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Terminology work — Vocabulary

Travaux terminologiques — Vocabulaire

[Revision of first edition (ISO 1087-1:2000)]

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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ISO 1087 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and other language and content resources*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Principles of terminology*.

ISO 1087 cancels and replaces sections 1, 2, 3.1 and 3.2 of ISO 1087-1:2000, of which it constitutes a technical revision which is being developed in the TC37 termbase as the collaborative standards development tool. The term entries in the other sections of ISO 1087-1:2000, together with those in the withdrawn 1087-2:2000 will undergo technical revision as well, the result of which will amend to this ISO 1087 in the future.

This document consists of the introductory material to the standard and the following revised parts of terminology. Annex A is composed of the diagrams that illustrate the conceptual relations between the concepts in each of the three parts.

- *Language and reality (Annex A.2)*
- *Concepts and characteristics (Annex A.3)*
- *Concept systems (Annex A.4)*

NOTE Annex A of this ISO 1087 is for information only

Introduction

The main purpose of this ISO 1087 is to provide a systematic description of the concepts in the field of terminology and to clarify the use of the terms in this field. The compilation of this vocabulary provided a forum for analysing, discussing and coordinating key concepts concerning terminology found in ISO/TC 37 standards. This International Standard is addressed not only to standardizers and terminologists, but to anyone involved in terminology work, as well as to the terminology users.

The term entries in this International Standard are listed in a systematic order under a number of general headings. The concept diagrams in this revision of ISO 1087 can also be viewed online in the TC37 termbase.

It should be noted that the examples of terms are specific to the English language in the English version and to the French language in the French version.

Terminology work – the database approach

This new revision of ISO 1087 has been prepared in accordance with the terminological working method as described in ISO 704:2009. Hence the focus is on whole concept systems rather than on individual concept entries. This approach to the work is facilitated by the TC 37 termbase, where concept diagrams can be generated and edited.

This document contains the revision of the first three concept systems. As this part of the terminology is agreed, edited and balloted, other parts will be prepared for review.

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Terminology work — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This International Standard establishes a basic vocabulary for the theory and application of terminology work.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of terminology work, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 Language and reality

See concept diagram in Annex A2

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3.1.1

concept

unit of knowledge constituted by a unique combination of **necessary characteristics** (3.2.1)

NOTE 1 Concepts are not necessarily bound to particular languages. They are, however, influenced by the social or cultural background often leading to different categorizations.

NOTE 2 Knowledge can be on an individual or intersubjective level and addresses the thinking process as well as the knowledge level.

NOTE 3 position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1, A3 concept and characteristics --2, A4 concept system --1-1

3.1.2

superordinate concept

broader concept

< language and reality > **concept** (3.1.1) positioned hierarchically above a given **concept** (3.1.1)

NOTE 1 In thesauri, the expression *superordinate term* is used with a similar meaning.

NOTE 2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.1

3.1.3

generic concept

< language and reality > **superordinate concept** (3.1.2) in a **generic relation** (3.3.3)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.1.1

3.1.4

comprehensive concept

< language and reality > **superordinate concept** (3.1.2) in a **partitive relation** (3.3.5)

EXAMPLE In relation to 'pedal', 'bicycle' is a comprehensive concept.

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.1.2

3.1.5

subordinate concept

narrower concept

< language and reality > **concept** (3.1.1) positioned hierarchically below a given **concept** (3.1.1)

EXAMPLE The concept 'table' is a subordinate concept to 'furniture', the concept 'root' is a subordinate concept to 'tree'.

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.2

3.1.6

specific concept

< language and reality > **subordinate concept** (3.1.2) in a **generic relation** (3.3.3)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.2.1

3.1.7

partitive concept

< language and reality > **subordinate concept** (3.1.2) in a **partitive relation** (3.3.5)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.2.2

3.1.8

coordinate concept

< language and reality > **concept** (3.1.1) having the same nearest **superordinate concept** (3.1.2) and same **subdivision criterion** (3.2,8) as a given **concept** (3.1.1)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.3

3.1.9

general concept

< language and reality > **concept** (3.1.1) which corresponds to two or more **objects** (3.1.2) which form a group by reason of common properties

EXAMPLE 'planet', 'tower'.

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.4

3.1.10

individual concept

< language and reality > **concept** (3.1.1) which corresponds to only one **object** (3.1.11)

EXAMPLE 'Saturn', 'the Eiffel Tower'.

NOTE1 Individual concepts are usually represented by appellations.

NOTE2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --1.5

3.1.11

object

anything perceivable or conceivable

NOTE Objects may be material (e.g. an engine, a sheet of paper, a diamond), immaterial (e.g. conversion ratio, a project plan) or imagined (e.g. a unicorn).

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --2, A3 concept and characteristics --3-1

3.1.12

property

< language and reality > feature or quality of an **object** (3.1.11)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --3

3.1.13

characteristic

abstraction of a **property** (3.1.12) of one or more **objects** (3.1.11)

NOTE1 Characteristics are used for describing concepts.

