (m)

In a hierarchical classification, a lexical unit which is subordinated to another.
I

[en] idiom
[fr] idiote (m)
[es] expresión idiomática (f)
[def] A **lexical unit** or **expression**, the **sense** of which differs from its constituent elements.

[en] ill-formed
[fr] asémantique
[es] asemántico
[def] The property of an **expression** whose elements do not represent a meaningful unit in a linguistic reference system.

[en] illustration
[fr] illustration (f)
[es] ilustración (f)
[def] On the **terminological record**, the pictorial or graphic representation of a **concept** designated by a term.

[en] inclusion
[fr] inclusion (f)
[es] inclusión (f)
[def] The relationship which indicates that a **concept** is comprised within the **extension** of a concept with a wider extension.

[en] index
[fr] index (m)
[es] índice (m)
[def] A list of words or terms followed by **references** to another part of the text to which it is attached or to another document.

[en] infix
[fr] infixé (m)
[es] infijo (m)
[def] A dependent lexical element which is added in the middle of a **base form** or after a **prefix** in order to modify its **meaning** or its grammatical function.

[en] inflection
[fr] désinence (f)
[es] inflexión (f) / desinencia (f)
[def] The grammatical **morphemes** that can be added to a word or term.
The process of forming **abbreviations** by means of the first elements of the words of a **phrase**.

**Ex.**: [in English] Benelux, Mid-Med Bank

The sum of **characteristics** which constitute a **concept** and which serve to define it.

**Ex.**: The characteristics “without back” and “without arms” represent the intension of “stool” within the extension of “seat”.

**K**

**key concept**
*concept-clé (m)*
*concepto clave (m)*

The central **concept** of a **conceptual field**.

**key term**
*terme-clé (m)*
*término clave (m)*

The central term of a **conceptual field**.

**keyword**
*mot-clé (m)*
*término clave (m) / palabra clave (f)*

In documentation, a term which is chosen to represent the content of a document.

**knowledge structure** ⇒ conceptual system

**L**

**language**
*langage (m)*
*lenguaje (m)*

A system of symbols for the **expression** of knowledge and for human communication.
language 2

language code

On the terminological record, the symbol or expression which identifies the language to which a term belongs.

A dictionary which contains phonetic, grammatical, and semantic information about the lexical units of a language.

A collection of lexical units which is structured according to pre-established semantic relationships and which is used for the search of synonyms, antonyms, and other semantic relationships of a word.

lemmatisation

The process of eliminating/stripping affixes and inflections in order to get at the canonical form, the root or the base form of a lexical unit.

An abbreviation which is formed from the first elements (letters, syllables) of the words of a phrase.

Ex.: [in English] UNESCO, ASEAN

The mode of expression which is influenced by the pragmatic aspect of the communication.
Lexeme / lexical item

Lexème (m)

Lexema (m)

The smallest unit of the vocabulary of a language.

Note: The concept “lexeme” contrasts with “morpheme”, the smallest grammatical unit, and “sememe”, the smallest semantic unit.

Lexical field

Champ lexical (m)

Campo léxico (m)

The group of words formed on the basis of the same base form.

Lexical item

Lexique

Element léxique (f)

Lexema (m)

A word consisting of more than one lexical item.

Lexicalisation 1

Lexicalisation 1 (f)

Lexicalización 1 (f)

The process which leads to the creation of a lexical unit.

Lexicalisation 2

Lexicalisation 2 (f)

Lexicalización 2 (f)

A lexical unit which has become a word.

Lexicography

Lexicographie (f)

Lexicografía (f)

The activity of collection and analysis of data on the formal and semantic properties of lexical units for the purpose of their description in language dictionaries.

Lexicology

Lexicologie (f)

Lexicología (f)

The activity of studying the formal and semantic properties of lexical units and their combinations.
[en] lexicon 1
[fr] lexique 1 (m)
[es] léxico 1 (m)
[def] The totality of the words and terms of a language, considered in the abstract as one of the constituent elements of the code of that language.

[en] lexicon 2
[fr] lexique 2 (m)
[es] léxico 2 (m) / glosario (m)
[def] A collection of the terms of a subject field without definition.

[en] loan translation ⇒ calque

M

[en] meaning
[fr] signification (f)
[es] significado (m)
[def] The totality of denotations and senses of a linguistic sign.

