

Coping with the Main Terms of Terminology¹

PEEP NEMVALTS

Tallinn University

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INTRODUCTION

Most terminologists seem to agree that all terminological work – term planning, management, harmonisation and standardisation – should be grounded on a clear understanding of **concept-based** assessment of any term and on the necessity to manage any system of concepts in a way where each concept is defined as precisely as possible. Bearing in mind that every concept refers to a real-world entity, this paper deals with the designative relation between terms as linguistic units and concepts as knowledge units. M. Teresa Cabré et al. (2007: 1) have stated “diversity of approaches to the notion of “term” is determined by the needs of specific applications. But needs must not lead to confusion about the nature of terms.” I believe the nature of ‘term’ as the concept is to be a designator of a (specialised) concept in some field. Though this could be any symbol, it is mostly a lexical unit of a language. Whether this designator consists of one or more lexemes and has simpler or more complex morphological or syntactic structure does not change the nature of term. Therefore, other proposed designators for ‘a designator of a (specialised) concept’ than *term*, such as *unit of understanding* (Temmerman 2000) or *specialised knowledge unit* (Cabré 2003), or even *terminological unit* (Cabré et al. 2007) do not make it clearer what is the essence of the concept designated by the term *term*.

¹ This paper is based on the talk “The essence of terminology and work on Estonian terms” at the 2nd International Scientific Conference on Terminology in Vilnius 1–2 June 2017, the first short version of this was presented at the EAFT-EAT Summit 2016 in Luxembourg: “What is the proper meaning of the term *terminology*?”. The study has been supported by the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research through the *Eestikeelse terminoloogia programm 2013–2017*.

Being aware of past discussions on “the terminology of terminology” in textbooks of the field and elsewhere, I do not think it is necessary to refer to these here. My purpose is to strive towards clarity of the conceptual system by using a term system which is as unambiguous as possible. The aim of this paper is to examine how the most central terms of terminology (like *concept*, *designation*, *term*, *terminology*, *vocabulary*) have been used and to discuss if there is any reason to adjust the usage of these terms henceforth. The desire for unambiguousness holds true for every national language, including English. My starting point is term usage in Estonian, but as English is used both as *lingua franca* and is also the main working language for term standardisation, my focus will be on English and I will suggest coinages in order to solve some ambiguity problems found in English terms.

MONOSEMY AS MAJOR PREREQUISITE FOR DISTINCT TERM SYSTEMS

Within any speciality, it is desirable that a consistent conceptual system is mirrored by an orderly system of purposefully functional terms, emerging from the language structure. Every language has its own morphological, syntactic and word formational means. However, one of the most essential features of a functional term in any specialised language is **monosemy** (combined with a monoreferential relation between a concept and real-world entity). Whatever language is used, every specialist should understand what is the concept and which terms are the most appropriate to designate the concepts of their subject field. This is the only way to ensure that fellow specialists and other interested people understand what exactly is meant in a text.

Users of specialised language often talk about defining terms (or words), mistakenly considering the terms *concept* and *term* as synonyms. E.g., “Therefore it seems logical to turn to the definition of this word in the defining dictionaries with the aim of establishing the exact meanings of this term” (Griniewicz 2016: 7). Studying the usage of the Lithuanian term *sqvoka* ‘concept’ in academic Lithuanian, Asta Mitkevičienė (2017: 125) has concluded that the features of a term are ascribed to a concept. According to Arvi Tavast (2008: 38–39), a study of the press subcorpus of the Tartu University corpus of standard Estonian featured the word *mõiste* (“concept”) in the meaning ‘knowledge unit’ in 31% and in the

meaning of a lexical unit (= term) in 29% of relevant occurrences. In 2002–2004, he posed the question “Mis on mõiste?” (“What is a concept?”) to Estonian MA students of translation studies at the beginning of their terminology course. This survey shows that only 12% of respondents identified the Estonian word *mõiste* (“concept”) as a knowledge unit, whereas 46% considered it to be a lexical unit (Tavast 2008: 39–40).

