Hermenēus
Revista de traducción e interpretación

EDICIONES Universidad Valladolid

Pamela Faber and Marie-Claude L'Homme, *Theoretical Perspectives on Terminology. Explaining Terms, Concepts and Specialized Knowledge*, Amsterdam, John Benjamins Publishing, 2022, 590 pp.

Reseña de acceso abierto distribuida bajo una Licencia Creative Commons Atribución 4.0 Internacional (CC-BY 4.0). / Open access review under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC-BY 4.0).
DOI: https://doi.org/10.24197/5cfspm29

Professors Pamela Faber and Marie-Claude L'Homme, both of them renowned linguists, terminologists and teachers, have used their expertise to compile a volume that addresses a wide range of aspects of Terminology as a (not only) linguistic discipline that has been at the centre of their research interest for several decades. They brought together over twenty authors of different nationalities, backgrounds and affiliations to present the results of their research and applied projects in twenty-two chapters. The result is an indeed comprehensive overview of approaches, tendencies, requirements and challenges of modern Terminology.

The editors open the book with an introduction that presents its content, structure and objectives (pp. 1-12). As they explain, the twenty-two chapters divided in seven parts are organised semi-chronologically and semi-thematically. The two chapters contained in the first part (pp. 15-60), written by John Humbley and Danielle Candel, explore the principles and Eugen Wüster's General Theory of Terminology (GTT) and its (sometimes critical) reception. This part is a clear starting point, as Eugen Wüster's contributions laid the foundations of Terminology as an independent discipline in the early 20th century and were later developed and/or challenged by the new fields and branches of Terminology that have emerged mainly since the 1980s and 90s and whose principles are exposed in the following chapters of the volume.

Part two comprises five chapters whose main focus is organisation of terminological resources approached from a knowledge-based perspective (pp. 63-174). The authors generally draw upon the General Theory of Terminology, adding new points of view and also addressing several technical aspects of terminologists' work. Chapter 3 by Anita Nupponen explores a wide range of conceptual relations between terms and their typologies (pp. 63-86), while the next chapter by Sue Ellen Wright provides a detailed overview of terminological standards, resources and data collections and

different groups of their users (pp. 87-110). In Chapter 5, Ingrid Meyer explains the principles of knowledge-based concept management as opposed to the algorithm-based approach, presenting a Canadian project as an example (pp. 111-126). Chapter 6, by Lynne Bowker, points at the multidimensionality of terminology as a characteristic that is linked to its linguistic and cognitive dimension, providing again several examples of projects where a sufficiently flexible terminological approach has been put into practice (pp. 127-148). In the seventh chapter, Elena Montiel-Ponsoda revisits the relation between terminologies and ontologies, focusing on the aspects that lie at the intersection of these two disciplines and showing how they can benefit from each other (pp. 149-174).

The third part of the book introduces two approaches that developed because of certain dissatisfaction with the limitations imposed by the GTT – Socioterminology and Cultural Terminology (pp. 175-216). These approaches point at the fact that the relationship between terminology and language is bi-directional (i.e., terminology also develops the language that produces it) and examine how terms are used in discourse. In their contribution, Valérie Delavigne and François Gaudin explain that, unlike the GTT, Socioterminology favours description over prescription and pays attention to variation as a consistent part of language practices (pp. 177-196). This chapter also points at the convergence of Terminology with Corpus Linguistics. In the chapter on Cultural Terminology, Marcel Diki-Kidiri deals with appropriation of knowledge and know-how by a specific speaker community rooted in its culture (197-216). Revisiting the Saussurean theory of linguistic sign, the author explores the extent to which the relationship between sign and concept is culturally bound and the implications of this for denominative variation.

In Part 4 of the volume (pp. 217-259), Chapter 10 by Anne Condamines and Aurélie Picton introduces the origins, objectives and methodological approaches of Textual Terminology, which uses textual material to collect terms and study their variation taking into account the social and pragmatic aspects, with the aim to replace a conventional definition by a network of conceptual relationship (pp. 219-236). From the point of view of the methodology and tools used, the author emphasises the collaboration with research in Natural Language Processing, Knowledge Engineering and Artificial Intelligence. In Chapter 11 titled «Terminology and Lexical Semantics» (pp. 237-260), Marie-Claude L'Homme studies the linguistic behaviour of terms as integral parts of the lexicon of a language, a perspective which is not emphasised so much by knowledge-based approaches.