[en] meaning extension
[fr] extension de sens (f)
[es] extensión de significado (f)
[def] The process by which a word or a term is given a wider extension. Ex.: splicing (of rope) → splicing of magnetic tapes, splicing of DNA.

[en] metalanguage
[fr] métalangage (m)
[es] metalenguaje (m)
[def] An artificial or natural language which is used for the description of another language.

[en] monosemy
[fr] monosémie (f)
[es] monosemia (f)

[en] morpheme
[fr] morphème (m)
[es] morfema (m)
[def] The smallest unit of meaning with a grammatical function.
morphology
- Morphology consists of derivational morphology and inflectional morphology.

motivated term
- A term, the global sense of which is derived from its constituent elements or from its phonetic form.

name
- A system of linguistic symbols which has evolved naturally over a period of time to become an instrument of communication for a geographical linguistic community.

neologism
- A term or word whose form has recently been created or obtained by means of change of meaning, derivation, compounding, borrowing, etc.

neology
- The process by which the lexicon of a language is increased by means of derivation, composition, semantic evolution, borrowing, loan translation, or any other means.

nomenclature
- A set of terms which are linked by tightly structured conceptual relationships and which are formed according to systematic rules for classifying and naming terms. See also: taxonomy 2.
[en] norm 1 / standard 1
[fr] norme 1 (f)
[es] norma 1 (f)
[def] A flexible rule of linguistic usage determined by pragmatic needs.

[en] norm 2 / standard 2
[fr] norme 2 (f)
[es] norma 2 (f)
[def] A document which prescribes the usage of a term or of terms.

[en] normalisation ⇒ standardisation
[en] note
[fr] note (f)
[es] observación (f) / nota (f)
[def] On a terminological record, the information which supplements the morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic description of a term.

[en] notion ⇒ concept
[en] nucleus
[fr] base 2 (f)
[es] núcleo (m)
[def] The element of a compound or complex term which is the linguistic centre that is modified by determiners.

O

[en] object
[fr] objet (m)
[es] objeto (m)
[def] In terminological theory, an element of observation or introspection, the abstraction of which serves for the formation of concepts.

Note: The abstracted characteristics of objects constitute the intension of simple concepts.

[en] occurrence / example
[fr] attestation (f)
[es] ocurrencia (f) / ejemplo (m)
[def] A section of text which exemplifies and/or documents the usage of a term.
Glossary of Terms Used in Terminology

[en] on-line query
[fr] interrogation en mode conversationnel (f)
[es] interrogación en línea (f) / búsqueda en línea (f)
[def] The interactive interrogation of a database.

[en] onomasiology
[fr] onomasiologie (f)
[es] onomasiología (f)
[def] The study of meanings, starting from concepts, in order to establish their designation.

P

[en] paradigmatic relation
[fr] relation paradigmatique (f)
[es] relación paradigmática (f)
[def] The relationship between linguistic elements which can occupy the same syntactic function in a given phrase or sentence.

[en] paraphrase
[fr] paraphrase (f)
[es] paráfrasis (f)
[def] A phrase which serves to explain a word or a term.

[en] (linguistic) performance
[fr] discours 2 (m)
[es] discurso 2 (m)
[def] The application of linguistic skills in discourse.

[en] periphrase
[fr] périphrase (f)
[es] perífrasis (f)
[def] A phrase which is synonymous with a word or term or another phrase but which is expressed by means of more words or terms.

[en] philology
[fr] philologie (f)
[es] filología (f)
[def] The study of a language on the basis of the critical analysis of texts.

[en] phoneme 1
[fr] phonème 1 (m)
[es] fonema 1 (m)
A sound of a spoken language which is considered from the point of view of its production by the vocal organs and its objective and subjective perception by the human ear.

A minimal distinctive unit of human sound production which serves to contrast units of meaning.

The study of speech sounds from the point of view of their production physiology.

The study of speech sounds from the point of view of their linguistic function.

An expression combining several words and/or terms forming a syntactic unit.

Any expression which is considered a unit.

The sets of phrases which are regularly used in a sublanguage or by a group of people.

