

# TERMINOGRAPHY and LEXICOGRAPHY

What is the difference?

*Summary*

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TermNet

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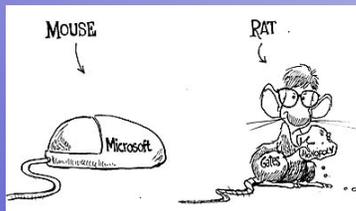
## Summary/ Conclusion

	Lexicography	Terminology work
<b>Variety of language</b> (GPL = general purpose SPL = special purpose)	GPL SPL (special-purpose lexicography)	SPL
<b>Subject matter</b>	broad areas of knowledge delimited domain (rare)	delimited domain use of classification system
<b>Method of working</b>	word-based concept-based (rare)	concept-based
<b>Presentation to user</b>	alphabetical thesaurus style/ systematic (rare)	thesaurus style/ systematic alphabetical if reorganized
<b>Presentation of entries</b>	polysemes/homonyms together synonyms separately	polysemes/homonyms separately synonyms (same subject field) together
<b>Orientation</b>	descriptive	descriptive and prescriptive (depending on domain)

The distinction between terminography and lexicography is purely theoretical, in reality hybrid forms are predominant.

GPL dictionaries can include terms

distinction between GPL and SPL is not always clear (words <> terms)



ontological structures in GPL samples

GPL dictionaries: representation not always alphabetically, but concept-based ("thesauri")

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**BLURRED**

**BORDERS**

Vice versa: alphabetically ordered special language/ subject dictionaries exist

# The real difference lies here: Lexicology vs. terminology

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## Lexicology

is a specialty in linguistics dealing with the study of the lexicon (vocabulary) (of a person or of a language).

The study of words in general, it is not concerned with a particular application.

## Terminology

is always in some sense *concept-based*: dealing with concepts of a special subject field and their denomination.

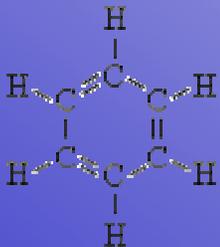
It is Language independent, i.e. not connected to a particular language (though NOT cultures), based on a language-underlying conceptual structure of the mind. But in most cases it finds expression through language.

Terminology is concerned with the *relationship between concepts and between concepts and their designations*

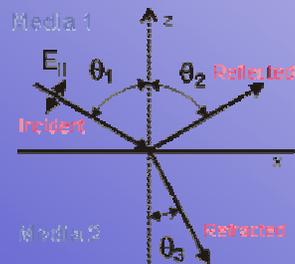
A designation does not have to be a linguistic entity a *word or phrase* but may comprise *symbols, formulae, drawings, pictograms, codes, etc.*

Terminology is inextricably linked with *specialist knowledge, special languages/LSP*

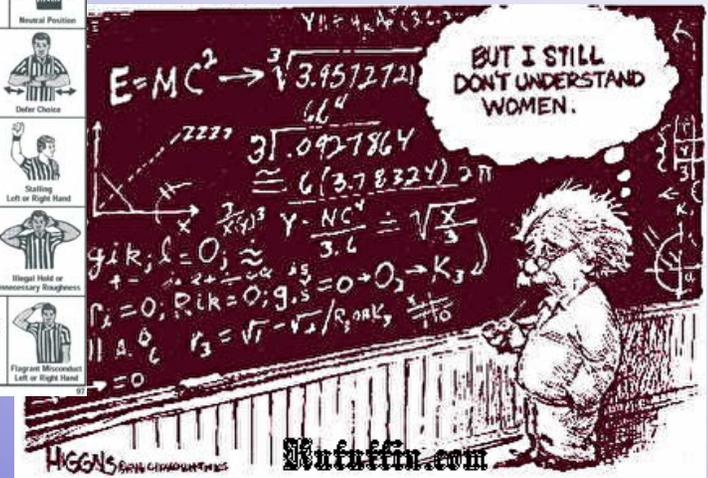
All this is terminology:



Chemical formula for Benzene



OFFICIAL WRESTLING SIGNALS HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE				
Stopping the Match	Time Out	Start the Injury Clock	Stop the Injury Clock	Neutral Position
Indicating No Contest	Out of Bounds	Indicating Wrestler in Control Left or Right Hand	Defer Choice	
Potentially Dangerous Left or Right Hand	Stumble	Caution for False Start and Incorrect Starting Procedure	Rolling Left or Right Hand	
Interlocking Hands or Grasping Clothing	Reversal	Technical Violation	Single Hold or Unnecessary Roughness	
Near-Fall	Awarding Points Left or Right Hand	Green Right	Red Left	Flagrant Misconduct Left or Right Hand



Terminology is everywhere!