NOTE2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --4, A3 concept and characteristics --1

3.1.14

designation

designator

< language and reality > representation of a **concept** (3.1.1) by a signifier which denotes it

NOTE 1 In terminology work three types of designations are distinguished: symbols, appellations and terms.

NOTE 2 The word *representation* has the general language dictionary meaning as defined in *Shorter OED* 5th: "1b the action or fact of exhibiting or producing in some visible image or form. 1c the fact of expressing or denoting by means of a figure or symbol".

NOTE3 position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --5

3.1.15

definition

< language and reality > descriptive representation of a **concept** (3.1.1) which serves to differentiate it from related **concepts** (3.1.1)

NOTE1 The representation is generally a descriptive statement, but can be an enumeration of objects or a non-lexical expression.

NOTE2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A2 language and reality --6

3.2 Concepts and characteristics

See concept diagram in Annex A3.

3.2.1

necessary characteristic

< concept and characteristics > **characteristic** (3.1.13) corresponding to a **property** (3.1.12) that is always true of each **object** (3.1.11) in the set of **objects** (3.1.11) examined

EXAMPLE A necessary characteristic for the concept 'woman' is "*being human*".

NOTE1 Related to 'necessary conditions' in logic.

NOTE2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --1.1

3.2.2

delimiting characteristic

< concept and characteristics > **necessary characteristic** (3.2.1) that distinguishes a **concept** (3.1.1) from related **concepts** (3.1.1)

EXAMPLE The delimiting characteristic "*support for the back*" may be used for distinguishing the concepts 'stool' and 'chair'.

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --1.1.1

3.2.3

essential characteristic

< concept and characteristics > **characteristic** (3.1.13) that is one of a set of **characteristics** (3.1.13) that are both necessary and sufficient to determine the **extension** (3.2.5) of a **concept** (3.1.1)

NOTE1 In keeping with set theory, it is possible to have a set containing just one characteristic.

NOTE2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --1.1.2+1.2.1

3.2.4

sufficient characteristic

< concept and characteristics > **characteristic** (3.1.13) that is one of a set of **characteristics** (3.1.13) that determine whether an **object** (3.1.11) belongs in the **extension** (3.2.5) of a **concept** (3.1.1)

NOTE 1 A sufficient characteristic is not necessarily true of all objects in the **extension** of the **concept**.

NOTE 2 Related to 'sufficient conditions' in logic.

NOTE3 position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --1.2

EXAMPLE Any object that has the properties corresponding to the characteristics "*having given birth*" and "*being human*" belong in the extension of the concept 'woman', but not all women have given birth. In this example, "*being human*" is also a necessary characteristic.

3.2.5

extension

< concept and characteristics > set that contains all the **objects** (3.1.11) to which a **concept** (3.1.1) corresponds

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --3

3.2.6

intension

< concept and characteristics > set of **necessary characteristics** (3.2.1) constituting a **concept** (3.1.1)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --4

3.2.7

type of characteristics

< concept and characteristics > category of **characteristics** (3.1.13) which serves as the **subdivision criterion** (3.2.8) when establishing **concept systems** (3.3.1)

EXAMPLE The type of characteristics "colour" embraces characteristics "*being red*", "*being blue*", "*being green*", etc. The type of characteristics "material" embraces characteristics "*made of wood*", "*made of metal*", etc.

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --5

3.2.8**subdivision criterion**

criterion of subdivision

< concept and characteristics > criterion according to which a **superordinate concept** (3.1.2) is divided into **subordinate concepts** (3.1.5)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A3 concept and characteristics --6

3.3 Concept systems

See concept diagram in Annex A4.

3.3.1**concept system**

system of concepts (Deprecated)

< concept system > set of **concepts** (3.1.1) structured according to the relations among them

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A4 concept system --1

3.3.2**concept relation**

< concept system > relation between two **concepts** (3.1.1)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A4 concept system --1-2

3.3.3**generic relation**

type relation

generalisation relation

genus-species relation

is-a relation

generic concept relation

logical relation

generic relationship

generic-specific relation

< concept system > hierarchical and ontological **concept relation** (3.3.2) which builds on a relation of inclusion between the **intensions** (3.2.6) of the two **concepts** (3.1.1), whereby the **intension** (3.2.6) of the **superordinate concept** (3.1.2) is included in the **intension** (3.2.6) of the **subordinate concept** (3.1.5)

NOTE1 The term *generic relation* may be misunderstood to mean 'any kind of relation' in certain contexts. In those contexts, *type relation* or *generalisation relation* may be used instead..

NOTE2 position in annexed concept diagrams: A4 concept system --1-2.1+4.1

3.3.4**ontological concept relation**

< concept system > **concept relation** (3.3.2) which builds on a relation between **objects** (3.1.11) in the **extensions** (3.2.5) of the two related **concepts** (3.1.1)

NOTE position in annexed concept diagrams: A4 concept system --1-2.2

3.3.5**associative relation**

pragmatic relation

associative concept relation

thematic relation

< concept system > **ontological concept relation** (3.3.4) which cannot be represented in a hierarchical way in **concept diagrams** (3.3.11)

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