A term which represents more than one concept.
polysemy
polysémie (f)
polisemia (f)
The relationship between a term and the various concepts which it represents.

prefix
préfixe (m)
prefijo (m)
A dependent lexical element which is added to the beginning of a base form in order to modify its meaning or its grammatical function.

prefixation
préfixation (f)
prefijación (f)
The process of derivation by means of prefixes.

proper noun / name
nom propre (m)
nombre propio (m)
A designation for an object seen as an individual and which does not represent a concept.
Ex.: Ford Fiesta, Mercedes Benz

purism 1
purisme 1 (m)
purismo 1 (m)
An extreme, sometimes excessive attention to the purity of a language, its vocabulary, its style, its grammatical correctness, with reference to an idealised state of that language.

purism 2
purisme 2 (m)
cultismo (m)
A linguistic expression which has been chosen in response to a certain perception of the lexical, grammatical, and stylistic correctness of a language.

quasi synonym
quasi-synonyme (m)
cuasi-sinónimo (m)
[def] One of a group of terms which designate the same concept but from different points of view of conceptualisation.

Note: Because quasi synonyms are used in different communicative situations, they are not interchangeable in all utterances belonging to a single subject field.

Types of quasi synonyms:
- of level: mad cow disease = spongeiform encephalomieltis
- geographical: (US) gasoline = (UK) petrol
- professional: ferric oxide = jeweller’s rouge
- popular/scientific: salt = sodium chloride

[en] query
[fr] interrogation (f)
[es] búsqueda (f)

[def] A search for information in a database.

R

[en] record
[fr] fiche 1 (f)
[es] ficha 1 (f) / registro (m)

[def] The information on a term stored on an electronic medium. See also: terminological record.

[en] record card
[fr] fiche 2 (f)
[es] ficha 2 (f)

[def] A card which contains information about terms.

[en] reference 1 / cross-reference
[fr] renvoi (m)
[es] envío (m) / remisión (f)

[def] The link from one part of a document to another part of the same document or to another document.

Note: In a terminological document a reference which points the user to another term or record.

[en] reference 2 ⇒ denotation

[en] reference work
[fr] ouvrage de référence (m)
[es] obra de referencia (f)

[def] A document which contains lists of items of information.
[en] referent
[fr] référent (m)
[es] referente (m)
[def] The **concept** identified by a word or term.

[en] register / language variety
[fr] registre de langue (m)
[es] registro lingüístico (m) / variedad funcional (f)
[def] A **discourse** feature which indicates the characteristics of a sublanguage.

[en] reliability code / reliability rating ⇒ acceptability code
[en] root
[fr] racine (f)
[es] raíz (f)
[def] The simplest form of a lexical item from which its stems and base forms are derived.

S

[en] semantic field
[fr] champ sémantique (m)
[es] campo semántico (m)
[def] The group of words or terms which belong to the same **domain**.

[en] semantics
[fr] sémantique (f)
[es] semántica (f)
[def] The study of **meaning**, changes of meaning and of the principles which govern the relationships between sentences and words and their meanings.

[en] semasiology
[fr] sémasiologie (f)
[es] semasiología (f)
[def] The activity of studying the relationships between sign and symbols and their meanings.

*Note:* The methods used in semasiological analysis start from words and seek to establish their denotation.

[en] sememe 1
[fr] sémème (m)
[es] semema 1 (m)
[def] The **meaning** of a morpheme or a lexeme.
[en] sememe 2
[fr] séme (m)
[es] semema 2 (m)
[def] The smallest unit of meaning which is considered in semantic analysis.

[en] semiology
[fr] sémiologie (f)
[es] semiología (f)
[def] The activity of studying the relationships between sign and symbols and their referents in the real world or the world of ideas.

[en] sense
[fr] sens (m)
[es] sentido (m)
[def] The relationship among lexemes inside a linguistic system, independent of the relationships between lexemes and their denotations.

Note: Sense relations are paradigmatic (synonymy, antonymy, etc.) or syntactic (collocations).

[en] short form
[fr] terme abrégé (m)
[es] término abreviado (m)
[def] A variant of a term which is formed by means of the suppression of one or more elements of a complex term, while maintaining the same denotation. See also: clipped compound.

[en] signifiant
[fr] signifiant (m)
[es] significante (m)
[def] The linguistic realisation of a sign as set of graphemes or phonemes.