Difficulties in finding good terms appears to be a major issue for doctoral students at all Estonian universities. In 2012 in collaboration with some sociologists of Tallinn University, we conducted a survey of their opinions on using academic languages (Roosmaa et al. 2014)². A web-based questionnaire was answered by 240 respondents, 92% of whom had Estonian as their first language. The selection of PhD students was representative of both the universities present and subjects taught in Estonia. Answers to the question “What is the most difficult for you while writing scientific texts in Estonian?” convinced that the biggest trouble is finding appropriate terms. This difficulty was admitted by 59% of PhD students in natural sciences and technical disciplines, as well as by 44% of PhD students in social sciences and humanities. The use of terms in Estonian academic texts was a problem for 70% of readers among PhD students in the field of natural and technical sciences and for 58% in the field of social sciences and humanities.

More specifically, difficulties in finding appropriate terms while writing Estonian specialised texts were frequent for 57% and occasional for 37% of PhD students in social sciences and humanities. The same difficulties were frequent for 71% and occasional for 26% of PhD students of natural and technical sciences.

While writing scientific texts in English, difficulties of finding an appropriate term were frequent for 22% of PhD students in social sciences and humanities and 21% of PhD students of natural and technical sciences. These difficulties were occasional for 61% of PhD students in social sciences and humanities and 60% of PhD students of natural and technical sciences.

Finding an appropriate Estonian term was never problematic for only 3% of PhD students of natural and technical sciences and for 6% in social sciences and humanities. Finding an appropriate English term was never

² The survey was part of the study *Estonian as Language of Higher Education and Science*, supported by EU through the *Primus* programme of European Social Fund.

challenging for 19% of PhD students of natural and technical sciences and for 17% in social sciences and humanities. Self-assessment of their knowledge of academic languages resulted in average³ as follows: 4,0 for academic Estonian and 3,2 for academic English among PhD students of social sciences and humanities and 3,7 for academic Estonian and 3,6 for academic English among PhD students of natural and technical sciences. The fact that native Estonian students find it slightly less difficult to use English terms may indicate a less critical attitude towards the terms used in English scientific texts.

These widespread problems in choosing an appropriate term for a concept in any specialised language could often be caused by polysemy or, in some cases, by synonymy. Consequently, there are strong reasons why terminology courses are needed for every speciality on all levels of higher education. It is also necessary for specialists in any field to keep on receiving training in terminology and to take part in practical term work.

The most crucial issue to clarify is: what is the essence of the concept 'terminology' and how clearly the meaning of the term *terminology* is interpreted. Everyone dealing with terms of any field should ask the following questions:

- What does the term *terminology* designate?
- Has *terminology* been used as a monosemic, unambiguous term?
- How many different meanings this term is supposed to have?

And last, but not least:

- For how many concepts is it appropriate to use this term as a designator? Or, to put it another way: is it reasonable to use the term *terminology* for designating several concepts?

It is also preferable to avoid polysemy in denoting closely related concepts. However, the term *designation* has been used both for the concept of 'distinguishing name, sign, or title' and for the concept 'the act of designating, indicating or identifying'. I prefer *designation* only for the latter meaning, and suggest the term *designator* to be used solely for 'distinguishing name, sign (of a concept)'. Unfortunately, the international terminology standard (ISO 1087-1:2002) includes *designator* merely as an admitted term (entry 3.4.1) and *designation* is preferred for the concept 'representation of a concept (3.2.1) by a sign which denotes it'.

³ Average on the scale of 1-5 where 5 = very good, 1 = very poor.

The concept system would be clearer if the process of designating or labelling (*designation*) and the lexical label as a tool (*designator*) were consistently distinguished. Rute Costa and Christophe Roche (2013) have posed some questions about *designation* as used in ISO 704 and ISO 1087, including “Is a designation a representation?” and “Are “designation” and “term” synonyms? Sometimes it looks like. Sometimes it does not”. The fact that such questions arise, confirms that the term *designation* is not univocal. Nor is the term *terminology*.

Professor of economics Uno Mereste was known to the larger public as a member of the Estonian Parliament and as an author of many articles on the usage of Estonian as a general language, as well as a legal language and indeed as specialised language of his own subject field, economics. He has coined several economy terms in Estonian and has asserted that the Estonian (et) term *terminoloogia* may denote four different concepts (Mereste 1969): defined either from the viewpoint of ontology or gnoseology, and either in a narrower or wider sense. U. Mereste’s table included only Estonian examples, but same kind of ambiguous usage can be found in several languages, including English (en), Finnish (fi) and Swedish (sv), sometimes *terminology* or its counterparts in other languages meaning ‘special(ised) vocabulary’, sometimes ‘study of terms’, sometimes ‘special(ised) language, LSP’, etc. (cf. Table 1).

