

Call for Papers

Special Issue of Terminology: 2011: 17(1)

The Dynamics of Terms in Specialized Communication. An interdisciplinary perspective

Introduction

It has been shown that knowing cannot be separated from context, experience, culture and language. Cognition is believed to be a dynamic and negotiable process in which the creative potential of language plays an important role. Recent work in cognitive sciences even questions the idea that conceptual knowledge can be stored and retrieved.

Several aspects of research concerning the dynamics of terms in specialized communication can be distinguished. Dynamics of terms in specialized communication is being studied synchronically e.g. within a particular corpus of texts (written within a more or less recent short time span) looking for e.g. small variations of terms or variations across different types of texts and discourse. From a diachronic perspective there is an interest in e.g. how the microscopic variations of terms in discourse affect the change of terminology over time or in the impact of metaphorical framing on term creation.

The question for this thematic issue is how the insights concerning the dynamics of cognition have an impact on the study of terminology and special language communication especially as observed in a multilingual and intercultural setting. Contributors to the special issue will be asked to explain how they approach the dynamic aspects of terminology and special language communication, giving a tentative answer to the following three questions:

- What position do the authors take towards the dynamics of cognition, the role of representation, embodied understanding, situatedness, cultural context?
- What kinds of research do they undertake concerning cognitive dynamics, special communication and terminology? What methodologies do they apply?
- What types of problems are encountered when studying terminology in a specific communicative setting (e.g. multilingual, intercultural, institutional,...)? How are these problems tackled?

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Topics of the issue

Contributions are expected to deal with new insights in the study of the dynamics of terms in a multilingual and intercultural setting and from an interdisciplinary perspective. Authors may want to deal with one or several of the following issues:

- **Dynamics of terms in knowledge development** within specific domains. What is the role of terminology in the evolution of a domain? How can this be studied? What are the latest research questions? What can be learned from several cognitive disciplines? What is the role of English in knowledge development as compared to other languages?
- **Dynamics of terms in specialized texts.** What methods have been developed for studying the dynamics of terms in texts in a unilingual and/or in a multilingual setting?
- **Dynamics of terms in intercultural communication.** How can the dynamics of terms in intercultural communicative contexts and in unilingual or multilingual settings be studied and described?
- **Dynamics of terms as a process in time.** What insights can a diachronic study of terms provide? How does the meaning of terms change over time? What dynamic patterns of meaning evolution can be studied in terms? What methodologies can be designed?
- **Dynamics of terms in computer tools and resources.** How can the evolution of terms be taken into account in current terminological resources (i.e., ontologies, terminological databases)? How can tools and resources cope with the dynamics of terms? Is a pro-active stance in dynamic terminology management feasible? What innovations can be expected in virtual environments?
- **Language policy and the dynamics of terms.** Is terminology development restrained or boosted by policy, or both?

Papers must clearly state one or several research questions and should discuss methodologies used to formulate answers to the questions. We are especially looking for papers illustrating how an interdisciplinary approach has yielded new or more profound understandings of the phenomenon of dynamics of terminology in specialised communication. Authors are encouraged to reflect on the added value their findings could have for translators, information scientists, communication specialists and knowledge engineers.

Submissions

Papers should be written in Word and comprise between 20-30 pages. More information on formatting requirements can be found on the John Benjamins website (<http://www.benjamins.com>). English is recommended but submissions in French, German or Spanish will be considered.

Please send submissions to Rita Temmerman (rita.temmerman@ehb.be) and Marc Van Campenhoudt (mvc@termisti.be).

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Important dates

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Acceptance/Reject notice: 9 September 2010

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