## As linguistic representation of concepts

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**synonyms, polysemes, homonyms occur ...**

...and are treated differently in lexicography and terminology work

## In linguistics we distinguish between polysemes, homonyms, synonyms.

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**Synonyms are** different words/forms for similar or identical meanings. They can be used interchangeably.

**NOTE:** most cases are quasi-synonyms. Synonyms are bad for clear technical communication.

**EXAMPLES:** baby and infant (noun), quickly and speedily (adverb), sick and ill (adjective)

**Polysemes have** the same pronunciation or spelling (or both) as another word, but a different, though related meaning.

**NOTE:** due to limited capacity of human registers they occur very often. They are employed in term creation.

**EXAMPLES:** to migrate = leave place and settle in another (e.g. semantic extension: sociology, biology, mechanical engineering, etc.)

foot = body part, measure of length, lower part, to walk

**Homonyms** (homographs, homophones, full/both) **have** the same pronunciation or spelling (or both) as another word, but a different and not related meaning).

**NOTE:** Homonymy starts where speakers no longer recognize the semantic relation between words/terms

**EXAMPLE:** desert = abandon, desert = arid region; waste, waist; mean = intend, mean = average

# Entries in Lexicography

**Synonyms are** not always made explicit and scattered throughout the dictionary

**Polysemes are** presented in one entry (1 headword)

**Homonyms are** presented as two headwords and grouped together

Note: the division of word forms into different senses varies considerable in dictionaries

Example: Collins Gem English Dictionary  
New Edition for the 21st century



# Entries in Terminography

**Synonyms** are always grouped together, i.e. included as part of the same entry (being alternative representations of the same concept), e.g. *automotive catalyst, catalytic converter*

**Polysemes, homonyms** of the same subject field are presented in separate entries, because they represent different concepts with different definitions, e.g. *automotive emission (process and the gas)*



## Tuberculosis (A15-A19)

**Includes:** infections due to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Mycobacterium bovis*

**Excludes:** congenital tuberculosis ( [P37.0](#) )  
pneumoconiosis associated with tuberculosis ( [J65](#) )  
sequelae of tuberculosis ( [B90.-](#) )  
silicotuberculosis ( [J65](#) )

### **A15** Respiratory tuberculosis, bacteriologically and histologically confirmed

#### **A15.0** Tuberculosis of lung, confirmed by sputum microscopy with or without culture

Tuberculosis of:

- bronchiectasis } confirmed by sputum microscopy with or
- fibrosis of lung } without culture
- pneumonia }
- pneumothorax }

#### **A15.1** Tuberculosis of lung, confirmed by culture only

Conditions listed in A15.0, confirmed by culture only

#### **A15.2** Tuberculosis of lung, confirmed histologically

Conditions listed in A15.0, confirmed histologically

#### **A15.3** Tuberculosis of lung, confirmed by unspecified means

Conditions listed in A15.0, confirmed but unspecified whether bacteriologically or histologically

#### **A15.4** Tuberculosis of intrathoracic lymph nodes, confirmed bacteriologically and histologically

Tuberculosis of lymph nodes:

- hilar } confirmed bacteriologically and
- mediastinal } histologically
- tracheobronchial }

**Excludes:** specified as primary ( [A15.7](#) )

#### **A15.5** Tuberculosis of larynx, trachea and bronchus, confirmed bacteriologically and histologically

Tuberculosis of:

- bronchus } confirmed bacteriologically and
- glottis } histologically
- larynx }
- trachea }

#### **A15.6** Tuberculous pleurisy, confirmed bacteriologically and histologically

Tuberculosis of pleura } confirmed bacteriologically and  
Tuberculous empyema } histologically

**Excludes:** in primary respiratory tuberculosis, confirmed bacteriologically and histologically ( [A15.7](#) )



Source: World Health Organization © Copyright WHO/DIMDI 1994/2003

GPL dictionaries are *descriptive* in their orientation

*Terminologies* can be *descriptive*, too, but the *prescriptive* aspect (standardization) plays an essential role,  
esp. where safety is a primary consideration (medical terminology, hazard terminology, etc.)

**Standardization seeks to eliminate synonymy and reduce polysemy/homonymy and thus avoid miscommunication**



Terminology is based on the CONCEPT

Lexicology is based on the (linguistic) REPRESENTATION

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Your questions are welcome

**Thank you for your attention.**

Contact

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<http://linux.termnet.org>

Further reading:

Pointer project Final Report, 1997 <http://www.computing.surrey.ac.uk/ai/pointer/report/>

The Pavel Online Tutorial [http://www.termium.gc.ca/didacticiel\\_tutorial/english/lesson1/index\\_e.html](http://www.termium.gc.ca/didacticiel_tutorial/english/lesson1/index_e.html)

Antia, B.E. (2000). Terminology and Language Planning: An alternative framework of practice and discourse. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: J.Benjamins Publisher

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