



# Introduction to Terminology Part 2

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#### Overview

- Terms
  - Coining new terms
  - Selecting good terms
- Characteristics
- Intension and extension
- Definitions
- Working methods





























- Freiraum-Utensilien
- Multifunktionsbesteck



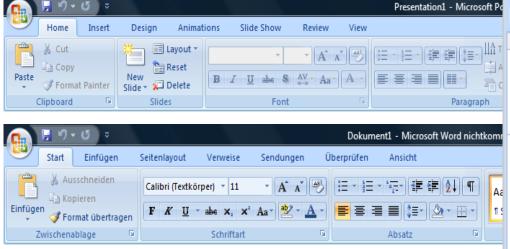




- Segway Personal Transporter
- Segway PT
- Selbstbalance-Roller
- Gyropode (fr)







#### ribbon

- Ribbon
- Band
- Multifunktionsleiste
- ruban (FR)



- Coining of new terms: word formation + term buildings mechanisms (language dependant)
  - Composition: cyberspace, translation memory system
  - Derivation: preface, management
  - Conversation: the chair → to chair, green (adj) → the green
  - Terminologization: mouse (IT) ← mouse (bio, general),
     virus (IT) ← virus (med)
  - Loan word: festschrift, zeitgeist from DE, rickshaw from JP
  - Abbreviation: CEO, AIDS, scuba, Interpol
  - New creation: blurb, quark (very rare)

## Selecting "good" terms









- USB flash drive
- flash drive
- USB stick
- USB memory key
- memory stick

- keydrive
- pendrive
- thumbdrive
- jumpdrive
- etc.

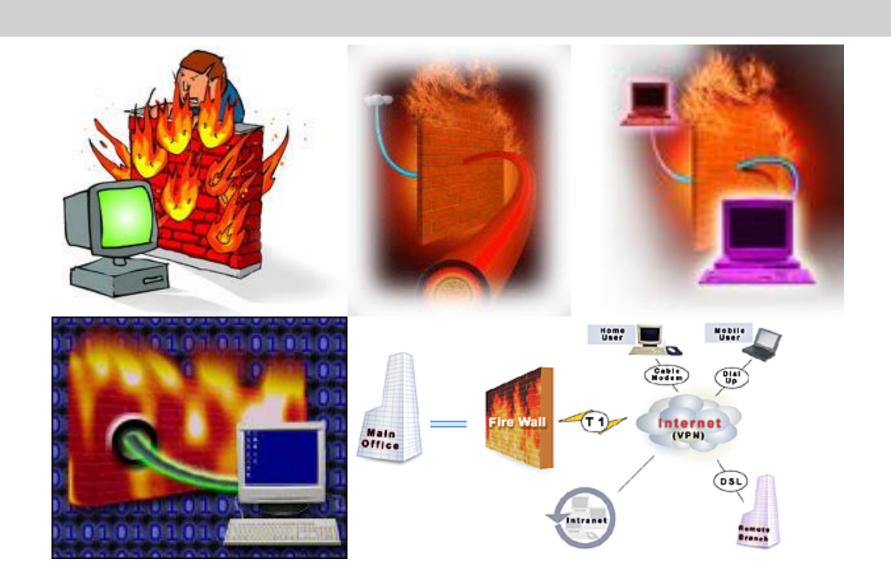
## Selecting "good" terms

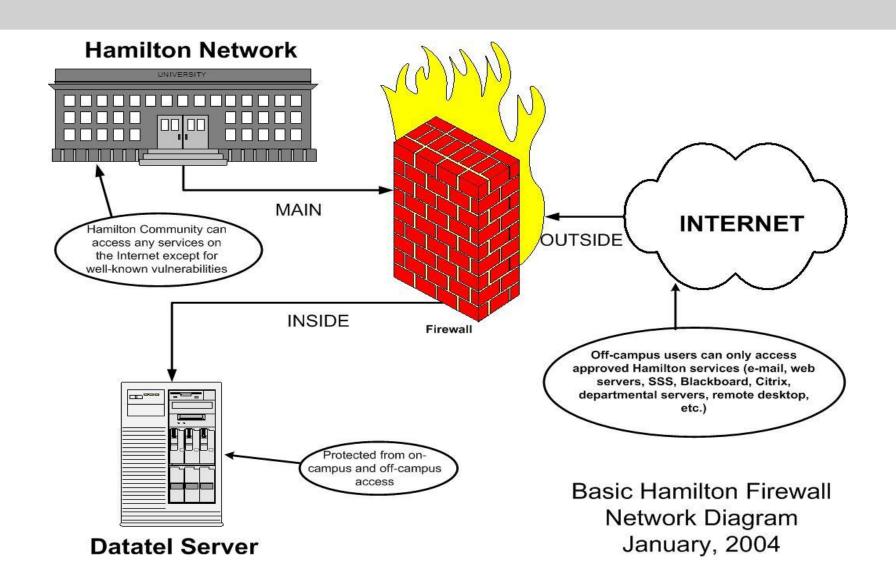
- Criteria for the selection and creation/coining of terms (ISO 704):
  - Transparency/motivation
  - Consistency
  - Appropriateness
  - Linguistic economy
  - Derivability
  - Linguistic correctness
  - Preference for native language

