

KEY ASPECTS OF A SIGNIFICATIVE CONNECTION

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Abstract

The article delves into the critical role of terminology in professional thinking and scientific communication. It highlights how the use and application of terms can lead to misunderstandings among scientists, particularly due to issues like polysemy (multiple meanings), vague conceptual boundaries, and the fluidity of language in scientific discourse. These "terminological situations" create barriers to effective communication, emphasizing the necessity for clarity and precision in the terminology used within any scientific field, including linguistics.

One of the main points raised is that the substantive relevance of a term hinges on its denotative relationship to the reality it represents. If the meaning of a term is unclear or ambiguous, it undermines the ability to communicate effectively. The article argues that understanding the specific phenomena that a term designates is essential for proper scientific discourse.

Additionally, the text discusses the two-fold nature of terms: they not only denote a particular reality but also help shape scientific concepts about that reality. The connection between a term and its associated scientific concept—the significative connection—is what gives the term its conceptual relevance.

In summary, the article advocates for a thorough examination and clarification of key terms in the pursuit of effective scientific communication, stressing the importance of understanding both the denotative and significative aspects of terms.

Keywords: Communication, scientist, term, selection, text, thinking, form, process, tool, science.

Introduction

Indeed, the concept of "term" can vary significantly across different fields of study, making it a complex and multifaceted notion. Generally speaking, a term can be described as a word or a combination of words that have a specific meaning within a particular context or discipline. Here are a few key points that can help clarify the concept from a lexical perspective:

Contextual Meaning: Terms are often context-dependent. A word might have a general meaning in everyday language but a specialized meaning in a particular field, like "cell" in biology versus its use in general language.

Precision: In scientific and technical contexts, terms are designed to be precise. A term should convey an idea without ambiguity to facilitate clear communication among specialists.

Standardization: Many fields strive for standardization in terminology to ensure consistency. This is particularly evident in legal, medical, and scientific disciplines, where specific terms are defined and agreed upon to avoid confusion.

Evolving Nature: Terminology can evolve over time, especially as new discoveries are made or new technologies are developed. What was once an accepted term might become outdated or replaced by a more accurate descriptor.

Cross-disciplinary Challenges: The lack of a universally accepted definition can lead to challenges when terms are used across disciplines. For instance, a term used in engineering might not have the same implications in environmental science, even if it appears similar.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: When professionals from different fields collaborate, the differences in terminology can create barriers. Clear definitions and mutual understanding become crucial to avoid miscommunication.

In summary, while the term can be universally understood as a unit of meaning within specific contexts, its precise definition can vary widely depending on the disciplinary perspective, highlighting the need for careful consideration of lexical usage in specialized language. In modern linguistic literature, the concept of a term is usually defined by semantic features, depending on the meaning, or function, of the corresponding linguistic units. Terminological vocabulary usually includes “special words, limited by their special purpose” [8, p. 80]. Terms are usually called single words or phrases that name concepts and objects of some specialized field. The problem of automatic selection of terminological phrases is studied from the point of view of numerous applications - the creation of terminological dictionaries based on text corpora, automatic indexing of texts for information retrieval systems, categorization of texts and their thematic structuring, translation of texts from one language to another, extraction of knowledge from text sources. Characteristic of the term extraction software developed in this case is the consideration of only nominative terminology and a limited number of syntactic samples of nominal terms, the use of superficial syntactic analysis (as a rule, without relying on the dictionary of the problem area) together with taking into account the frequency of occurrence of the allocated units [1. P.979, 2, P.145].

In linguistics, there are many different attempts to define terms. We present here only two definitions of terms that reflect and synthesize, in our opinion, different arguments regarding this, which complement each other [5, P.690]. Под термином традиционно понимается слово (словосочетание), означающее понятие специальной области знания или деятельности [5, С.690].

Terms can have different structures. According to the number of components, word terms or single-word terms are distinguished, less often called monolexic terms, which can also include complex terms formed by adding stems and having a continuous or hyphenated spelling; phrase terms, or compound, multicomponent terms.

L.V. Shcherba characterized compound terms as combinations of words that have structural and semantic unity and represent a dismembered terminated nomination [5, P.690]. The criterion for considering a phrase as one nominative terminological unit is its use to name one concept.