Table 1. Polysemic usage of Estonian *terminoloogia*, designating four concepts, by U. Mereste (1969). English, Finnish and Swedish are added by me in order to explain the possible conceptual differences if these would be made. It does not mean that all of these words are actively used as terms in those three languages.

et <i>terminoloogia</i> fi <i>terminologia</i> sv <i>terminologi</i> en <i>terminology</i>	ONTOLOGY	GNOSEOLOGY
NARROWER SENSE	et ‘oskussõnavara’ fi ‘termistö, oppisanasto’ sv ‘fackord (och -uttryck)’ en ‘specialised vocabulary’	‘oskussõnaõpetus’ ‘termioppi’ ‘terminologilära, fackordlära’ ‘study of terms’
WIDER SENSE	et ‘oskuskeel, erialakeel’ fi ‘ammatti-, erikoiskieli’ sv ‘fackspråk’ en ‘specialised language’	‘oskuskeeleeõpetus’ ‘erikoiskielten tutkimus’ ‘fackspråksforskning’ ‘LSP theory, research of LSP’

Estonian terminologist and lexicographer Rein Kull (2000: 142) has observed that *terminoloogia* in Estonian, as well as its equivalents in English (*terminology*), German (*Terminologie*), French (*terminologie*), and Russian (*терминология*) have also been used to designate the concept of 'specialised language', that is to say polysemous manner.

Language planner and terminologist Tiiu Erelt (2007: 12) considers it impossible to designate the concept 'specialised language' by the term *terminology* and its equivalents in Estonian, German, Finnish and Russian, but is satisfied with the three other concepts that are designated with this term (cf. Table 2. For comparability reasons, I have modified T. Erelt's table to match U. Mereste's pattern). The title of her book, *Terminiõpetus* ('study of terms'), is synonymous with *oskussõnaõpetus* in Estonian.

Table 2. Polysemic usage of Estonian *terminoloogia* and its equivalents in Finnish, German, English and Russian, designating three concepts, by T. Erelt (2007)

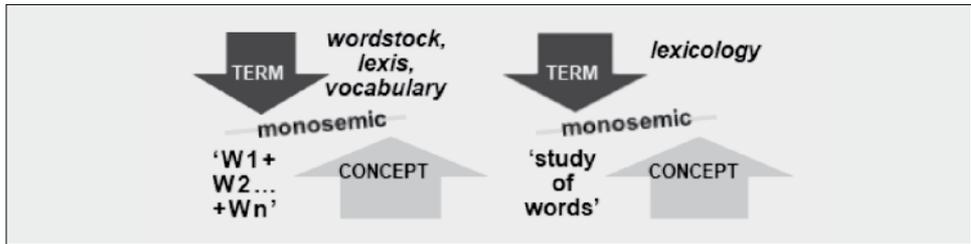
et <i>terminoloogia</i> fi <i>terminologia</i> de <i>Terminologie</i> en <i>terminology</i> ru <i>терминология</i>	(ONTOLOGY)	(GNOSEOLOGY)
NARROWER SENSE	et 'oskussõnavara' fi 'termistö' de 'Fachwortschatz' en 'specialized vocabulary' ru 'терминология'	'oskussõnaõpetus, terminiõpetus' 'oppi termeistä' 'Terminologielehre, Fachwortlehre' 'terminology science,' 'терминоведение'
WIDER SENSE	et 'oskuskeel, erialakeel' fi 'ammatti-, erikoiskieli' de 'Fachsprache' en 'specialised language' ru 'язык науки и техники'	'oskuskeeleõpetus' 'oppi erikoiskielistä' 'Terminologielehre, Fachsprachlehre' 'terminology science, LSP theory' 'терминология'

Likewise, M. T. Cabré Castellví (1999: 32) has noted: "The word *terminology* refers to at least three different concepts:

- a. The principles and conceptual bases that govern the study of terms
- b. The guidelines used in terminographic work
- c. The set of terms of a particular special subject

The first concept refers to the whole field, the second, to its methodology, and the third to the sets of terms on a specific topic."