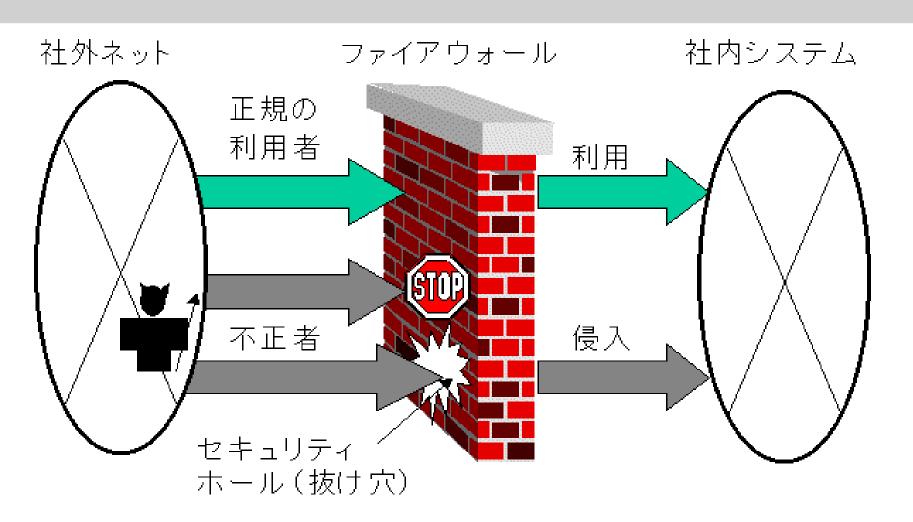
**—** ...

## **Transparency**

- The concept designated by the term can be inferred without a definition
- The meaning of the term is visible by:
  - morphological motivation
     page setup, error message
     data network identification code\*
     network printing device setup\*
  - semantic motivation
     mouse, worm, virus, infected file, vulnerability
     firewall\*
  - torque wrench vs. monkey wrench



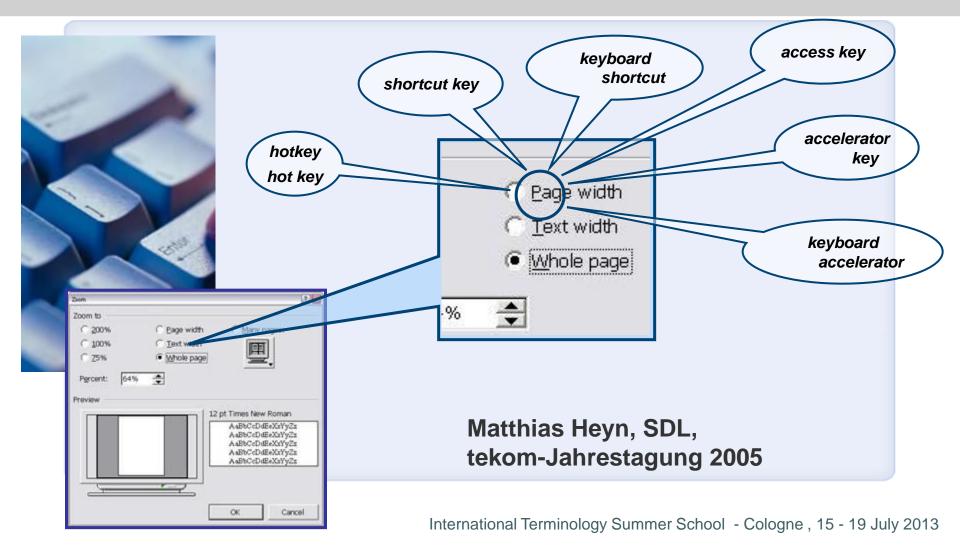




## Consistency

- The terms of one domain / concept system are coined consistently using the same motivation (characteristics) and the same word formation mechanisms:
  - nylon, orlon, dracon, ... -on
  - VP of Finance, VP of Marketing,VP of Production, ...
  - NOT: spark plug wrench, open-end wrench, adjustable wrench, monkey wrench, Allen wrench, alligator wrench, ...