[en] signifie
[fr] signifié (m)
[es] significado (m)
[def] The semantic content of a sign.

[en] source
[fr] source (f)
[es] fuente (f)
[def] A document from which terminological data are extracted.
On a **terminological record**, the sign or symbol which permits the identification of the document where the term is used in a **context**.

In translation, the **language** out of which a text is translated.

The **language** to which a term belongs for which an **equivalent** is being established in another language.

A semi-autonomous linguistic system, which is based on the **general language** but which differs from it in the fact that is used in the specialised **discourse** about a special subject.

The process of simplifying, regularising, and unifying a diversity of products, processes, measurements, and services in order to reduce their variety.

This process implies a certain control over language.

The process which consists of recording data on the memory of a computer or on an independent magnetic medium.
[en] stylistics
[fr] stylistique (f)
[es] estilística (f)
[def] The activity of studying free linguistic variants which are the result of the rhetorical or emotive intention of a text.

[en] subject classification
[fr] classification des domaines (f)
[es] clasificación temática (f)
[def] A structured set of the terms of special areas of knowledge.

[en] subject field
[fr] domaine 2 (m)
[es] campo (m) / área temática (m)
[def] An area of knowledge which is established for the purpose of grouping into conventional categories the concepts considered as belonging together. See also: domain.

Note: Academic disciplines are considered to be broad subject fields.

[en] subordination
[fr] subordination (f)
[es] subordinación (f)
[def] The vertical relationship between a concept at a lower level of a hierarchical classification and its immediate superordinate concept.

Note: This relationship subordinates a concept of a narrower extension to a concept of a wider extension.

Ex.: “Chair” is a subordinated concept to “seat”.

[en] suffix
[fr] suffixe (m)
[es] sufijo (m)
[def] A dependent lexical element which is added to the end of a base form in order to modify its meaning or its grammatical function.

[en] suffixation
[fr] suffixation (f)
[es] sufijación (f)
[def] The process of derivation by means of suffixes.

[en] superordination
[fr] superordination (f)
[es] superordinación (f)
[def] The vertical relationship between a concept at a higher level of a hierarchical classification and its immediate lower concept.

Note: This relationship superordinates a concept of a wider extension to a concept of a narrower extension.

Ex.: “Seat” is a superordinated concept to “chair”.

[en] synchrony
[fr] synchronie (f)
[es] sincronía (f)
[def] The relationship of linguistic facts considered as occurring at a particular moment of the evolution of a language.

Note: Descriptive and structural linguistics proceed synchronically.

[en] synonym / equivalent 2
[fr] synonyme (m) / équivalent 2 (m)
[es] sinónimo (m) / equivalente 2 (m)
[def] A word or term which has the same denotation or the same sense as another.

[en] synonymy
[fr] synonymie (f)
[es] sinonimia (f)
[def] The paradigmatic relationship among different terms or words which have the same denotation or the same sense.

[en] syntagm ⇒ phrase 1
[en] syntagmatic relation
[fr] relation syntagmatique (f)
[es] relación syntagmática (f)
[def] The relation between linguistic elements which occur together in a given phrase.

[en] syntax 1
[fr] syntaxe 1 (f)
[es] sintaxis 1 (f)
[def] The set of rules which govern the order of words and/or terms inside sentences and between sentences.

[en] syntax 2
[fr] syntaxe 2 (f)
[es] sintaxis 2 (f)
[def] The study of the rules which govern the order of words and/or terms inside a sentence and between sentences.
systematic ordering

headwords

reference work

conceptual system

headwords of a reference work

logical or ontological order of a conceptual system.

target language 1

language into which a text is translated.

target language 2

language for which equivalent terms have to be established or created on the basis of a source language.

taxonomy 1

study and methods of classifying objects and concepts.

biology, the classification of organisms according to some of their properties, e.g., their structure, origin, etc.

taxonomy 2

system for classifying and naming terms.

term

lexical unit consisting of one or more than one word which represents a concept inside a domain.

general terms of a subject field which are used in general descriptions, instructions and textbooks, patent descriptions, and other non-industry-specific terms. These terms usually have a long life in which they undergo changes of meaning in the form of extensions or narrowing of extension. For example, “lamps” embrace the oil lamps of the ancients Greeks,
gas lamps, electric lights, etc. (b) Craft- or industry-specific and even firm-specific terms which are more specialised. Many of these are homonyms requiring different definitions according to the subject field of their application. (c) Product-specific terms, frequently designations of material entities, which have a limited life because they are firmly linked to a manufactured physical object which may be superseded by a similar object, which, however, may be given a different designation in order to stress its difference.