Figure 1. Monosemic designative usage of *lexicology* and the terms designating the object of study in lexicology



Some other comparable terms always are monosemic. When we need to designate the concept ‘a sum or stock of words employed by a language, group, or individual, (or work or in a field of knowledge)’, we can use designators *vocabulary* or *lexis* or *wordstock* – and these are monosemes (cf. Figure 1), the same way as the Estonian equivalents *sõnavara* or *leksika*. Likewise, a monosemic relation is undoubtedly true between the concept ‘study of words’ and the term *lexicology* (en), *leksikoloogia* or *sõnavaraõpetus* (et) – nobody tries to claim that the intensions of the concepts ‘study, science of lexis,’ and ‘language’ coincide or that the terms *lexicology* and *vocabulary* both designate the same concept – that of ‘a sum or stock or set of words’.

In contrast, different meanings of *terminology* often occur in the same text by the same author. While in some occasions the precise meaning of this term (i.e. the designated concept) can be guessed from the context, it is not always clear enough in other instances. Such ambiguity may cause confusion as to what concept exactly is meant, and in worst cases, the reader or listener misinterprets the term used. In some contexts, the author is forced to use double designators in order to ensure proper meaning, like *terms* and *terminology* by Isabel Durán-Muñoz (2014: 84): “... it works at the level of terms (terminology), that is, the domains share the same concepts but name them differently.”

TOWARDS SYSTEMATIC TERM HARMONISATION AND TERMSTOCK PLANNING

One of the most basic documents for terminologists and everyone dealing with the terms of any speciality is the international terminology standard (ISO 1087-1:2002)⁴ where those introductory statements are found:

⁴ Here I refer to the publication of the standard which consists of the English text of the International Standard ISO 1087-1:2000 *Terminology work – Vocabulary – Part 1. Theory and application* and an identical Estonian translation of the English text.

- [1] “The main purpose of this international terminology standard is to provide a systemic description of the concepts in the field of terminology and to clarify the use of the terms in this field.” (ISO 1087-1:2002: V)
- [2] “This International Standard establishes a basic vocabulary for the theory and application of terminology work.” (ISO 1087-1:2002: VII)

Here, several central terms are used: *concept*, *term*, *terminology*, – but also – *vocabulary* [2]. Terms like *terminology planning*, *terminology work* and *terminology standard*, as used in [3] do not help to provide a systemic description, because the word *terminology* in these terms is not monosemic.⁵ That is why it is not quite appropriate in a context like this. Please note that *vocabulary* as used in [3 en] below is clearly a monosemic term and for defining the scope of this Standard: “This International Standard establishes a basic vocabulary for the theory and application of terminology work.” (ISO 1087-1:2002: 1) However, using *vocabulary* (entry 3.7.2) as designator for a subdivision of *terminological dictionary* (entry 3.7.1) does not seem necessary. Vocabulary (of a subject field) can be presented in dictionaries and glossaries.

[3 en] “3.6.4

terminology planning

activities aimed at developing, improving, implementing and disseminating the **terminology** (3.5.1) of a **subject field** (3.1.2)

NOTE Terminology planning involves all aspects of **terminology work** (3.6.1) and has among other objectives the objective of achieving vocabulary control through such normative documents as thesauri and terminology standards.” (ISO 1087-1:2002: 14)

The corresponding term entry 3.6.4 in the Estonian translation of the Standard, cf. [3 et], does not make the use of the word *terminoloogia*, instead the precise designator *termin* (en *term*) occurs, resulting in a compound noun *terminikorrastus*. However, the phrase “the **terminology** (3.5.1) of a **subject field** (3.1.2)” in the English version of the Standard corresponds to “mingi **valdkonna** (3.1.2) **terminoloogia** (3.5.1)” in the Estonian translation.

⁵ Surely, polysemy is a reason why the word *terminology* returned 13 300 hits on ISO web pages, as Håvard Hjulstad pointed out in his talk at the EAFT-EAT Summit 2016 in Luxembourg.

[3 et] “3.6.4

terminikorrastus

oskuskeelekorraldus

tegevused mingi **valdkonna** (3.1.2) **terminoloogia** (3.5.1) arendamiseks, täiustamiseks, kasutuselevõtuks ja levitamiseks” (EVS-ISO 1087-1:2002)

The second term *oskuskeelekorraldus* shown as a synonym in [3 et] is misleading, because the proper meaning of *oskuskeel* is ‘special language, LSP’.

What are we planning when we plan *terminology*? And what is *terminology work* exactly? I suggest that instead of such polysemic *terminology* (en) and *terminoloogia* (et) monosemic terms would be used, like in [3.1].

