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## The Distinction between Term and Word: A Translator and Interpreter Problem and the Role of Teaching Terminology

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### Abstract

Human Language is a complex physiological activity influencing and influenced by a vast range of systems. Therefore, fixing a word for a specific meaning and attaching a cultural meaning to words becomes challenging. Here a translator and interpreter mentally get confused. The role of teaching terminology in a translation class is visible that provides a clear image of term, word, terminology, terminologists, terminography and terminographists with a variety of examples. The article introduces the syllabus of teaching translation terminology, its contents and methodology, its effects on the terminological competencies of multilingual learners.

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### 1. Introduction

The word term dates back to Medieval Latin ‘terminus-term’ in the meaning of “limit in time, set or appointed time”, and ‘end, boundary’ (Dictionary Reference, 2016). Naming principles in the area of natural sciences; chemistry, zoology, botany, medicine and mathematics was started in the late nineteenth century as mentioned by Sonneveld and Loening (1993). Then industrialization is the first reason of terminology creation and standardization of technical and scientific terminology (Sonneveld and Loening, 1993). The activity concerned with the systematization and representation of concepts or with the presentation of terminologies on the basis of established principles and methods

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is called terminology as Helmi and Kurt quoting the definition of ISO-1087 said: ‘A terminology is a set of terms representing the system of concepts of a particular subject field’ (Sonneveld and Loening, 1993).

Lynne Bowker mentioned the emergence of terminology resources as term bases prepared by translators, term banks produced by terminologists, electronic dictionaries, and online dictionaries of special terms in a specific discipline (Sonneveld and Loening, 1993). Bassegy Eden Antia mentioned that terminology is part of elaboration in Haugen’s model, an aspect of intellectualization in Garvin’s language development, a part of modernization in Ferguson’s scheme, and a component in Neustupny’s cultivation approach, claiming that the challenges in the way of implementation or use of a selected code is the main reason of work on terminology (Gelinas-Surprenant and Hussman, 2015).

All the branches specially technology is in dire need of setting terminology, terminology banks, trees and glossaries being the essential bases for better translation as many types of term formation needs different term knowledge and techniques (Ananiadou, 1994).

## 2. Term, Terminology and Terminography

The words term, terminology and terminography are interlinked conceptually. A term may constitute of words.

### 2.1. Word & Term

A term is a word that contains linguistic characters, and systems (Ananiadou, 1994). Carolina defined ‘term’ as sign closely linked to a specialized conceptual content. Modern time ‘systematic terminology’ is based on an idea of science because of being a well formed language (Popp, 2001). The dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics defines it: “A unit of expression which has universal intuitive recognition by native-speakers, in both spoken and written language”. Then the dictionary points out to the problems that cannot be solved by regular definitions like “units of meaning” or “idea” due to the vagueness. It can be orthographic for writing and the phonological for speech (Crystal, 2008). An influencing definition presented by Bloomfield as “minimal free form” that means the smallest unit capable to constitute a complete utterances (Crystal, 2008). Jennifer Pearson defining term according to traditional terminologists as “labels for concepts which are abstract entities isolated from text. The term which is agreed upon may be a single word or a multiword unit.” (Ananiadou, 1994, p.1034).

### 2.2. Difference between Word and Term

The main difference between a term and a word is the nature of reference. Term is characterized as mono-referential in a very specific concept at high degree relating to a specific area or field or discipline. It involves linguistic (lexical, syntactical and semantic) as well as concepts (generic, portative and casual) restrictions. Scholars worked out and made clear the distinction between ‘word’ and ‘term’ quoting the renowned scholars of the fields. Here is a summary of their works:

### 2.3. Pearson Differentiation

Jennifer Pearson has quoted the traditional and pragmatic definitions of terms. She quoted Rondeau under traditional term definition that “term is basically a linguistic sign in the Saussurian sense; it has a significant and a signifie.” She further quoted Rondeau who mentioned word ‘label’ with the title ‘denomination’ and the word ‘notion’ with the title ‘concept’, then she compared Rondeau with Wuster who suggested for terminologists to take start from concept then select proper label for that specific subject. She mentioned Rondeau’s claim about distinction between words and terms that are used according to him in ‘special subject domain’ (Pearson, 1998). Pearson quoted Sager’s distinctive definition between ‘terms’ and ‘words’:

“... the items which are characterized by special reference within a discipline are the ‘terms’ of the discipline, and collectively they form its ‘terminology’; those which function in general reference over a variety of sublanguages are simply called ‘words’ and their totality is the ‘vocabulary’” (p. 15).

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