**[en]** term extraction
**[fr]** dépouillement terminologique (m)
**[es]** extracción de términos (f) / vaciado terminológico (m)
**[def]** The process of assembling from a corpus the terms and the information necessary for their description.

**[en]** terminography
**[fr]** terminographie (f)
**[es]** terminografía (f)
**[def]** The study and practice of describing the linguistic, conceptual, and pragmatic properties of terminological units of one or more than one language in order to produce reference works in printed or electronic form.

**[en]** terminological data bank / term bank
**[fr]** banque de terminologie (f)
**[es]** banco de términos (m) / banco terminológico (m)
**[def]** A collection of information pertaining to terms and their usage in electronic form.

**[en]** terminological dictionary
**[fr]** dictionnaire spécialisé (m)
**[es]** diccionario terminológico (m) / diccionario especializado (m)
**[def]** A dictionary which contains semantic information about the concepts of a subject field or domain.

**[en]** terminological record
**[fr]** fiche terminologique (f)
**[es]** ficha terminológica (f)
**[def]** A record which contains the information relevant to a concept according to a pre-established pattern.

**[en]** terminological research
**[fr]** recherche terminologique (f)
**[es]** investigación terminológica (f)
**[def]** The study of the formation, collection, storage, and use of concepts and their associated terms.
terminological standardisation / normalisation
normalisation terminologique (f)
normalización terminológica (f)

**def** The process of defining a concept and establishing a term to designate it to the exclusion of other designations or in preference to other designations.

*Note:* Terminological standardisation is only valid for and applicable to texts specifically associated to this activity.

terminological thesaurus
thésaurus (m)
tesauro terminológico (m)

**def** A collection of terms which is structured according to the conceptual relationships established for a subject field.

terminologisation
terminologisation (f)
terminologización (f)

**def** The process which consists of the transformation of a word or phrase with a wider denotation into a term with a precise reference to a concept which is specified by a definition.

terminology 1
termologie 1 (f)
terminología 1 (f)

**def** The study of terms, concepts, and their relationships.

terminology 2
terminologie 2 (f)
terminología 2 (f)

**def** The set of practices and methods used for the collection, description, and presentation of terms.

terminology 3
terminologie 3 (f)
terminología 3 (f)

**def** The vocabulary of a subject field.

thesaurus
thésaurus (m)
diccionario ideológico (m) / thesaurus (m) / tesauro (m)

**def** A collection of lexical items which is structured according to semantic relations.
U

[en] univocal
[fr] univoque
[es] unívoco
[def] The property of a term which indicates that it has the same denotation in different areas of usage.

[en] univocity
[fr] univocité (f)
[es] univocidad (f)
[def] A simple relationship between a term and its unique denotation which does not undergo changes in different areas of usage.

[en] usage
[fr] usage (m)
[es] uso (m)
[def] The realisation of a term or word in sentences and texts.

[en] usage label
[fr] marque d’usage (f)
[es] indicador de uso (m) / marca de uso (f)
[def] On the terminological record, a symbol or expression for different aspects of the usage of a term or word.

Note: There are:
the aspect of formality: familiar, formal, frozen, etc.
the aspect of frequency of occurrence: rare, common, etc.
the historical aspect: obsolete, extinct, current, etc.
the subject field aspect: commercial, administrative, etc.

[en] utterance
[fr] énoncé (m)
[es] enunciado (m)
[def] A segment of spoken or written discourse of variable length.

V

[en] variant
[fr] variante (f)
[es] variante (f)
[def] On a terminological record, a term with an alternative spelling from its headword. See also: synonym.

Note: Variants also include reduced and expanded forms of terms.
vocabulary 1

vocabulary 2

A reference work which contains the words or terms which are representative for a subject field.

word

A unit of meaning which consists of one of more phonemes and whose graphic representation is normally preceded and followed by a space.

Note: Words are lexical items with general and broad areas of denotation, unlike terms which refer to concepts which belong to particular subject fields.

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