[3.1. en] 3.6.4

termstock planning

activities aimed at developing, improving, implementing and disseminating the **terms** ~ **termstock** (3.5.1) of a **subject field** (3.1.2)

NOTE **Termstock** planning involves all aspects of **term(inological) work** (3.6.1) and has among other objectives the objective of achieving **vocabulary** control through such normative documents as thesauri and **term** standards.

[3.1. et] “3.6.4

terminikorrastus

tegevused mingi **valdkonna** (3.1.2) **terminivara** (3.5.1) arendamiseks ...

Just like the concept of ‘a sum, stock or set of words’ is best designated by a univocal English term as *wordstock* (cf. fig. 1), it would be the best solution to designate the concept of ‘a sum, stock or set of terms’ with an analogous coinage *termstock* (cf. fig. 2). This could be a shorter unambiguous term in comparison to *specialised vocabulary*. Similar kind of parallel term formation can be found, for example, in Estonian and Finnish (cf. table 3). In Estonian both terms are compounds, whereas in Finnish these are derivatives.

Table 3. Similar concepts designated by similarly formed terms in three languages

en <i>wordstock</i>	<i>termstock</i>
et <i>sõnavara</i>	<i>terminivara</i>
fi <i>sanasto</i>	<i>termistö</i>
‘a sum, stock or set of words’	‘a sum, stock or set of terms’

Another example of inaccurate and inconsistent use of *terminology* is shown in [4].

[4] “**3.6 Aspects of terminology work**

3.6.1 terminology work

work concerned with the systematic collection, description, processing and presentation of **concepts** (3.2.1) and their **designations** (3.4.1)” (ISO 1087-1:2002)

However, unambiguous designators can be found in the same chapter and elsewhere in the same Standard (ISO 1087-1:2002):

3.6.6

term harmonization,

3.6.7

term excerption,

3.6.8

term identification

3.7.4

term bank.

I suggest that monosemic designator *term* would be consistently used even in 3.6: *Aspects of term(inological) work* and 3.6.1: *term work*. This could be a good example of real term harmonisation, coinciding with the usage in 3.6.6 to 3.6.8. If one wants to stress the scientific base of this work, the alternative with adjective *terminological work* could be used, e.g. in the heading 3.6 of the Standard. As all meaningful work on terms is concept-based and systematic, there is no danger of limiting the meaning of *term work* too much with the vocabulary – it would not be conceivable to ignore the conceptual side of this work.

Some researchers seem to justify ambiguity produced by polysemic usage of terms by equalising the impact of polysemy with that of synonymy: “The effort to eliminate polysemy and synonymy in terminology, in order to achieve univocity and unambiguous communication, has been shown to interfere with the way natural languages function and develop.” (Temmerman, Van Campenhoudt 2014: 3)

Restricted and purposeful synonymy should never be eliminated. Though polysemy is a normal phenomenon in a natural language and there is no need to avoid polysemic use of every single word in general language, it should be done whenever possible for term used in a specialised language and in scientific texts. In the ISO Standard *terminology 1* (3.5.1) and

terminology 2 (3.5.2) are used. Only the latter is a proper choice of denotation, whereas *terminology 1* could be replaced by a more precise monosemic term, e.g. en *termstock*, *terms (of a field)* and et *terminivara* (cf. Figure 2). As for Estonian, I have proposed this earlier (cf. Nemvalts 2007, 2011).

Terms like en *terminology science*, de *Terminologielehre*, et *terminoloogiaeadus* are tautological due to the suffix *-logy* originating from Greek *-λογία*, which primarily designates ‘science, study’, but are also used to describe an object rather than the study of it. Such redundancy could be avoided if only the concept ‘study, science of terms’ would be designated by the term *terminology*, keeping this term univocal (cf. Figures 2 and 4).