## Consistency: Standardizing terminology



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**Begriffsnummer: 127** 

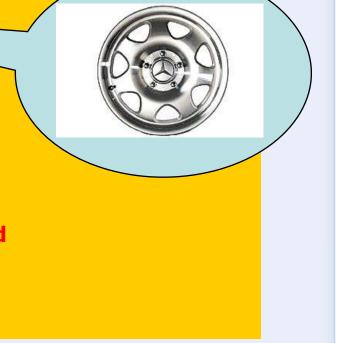
Begriffsklärung:

**Benennung: Leichtmetallscheibenrad** 

**Synonyme: Leichtmetallrad** 

Alufelge

Aluminiumscheibenrad Aluminium-Scheibenrad Leichtmetall-Scheibenrad Scheibenrad Aluminium



Reference: Susanne Göpferich, DAISY-Projekt, DTT-Symposion 2004

## **Consistency:** Standardizing terminology



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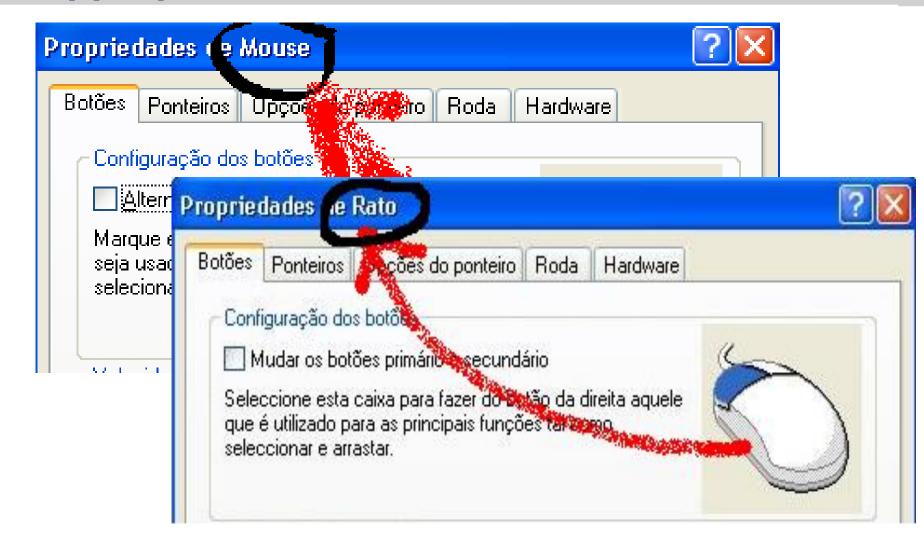


Record number

## **Appropriateness**

- Appropriateness means that terms:
  - -have to be familiar to the user (localization!)
  - -don't cause confusion or insecurity
  - -have no negative connotations (neutral, politically correct)
  - express installation (only components needed) network installation (all components)
  - system error, severe error, fatal error, user error etc.
  - master/slave, web designers' bible, knowledge nugget etc.
  - nuclear energy vs. atomic energy genetic engineering vs. genetic manipulation

## **Appropriateness**



## **Appropriateness**



#### Other criteria

- Linguistic economy
  - term bank vs. terminological data bank
  - Ultrakurzwellenüberreichweitenfernsehrichtfunkverbindung
- Derivability
  - medicinal plant vs. herb --> herbal, herbalist, ...
- Linguistic correctness
  - aktualisieren vs. updaten, geupdated, upgedatet, ...
- Preference for native language
  - Startseite vs. Homepage
- Uniqueness (don't create homonyms in one domain !)

#### Term-related issues for termbases

#### Terms should be entered in canonical form:

- normally in lowercase (but: Drucker, Microsoft)
- nouns normally in singular (pl: trousers, Leute)
- verbs normally in infinite form
- multi-word terms in spoken/written order
- nouns not with articles (der, le)
- verbs not with infinite particles (to, à, zu)
- spelled correctly

#### **Characteristics**

Characteristic:
 abstraction of a property of an object or
 of a set of objects

Characteristics are used for describing concepts!

- Concepts have characteristics
- Objects have properties

Concept: abstraction based on the set of all mechanical mice			
Designation (term): mechanical mouse			
Properties of Object 1	Properties of Object 2	Properties of Object 3	Characteristics
hand-manoeuvred along a firm, flat surface	hand-manoeuvred along a firm, flat surface	hand-manoeuvred along a firm, flat surface	being hand-manoeuvred along a firm, flat surface
has a ball on its underside	has a ball on its underside	has a ball on its underside	having a ball on its underside
has three buttons	has two buttons	has three buttons	having at least one button
has a wire for connecting to a computer	has a wire for connecting to a computer	has a wire for connecting to a computer	having a wire for connecting to a computer
rollers detect the movement of the ball	rollers detect the movement of the ball;	rollers detect the movement of the ball	having rollers (mechanical sensors) for detecting ball-movement
ivory-coloured	ISO 704:2009	black	having colour  NOTE This characteristic is inherited from a superordinate concept at a very high level, e.g. 'physical object'.