We find a close understanding of the term in the works of V. M. Ovcharenko, who defines this concept as “a semantically integral linguistic unit, the meaning of which is not derived directly from the meanings of the components combined according to the corresponding structural-semantic model” [6, p. 143-144], as a synthetic phrase, the meaning of which “is not derived directly from the meanings of the components and consists in the correlation of the entire formation as a whole with the expressed concept” [10, p. 94]. With this understanding of the term, a necessary condition for the articulation of a

phrase is considered to be “repetition of its components, their ability to retain a given meaning when combined with other signs or sets of signs [6, p. 148].

The definition of the term proposed by V. M. Ovcharenko, in principle, does not raise objections. However, in our opinion, the author understands the “semantic integrity of a linguistic unit” too narrowly, denoting a special concept. In his opinion, phrases such as electric motor are not terms on the grounds that an adjective serving as a definition supposedly retains the same meaning when combined with other nouns, for example, in the phrase electrical energy, and, therefore, I don’t have semantic integrity [6, p. 146-147].

Taking into account the provisions discussed above, it seems to us that the definition of the term given by S.V. Grinev is exhaustive, in which he characterizes the term “as a nominative special lexical unit (word or phrase) of a special language, accepted for the exact name of special concepts” [10, P. 691]. Compound terms are subject to another very significant grammatical (syntactic) requirement, namely, the presence of subordinating connections between the components of the phrase. Not every substantive term is considered a compound term. a phrase denoting a special concept, but only one that is formed on the basis of subordinate connections. In other words, “composite terms are a special type of subordinating phrases” [2, p. 9].

Due to the active study of various terminologies, many definitions of the concept “term” have appeared. A considerable part of definitions is based on semantic features. At the same time, two trends in characterizing the term are outlined. According to the first, it is a separate word “with a strictly defined meaning” [10, P.691]; “a word that corresponds to one precisely defined concept from the field of science, technology, art” [10, P.692].

The difficult question of identifying words in a stream of connected speech, i.e. the boundaries between a word and a phrase, on the one hand, and a word and a morpheme, on the other, interested many scientists. This problem received the most complete coverage in Soviet literature in the works of prof. A.I. Smirnitsky. As the main criterion A.I. Smirnitsky put forward the integral form of a word, opposed to the separately formed form of a phrase. The integral design of a word should be understood as the presence of a common grammatical design for all elements that make up the word.

The separate design of a phrase, on the contrary, suggests that each component has a separate grammatical design [11, P.2]. The essence of the difference between the integral form of a word and the separate form of a phrase A.I. Smirnitsky shows by comparing the word shipwreck shipwreck, consisting of identical root elements, and the phrase (the) wreck of the ship. It is quite obvious that, without differing significantly in meaning, these formations are fundamentally different in their relation to the grammatical structure, i.e. differently decorated. In the word, grammatical design is carried out once ship-wrecks, in a phrase as many times as there are components in it: (the) wreck of (the) ships or (the) wrecks of (the) ships [11, P.3].

As a consequence, we consider the problem of selection more broadly. In addition to highlighting the actual terms that have a problem-oriented nature, it is necessary to find terminological phrases of general scientific vocabulary in the text. The ultimate goal of the selection is not only to check the consistency of the use of terms and to identify stylistic errors in the use of general scientific words, but also to “convolve” the selected multi-word combinations into complete units, which significantly reduces the multivariance of the full syntactic analysis that is then carried out. Suggested by A.P. The Smirnitsky criterion, according to its author, should be suitable for words of any language. In reality,

although it is fully applicable to words of the Russian language, it does not always justify itself in relation to English words, due to the poverty of this language in morphological means. The criterion turns out to be unsuitable, for example, if we compare such formations as snowstorm and snow mountain, where the first elements are equally devoid of morphological design both in the word and in the phrase. Thus, a characteristic and important problem for the English language arises about the nature of formations such as: stone wall, speech sound, train track, street lamp, lunch room, coal mine, radio station. This problem is called the stone wall problem and is discussed in detail in chapters six and seven [11, P.3].

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