Figure 2. Preferred monosemic terms designating the concepts of the ‘study, science of terms’ and the ‘stock, sum, set of terms’

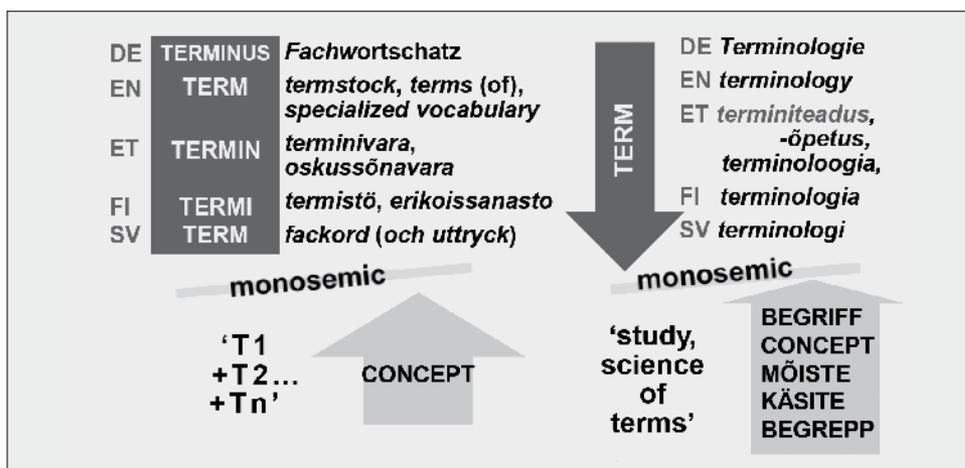
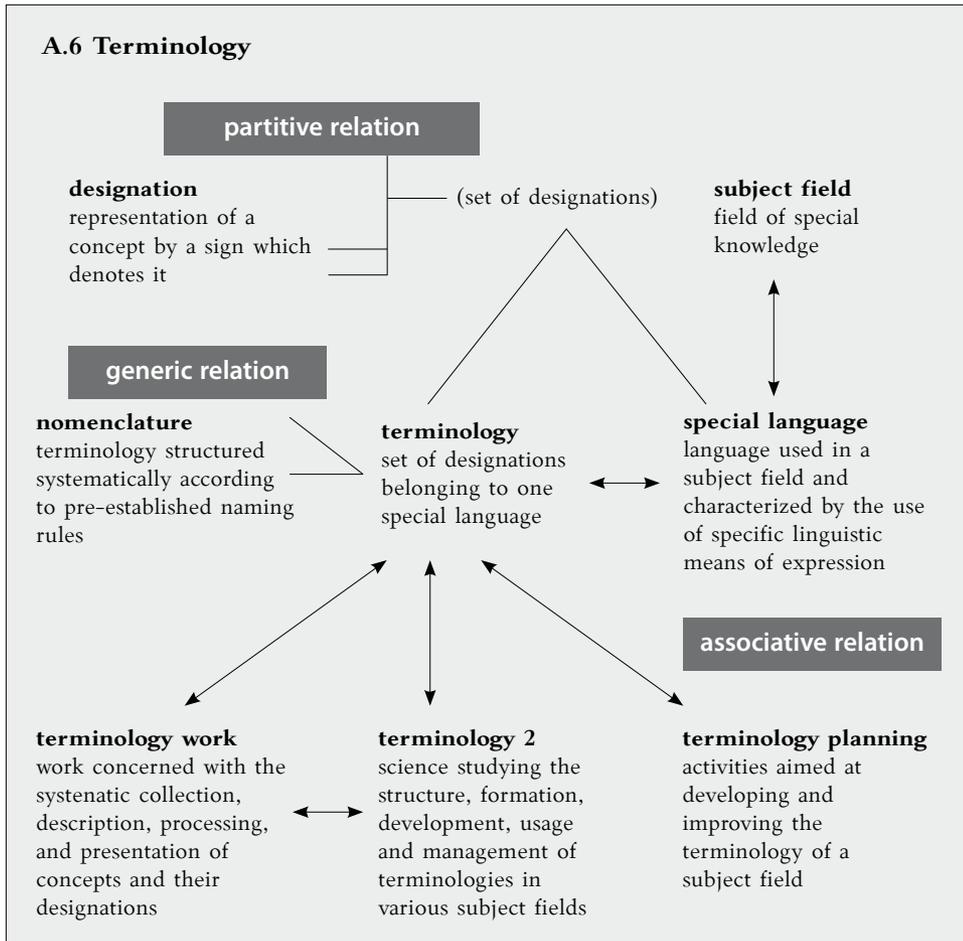


Figure 3 shows the concept diagram as it is present in the English version of the ISO Standard, where *terminology* designates two different concepts. As designators, *terminology 1* and *terminology 2* are used. It is not possible to use this kind of numeric notation in any text, which implicates that the term *terminology* remains polysemic in many instances and will continue to convey ambiguity for readers and listeners. The black labels are added to explain graphic representations of concept relations used in the diagram.

