

# Ontologization of Terminology

A worked example from the domain of ancient Greek dress

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**ABSTRACT:** Ontology, in the sense of knowledge engineering, is nowadays one of the most promising routes for Terminology. The ontologization of terminology gave rise to the notion of ontoterminology, a terminology whose conceptual system is a formal ontology. Representing concepts explicitly and formally opens up new perspectives and is not without consequences on Terminology and its methods. The definitions of the terms in natural language are based on the definitions of the concepts in a formal language, thus achieving the degree of standardization necessary for the communication among experts, the operationalization of domain knowledge, and the exporting of terminological data in machine readable and human readable formats. Taking ancient Greek dress as knowledge domain, this paper illustrates the principles of ontologization of terminology and the tool-assisted method used for building multilingual ontoterminologies, i.e. sets of terminologies in different languages linked by means of a shared conceptual model (ontology). The tool used is a new software environment, the ontoTerminology editor (Tedi).

**Keywords:** Ontologization, Ontoterminology, Ontology, Terminology, Ancient Greek dress.

## 1. Introduction

This paper presents the principles of ontologization of terminology<sup>1</sup> and a simple tool-assisted method for representing and modelling expert domain knowledge<sup>2</sup>. The domain of application is the terminology of ancient Greek dress. Our approach aims to strike the right balance between providing a step-by-step guide in order to help readers accomplish the task described and relating the theoretical and methodological constraints underlying the approach.

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1. By “ontologization of terminology” we understand an ontological representation of the conceptual system of a terminology.

2. ISO 1087-1 defines “domain” (or “subject field”) as a “field of special knowledge” whose borderlines are defined from a purpose-related point of view.