#### **Characteristics**

- Essential characteristic: characteristic which is indispensable to understanding a concept
- Delimiting characteristic: essential characteristic used for distinguishing a concept from related concepts
- The delimiting characteristic support for the back may be used for distinguishing the concepts stool and chair.

#### **Characteristics**

- Characteristics shall be used for:
  - the analysis of concepts
  - the modeling of concept systems
  - the formulation of definitions
  - the selection and formation of terms (where appropriate)
  - the comparison of concepts
     (find out about synonymy and equivalence)

#### **Intension & Extension**

#### Intension

set of characteristics which makes up the concept **Lorry:** vehicle, motor-powered, steering mechanism, for transportation of goods

#### Extension

totality of objects to which a concept corresponds **Scandinavian countries:** Denmark, Norway, Sweden

DIN: Begriffsinhalt, Begriffsumfang, Begriffsbestand

#### **Definition**

 representation of a concept by a descriptive statement which serves to differentiate it from related concepts

For terminology work, concepts are essential. But concepts are mental representations. Definitions are used to make the concept "visible".

#### **Definition**

intensional definition

definition which describes the intension of a concept by stating the superordinate concept and the delimiting characteristics

incandescent lamp: electric lamp in which a filament is heated by an electric current in such a way that it emits light

extensional definition

description of a concept by enumerating all of its subordinate concepts under one criterion of subdivison

noble gas: helium, neon, argon, crypton, xenon, radon.

#### **Deficient definitions**

circular definition

#### evergreen tree:

**NO** tree with evergreen foliage

**YES** tree that has green leaves throughout the entire

- Can be circular within one definition or between two definition
- Sometimes called tautological definition
- BUT: motivated transparent terms!

#### **Deficient definitions**

## inaccurate definition optomechanical mouse:

#### NO, too broad:

computer mouse that uses a ball to control the pointer on the computer screen

#### NO, too narrow:

computer mouse composed of a mouse button, rubber ball, circuit board, cord, x- and y-axis rollers, LED infrared emitter, and infrared sensor

#### YES, correct:

computer mouse composed of a mouse button, ball, circuit board, cord, x- and y-axis rollers, infrared emitter, and infrared sensor

#### **Deficient definitions**

negative definition

#### deciduous tree:

No: tree other than an evergreen tree

**YES:** tree that loses its foliage seasonally

## **But ("negative" concepts):**

nonconformity:

non-fulfilment of a specified requirement

#### baldness:

having no hair on the head

- Try to provide just one good definition (see 704)
   (Multiple definitions can be confusing)
- Try to find and enter existing definitions
   (with the source); shortenings and extensions
   are sometimes necessary and helpful
- Definitions should be as short as possible and as long as necessary
- Stating a synonym is not a definition!
   e.g. diaphragm spring = Belleville spring

- Use terms for referenced concepts and characteristics consistently
- If the term is mentioned in the definition, try to use it in singular form
- Definitions do not exist for ever: concepts are changing; therefore check and update
- Test definitions by inversion
- Definition should be written in a way that the statement can replace the term in a text

### If you have to write you own definition:

- state what kind of thing your concept represents (usually the broader concept) and mention what differentiates your concept from other closely related concepts (intensional definition)
- let a domain expert check the definition
- do not use finite verbs like is, refers to, is called
- do not mention the term in the definition (DE!)
- punctuation, capitalization, article usage: provide styleguides

Example:

Term: terminography

Term: terminology management

**Def:** part of terminology work concerned

with the recording and presentation

of terminological data

**Ref:** *ISO 1087-1:2000* 

**Note:** Terminological data may be

presented in the form of term banks,

glossaries, thesauri or other

publications.

## Terminology working methods I

- ad hoc terminology work
   solving a current terminological problem
   (research for unknown terms, equivalents, synonyms)
- text-oriented terminology work
   preparatory terminology research for a given text
   (solve all terminological problems before you translate)
- domain-oriented terminology work
  terminology research for all concepts of a given
  subject field
  (elaborate a complete terminology with concept relations)

## **Terminology working methods II**

- descriptive terminology work
   determine and describe the (current) usage of
   concepts, terms and definitions
   (typical for freelance translators, interpreters, techwriters)
- prescriptive (normative) terminology work lay down and define concepts, terms and equivalents, classify them as preferred, admitted and deprecated (typical for standards bodies, but also for companies etc.)







## Thank you for your attention

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