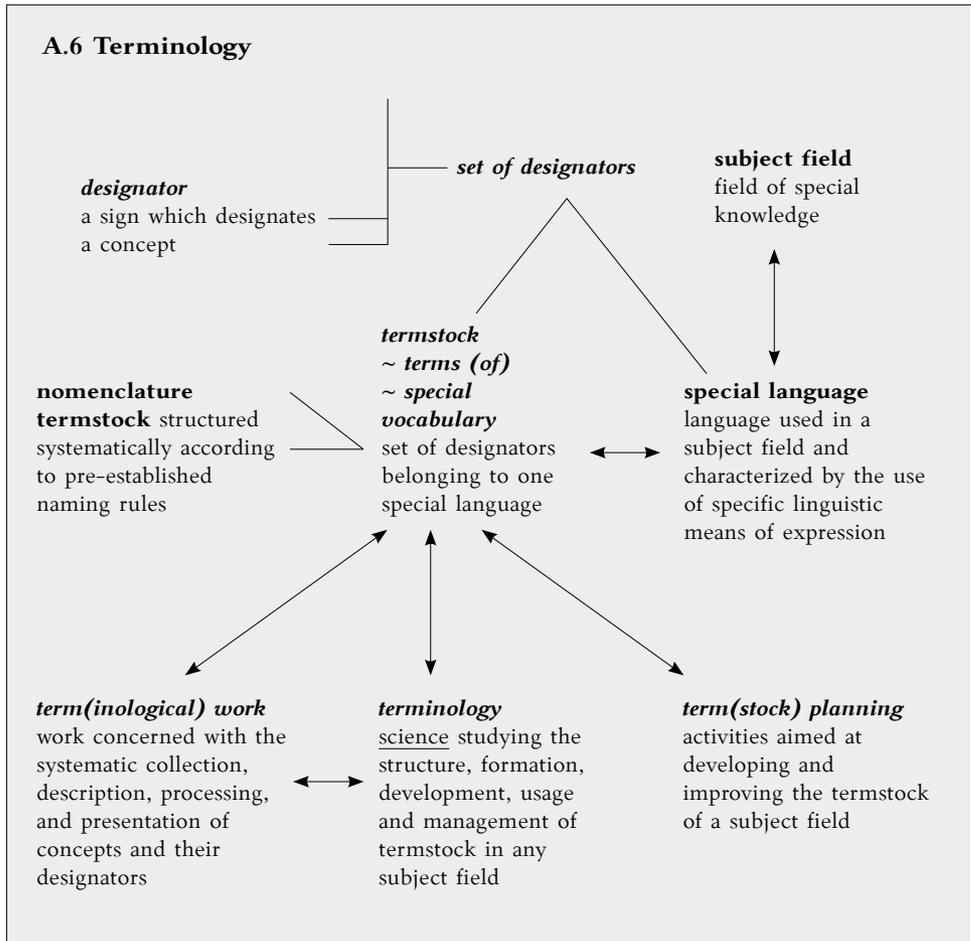
Figure 3. Concept diagram of ‘terminology’ as presented in ISO 1087-1:2000 *Terminology work – Vocabulary – Part 1: Theory and application*



There is hardly any linguistic reason in any language for not to use the term *terminology* or other terms monosemically.

Figure 4 presents a proposal how monosemic terms in English could be used in order to achieve a designation of concepts which is as precise, appropriate and harmonised as possible. And, *mutatis mutandis*, this holds true for every language. While according to the principles of terminological work it is not recommended to change an established term, this principle should not hinder necessary improvement of unambiguity of terms and accuracy of a term system. Therefore, I propose using *terminology* and its equivalents in any language consistently and univocally in the

Figure 4. Concept diagram of 'terminology' with the proposed preferred monosemic terms and adjusted definitions of concepts



most precise meaning, i.e. by having it designate only a single concept – that of ‘science of terms’ –, and prefer other, more appropriate terms, for related concepts. In view of this approach, entities such as “economic terminology”, “legal terminology” or “scientific terminology” hardly exist, but rather there are economic, legal, scientific etc. terms or termstock or vocabulary which can be analysed, researched and managed with help of terminology. Also statements like “According to St. Keinys, terminology is a part of the standard language” (Mockienė, Rackevičienė 2016: 52) seem misleading. Rather, it is true that terms and specialised vocabularies are part of the language.

