

EDITORIAL

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TERMINOLOGY, A DISCIPLINE OF INTERFACES*

1 Terminology science from a linguistic and conceptual perspective

Terminology science, a subject characterised by its interdisciplinarity, is two-dimensional, linguistic and conceptual in nature. Any terminological work grounded in this two-dimensional nature must take these two dimensions into account, regardless of the methodological approach used – semasiological or onomasiological – for the ‘systematic collection, description, processing and presentation of *concepts and their designations*’ (ISO 1087: 2019, p.13). Whatever the approach, and at some point, the terminologist has to identify the term and the concept it designates (semasiology), or the concept and the term that designates it (onomasiology), where the textual definition renders the relationship between one and the other stable.

The text plays a key role in this approach. In the text, we find terms, i.e., linguistic markers that reveal the existence of the concepts they denote or even linguistic elements that indicate the characteristics that make up the concepts

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denoted by the terms present in the texts, contextual definitions, and defining contexts (Ramos & Costa 2018).

Using texts as the starting point presupposes the identification of terms, i.e., the lexical units that designate concepts. This task that may seem obvious at first is a complex stage from a linguistic point of view because it assumes the existence of criteria for distinguishing terms from non-terms. In our view, a non-term is any lexical combination that, from a morphosyntactic standpoint, might be confused with a term – the verbal designation of a concept – but which is not actually a term because that lexical combination is non-designative (Costa 2017).

In the class of non-terms, we include terminological collocations and phrases. We should therefore be able to decide whether the retrieved lexical entities – which correspond to possible term structures from a morphosyntactic point of view – are actually terms, i.e., whether the lexical structures we have identified designate concepts that according to (ISO 1087: 2019, p.3) are defined as a 'unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of *characteristics*'.

Due to this two-dimensional perspective of terminology, in addition to linguistic competence, i.e., the knowledge of the language, we also need the knowledge of the experts in the specific field of study concerned, those people that can answer the questions made by terminologists – the experts that can help terminologists organise and validate the terminological information collected in order to feed quality language and lexicographical resources.

2 Speaking of semantics and morphology in terminology science

Regardless of the theories underpinning the methodologies used in terminology, the linguistic description of so-called specialised terms and linguistic combinations almost always proves to be the heart of the matter. This is indubitably the point at issue, but it is also the area of greatest proficiency for reflection on other theoretical approaches, or the space for the design of new analysis methodologies.

Aspects of semantics and morphology, in their various theoretical approaches to terminology science, are at the core of the descriptive dynamics of specialised languages and provide an essential contribution to the enrichment of terminology

in the countless interfaces that can be found in the link between language sciences and the different areas of knowledge.

This publication aims to gather scientific research articles, where distinctive perspectives on the description of terminologies in different fields of knowledge are explored both from a monolingual and a multilingual perspective. Priority has been given to the presentation of theoretical reflections and linguistic analyses with an impact on terminology, and to the presentation of methodological reflections that can ultimately lead to the description of terminological data (terms, collocations, phrases, definitions, contexts).

From the many articles that have been submitted, we selected those whose semantic and morphological analyses of terminological data contribute more significantly to a greater understanding of current linguistic and terminological phenomena aiming at lexical or conceptual organisation with a view to building specialised lexical resources or presenting contemporary phenomena in specialised languages.

Considering the different issues at stake, matters involving lexical semantics and specialised morphology have been privileged, leading to a reflection on the linguistic mechanisms underlying the creation of terms and specialised collocations and phrases, without losing sight of semantic neology, formal neology, or lexical creativity in terminology.

On the other hand, we have also included papers that provide a reflection on the exploration of specialised corpora with a view to the automatic processing of terminological data, as well as applications in the areas of teaching, the creation of linguistic and terminological resources for lexicographical, communicative or technical writing purposes, and even translation.

3 On issue 33/1 of the *Linha d'Água* journal

Following the studies that have long been developed at Universidade de São Paulo on neology in Brazilian Portuguese, **Lucimara Alves Costa** and **Ieda Maria Alves** present an article entitled '*A study of the term "fiscal" in the terminology of economics: training processes and conceptual information*', where they employ an analysis methodology

stemming from the occurrence of the term *fiscal* in a corpus of economics texts, aiming at identifying the most recurrent formation patterns based on this adjective.

With special emphasis on the semantic information conveyed by terms and their formation processes, their study highlights the methodological steps leading to a more thorough characterisation and better knowledge of the terminology employed in the field of Economics in Brazilian Portuguese. Among the phenomena observed, the use of conceptual metaphors stands out as a crucially important aspect, allowing for a reflection on the understanding of new linguistic facts and the structuring processes that underlie scientific reasoning.

Processing computer terms in a bilingual Portuguese/Arabic perspective, with the purpose of creating a bilingual dictionary aimed at university students and translation professionals, is the topic proposed by **Abdesslam Okab** in '*Semantic and morphological approach to computer terms in a bilingual European Portuguese – Standard Arabic dictionary*'. The author takes into account the morphological and semantic interfaces existing in the equivalences between both languages concerned in order to describe the process of accommodating terminological units in the field of computer science and establish the corresponding equivalents in Standard Arabic to the common computer terminology employed in the Portuguese of Portugal.

His conclusions show that the use of English loans is quite common in European Portuguese, while Standard Arabic has a tendency to 'arabize' those words, using semantic calques employing words from its own lexicon as it is a standardised language, whereas spontaneously spoken languages in Arab countries mostly use the English borrowings.

