

Dynamicity and formalization. A faceted structuring of Terminology¹

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ABSTRACT: Contemporary Terminology studies and applications are characterized by the elaboration of formalized knowledge representation frameworks which aim at reconciling the contrasting requirements of human users and computer applications, as these are often the double target of Terminological Knowledge Bases. In leading terminology representation models the ontology framework is integrated with different types of schemes, mainly inspired by theories of knowledge functioning. A model that is complementary to those already in existence is introduced here as a proposal to effectively represent the dynamicity that characterizes terminology. It is intended as an implementation of a system where the theoretical stance and its applicative realization are founded on the same principles. It is based on a faceted approach to terminological analysis and representation. Facets are considered a viable interpretation of the complex and multidimensional nature of Terminological Knowledge Units and an effective reading of the different but non-conflicting perspectives on concepts introduced and shared by specialists within a knowledge domain.

Keywords: Terminology theory, Terminological Knowledge Base, Knowledge Organization, Faceted approach, Dynamicity.

1. Introduction

In the panorama of terminology studies a gap can be detected between, on the one hand, the needs of Terminology as a discipline that accounts for the dynamicity and flexibility of linguistic and cognitive models and, on the other, the requirements of a rigid formal representation of a knowledge domain, also using a formalized model, which is predominantly outlined as an engineering ontology. This analysis aims at considering methods of terminological definition and description, and the adequacy of the formalized models that have been proposed for organizing and representing the properties of concepts and designations

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