Another issue related to accuracy of term systems has been discussed by Anita Nuopponen (2014: 9), “...the need for more developed terminological tools. The concept relation typology presented in ISO standards is restricted to a few core relation types, and their definitions and treatment are not quite unambiguous or consistent.”

CONCLUSIONS

Termstock management, standardisation and planning should be grounded on a clear understanding of concept-based use of any term. Ideally, every term should be monosemic, unambiguous and used consistently within a clear system. This is all the more important when considering what is asserted in the introduction of the ISO 1087-1, namely that this international standard is addressed to not only standardisers and terminologists, but to anyone involved in terminological work, as well as to the users of terms. Everyone involved in term(inological) work and users of termstock of any field should be aware of the importance of unambiguousness and consistency.

This does not mean eliminating synonymy; on the contrary, certain synonyms are desirable in appropriate contexts. However, it is crucial to choose the most monosemic designator as a preferred term for a concept. In every language, the lexical and word formational resources available to that language should be fully used to build term systems which most clearly reflect the conceptual systems of the respective subject field.

Systematic term(inological) work is required for successful term(stock) planning, harmonisation, and standardisation. This is made possible by thorough knowledge of terminology, i.e. of the science studying the structure, formation, development, usage and management of concept-based termstock in any subject field. Therefore, it seems to be an appropriate time to do some term harmonisation on the International Standard in order to introduce and disseminate approved specialised vocabulary of term(inological) work.

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APIE PAGRINDINIUS TERMINOLOGIJOS TERMINUS

 io straipsnio tikslas – i nagrineti pagrindini  terminologijos termin  vartosen  ir padektuoti, ar reiket  j  keisti. Vienareik mi kumo siekis b dingas visoms nacionalin ms kalboms,  skaitant angl  kalb . Straipsnio atspirties ta kas – termin  vartosena est  kalboje, ta iau angl  kalba yra ir *lingua franca*, ir pagrindin  darbin  termin  standartizacijos kalba, tod l daugiausia d mesio skiriama angl  kalbai. Si lomi naujadarai, kurie g let  i spr sti angli k  termin  nevienareik mi kumo problem . Siekiama  vok  sistemos ai kumo naudojant termin  sistem , kuri yra kiek  manoma vienareik m .

Straipsnyje taip pat trumpai aptariamas studentams ir net tik jiems b dingas tam tikras „ vokos“ ir „termino“ esm  nesupratimas. Kaip matyti i  2012 m. atliktos Estijos

universitētū doktorantū apklausos, tinkamo termino radimas – viena iš pagrindinių problēmū. Sunkumā parinkti tinkamus estiškūs ir angliškus terminus dažnai lemia daugiareikšmiškums. Kiekviena kalba turi tik jai būdingas morfoloģines, sintaksines ir darybines priemones, tačiau vienas iš svarbiausiu bet kurioje specialiojoje kalboje tinkamai funkcionuojančio termino bruožu yra vienareikšmiškums. Nepaisant to, pats pagrindinis terminas *terminology* žymi keturias sąvokas. Net terminoloģijos standarte ISO 1087-1 išskirtos dvi *terminology* reikšmės. Straipsnio autorius mano, kad angliškas terminas *terminology* bei jo atitikmenys kitomis kalbomis turētu būti nuosekliai ir vienareikšmiškai vartojami tik vienai sąvokai – ‘mokslui apie terminus’ – žymėti ir siūlo vartoti darinį *termstock* vietoj standarte *terminijos* reikšme vartojamo termino *terminology*.

Kai kurie kiti terminai – *terminology planning*, *terminology work*, *terminology science* ir *designation* – aptariami atsižvelgiant į jų vienareikšmiškumą ir vartojimo nuoseklumą sąvokų sistemoje. Sistemiškas terminų darninimas ir terminijos planavimas yra būtinas kuo didesniam vienareikšmiškumui bet kurioje žinių srityje, įskaitant terminoloģiją, pasiekti.

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Peep Nemvalts
Tallinn University
School of Humanities, Centre for Academic Estonian
Narva mnt 25, 10120 Tallinn, Estonia
Peep.Nemvalts@tlu.ee