From another perspective, that of the didactics of translation, the paper written by **Christina Dechamps** entitled '*Data-driven learning, terms and terminological collocations: a challenge for legal translation training*' focuses on the importance of training translators in the correct use of terms and terminological collocations, based on an approach that was mostly inspired by the principles of *data-driven learning*. The author demonstrates the scientific and pedagogical advantages of this methodology in the acquisition of strategic skills essential for translators.

Based on a number of techniques that encourage the student's performance in his/her own teaching/learning process, as well as foster the development of

critical thinking skills, the process begins with a linguistic approach to the text, and proceeds until the final translation, particularly looking into the difficulties experienced by the student regarding specialised collocations and phrases that typically occur in specialised areas of knowledge.

With a different approach, focused on the automatic processing of language, **Chiara Barbero** and **Raquel Amaro**, in '*Exploring corpora for the extraction and description of specialised lexicon: for a solid and sustained methodology*', put forward a methodology for the extraction of specialised lexicon and lexical-semantic relations from corpora, making use of various linguistic information sources, such as morphosyntactic category, lexical-syntactic patterns, and textual organisation.

Their experiment was carried out in the context of the exploration of bilingual Portuguese/Italian corpora in the field of Public Art, with a view to extracting and describing specialised lexicon ensuring the quality of the description – they propose the widest possible automation and combine linguistic and statistical approaches albeit without compromising the quality of the linguistic analysis.

With **Daniel Marra**, in his paper entitled "*Cerrado and Vereda: designation, meaning and semantic change*", we enter the world of lexical creation processes and semantic theory from a diachronic perspective, focusing on metaphor and metonymy, around the analysis of the lexical units *Cerrado* and *Vereda*, words that designate respectively the second largest Brazilian biome and one of its subsystems.

The conclusions drawn show that the study of the 'history' of a word helps to perceive both the uniqueness of its morpho-phonological and semantic composition and its relationship with the object it names. Thus, this paper appropriately launches the discussion on the topic of semantic change, with emphasis on metaphor and metonymy, two phenomena that animate these processes.

Looking at lexical neology phenomena, **Rove Chishman**, **Aline Nardes dos Santos** and **Paola Martins** present an approach to the neologisms produced in the period of the elections held in Brazil in 2018 in a paper entitled '*The phenomenon of lexical neology in the 2018 elections.*' The aim of this paper is to present a methodology that is based on the principles of analysis established by the Observatório de Neologia do Português (ONP), the Portuguese neology observatory.

Neologisms were thus identified and submitted to morphological classification criteria by systematically looking at the creation processes employed. The results presented by the authors indicate that the creation of neologisms refer to the policy domain. This research identified around 73 neologisms, which improved the specialised lexicon of Brazilian Portuguese and now incorporate the Glossário Neopolitiquês, a glossary of new political terms – a resource built as a pedagogical activity carried out in the course of Fundamentals of Morphology.

For his part, **Juan Carlos Díaz Vásquez** offers a brief historical overview of the development of technical and scientific languages in his paper entitled '*Historical preamble to technical and scientific languages: emergence of terminology and international standards*'. The aim of this paper is to explain how languages constantly undergo transformations in line with the advancement of knowledge and the development of new techniques.

The author focuses on the factors that have caused paradigm shifts in the approach to technical and scientific languages, specifically highlighting how terminology science and terminological work have decisively contributed to these factors of change. An evidence of this is exactly the fact that contemporary terminology has emerged precisely as a response to industrial needs, forging its own path alongside applied linguistics and lexicology.

With the paper entitled '*Terminology: a tool for pedagogical innovation in the European higher education sector*', **Rosa Maria Fréjaville** makes a further significant contribution to the importance of terminology in specialised multilingual training in applied language teaching in the higher education sector (particularly in France). She studies the relationship between the terminological methodology and foreign language teaching, highlighting its relevance within the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Contextualising the relevant aspects of linguistic policies in the European Union, the author describes the role of terminology in higher education training and its significance for the harmonisation and internationalisation of European universities. She shows that this new paradigm implies a shift in both the teachers' and the students' perspectives, as well as the use of strategies to develop a 'meta-memory' with the support of the terminological methodology.

Terminology is, as it is clearly shown here, a field that offers different theoretical approaches and different working methodologies depending on the purpose of the study and the audiences to which it is addressed.

Aspects of morphological description and aspects of semantic description have always underlain the observation of denominative dynamics and lexical creativity in specialised languages in general and in terminology in particular; hence the importance of promoting this field of research that provides so many essential insights for lexicologists and terminologists alike.

Terminology allows for a more focused look at the description of the lexical unit in specialised contexts, assessing its morphological composition and its semantic evolution. It enables us to envision the term as a unit that conveys a concept by means of designating it. And it also enables us to take into consideration the analysis of larger morphosemantic structures, such as terminological collocations or phrases.

We therefore consider that the scientific value of the research proposals and results presented in this issue makes a valuable contribution to knowledge aptly illustrating the multiple interfaces that terminology science promotes in the intersection between language sciences and the different fields of knowledge.

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This journal counts on the work of the partners that make up its Editorial Board and *ad hoc* referees, and a body of Portuguese language top reviewers, all of

whom guarantee its high quality. It also counts on the translation proofreading work carried out by Professor Roseli Serra from the Catholic University of Pernambuco.

With this issue of the journal, the Editorial Board seeks the internationalisation of the journal, since we have received papers written by authors from several foreign universities, trying to meet the demands made by the University of São Paulo and the international agencies. The *Linha d'Água* journal has thus become an open space that gathers papers related to Portuguese language studies, linguistic-discursive studies and their relationship with teaching, maintaining a constant dialogue with the research developed in Brazil and abroad.

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