Part 5 of the book (pp. 261-328) starts with Chapter 12, written by Mojca Pecman and Natalie Kübler, who discuss the role of genre in the study and processing of terminology (pp. 263-290). Drawing upon the principles of corpus-based and textual approaches, the authors point at the importance of genre, register, discourse and domain when it comes to analysing the features of terms in contexts. In Chapter 13 (pp. 291-310), Elizabeth Marshman explores the use of knowledge patterns as one of the tools for detection, extraction and classification of conceptual and semantic relations in corpora, focusing specifically on the main benefits and challenges associated with this method. In Chapter 14 (pp. 311-328), Anne Bertels discusses the use of distributional semantic analysis of specialised corpora for terminological needs.

Part 6 (pp. 329-396) comprises three chapters that address different applications of cognitive linguistics in Terminology. In Chapter 15 (pp. 331-352), Rita Temmerman presents the concept of "units of understanding" as the point of departure in Sociocognitive Terminology, providing three case studies that illustrate its application in the study of terminology in different contexts. Chapter 16 (pp. 353-376) by Pamela Faber introduces the theoretical premises and the semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic microtheories underlying Frame-Based Terminology as another descriptive and text-driven approach to specialised knowledge representation, category organisation and description and analysis of the semantic and syntactic behaviour of terminological units. In Chapter 17 (pp. 377-396), José Manuel Ureña Gómez-Moreno and Francisco José Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez provide an overview of conceptual metaphor research with particular attention to specialised language.

The last part of the book (pp. 397-522) is not based on a specific methodological approach to study or processing of terminology but consists of five chapters that focus on variation and equivalence. Variation is investigated as an inherent characteristic of specialised communication and use of terminology, while equivalence and the various forms it can take is a key aspect of multilingual communication and creation of terminographic resources. In Chapter 18 (pp. 399-420), Judit Freixa studies the causes of variation as a natural and necessary characteristic of terminological units. After reviewing a number of studies investigating terminological variation in different fields, discourses and contexts, she proposes a typology of the principal causes – discursive, dialectal, functional, sociolinguistic and cognitive – that are further divided into subtypes. She concludes that variation as such can (and should) be studied from three points of view – by the types of formal change between the denominations, by the conceptual differences

between them and by the reason why the variants exist. In Chapter 19 (pp. 421-434), Pascaline Dury addresses specifically the diachronic aspects of term variation. She points to the fact that diachronic approach is quite recent in Terminology, also due to the lack of appropriate computer tools, among other things, and proposes practices and working methods that can be employed in corpus-based study of diachronic variation. Chapter 20 (pp. 435-456), written by Sabela Fernández-Silva, elaborates on the cognitive approaches to term variation that were outlined by Freixa in Chapter 18. On the basis of her own corpus-based study, she analyses the cognitive and communicative functions of term variation in research articles. In Chapter 21 (pp. 457-476), Kyo Kageura looks into terminological growth in relation to the terminology of a specific domain as a set or system and/or in relation to the conceptual system that it represents. In other words, he investigates the potential growth that terminology embodies in its structure at a given synchronic state, using different types of term formation as a point of departure. Chapter 22 (pp. 477-502) by Pilar León Araúz addresses the phenomenon of interlingual equivalence in terminology from different theoretical perspectives. Drawing on the concept of equivalence that has been largely investigated mainly in Translation Studies and on the previously suggested classifications of its degrees and types, she explains how equivalence can be established and treated in terminographic resources using corpus-based methods and knowledge patterns.

As shown by the overview of the chapters, the book succeeds in covering the key aspects, perspectives and methodological principles that constitute the complex field of Terminology and allows to perceive it in a broader context of linguistics and its developments over the time, pointing to the many intersections with other disciplines, such as Computer Science, Translation Studies, Corpus Linguistics, Lexicography, Natural Language Processing and other. The General Theory of Terminology laid the foundations of the discipline, accentuating certain aspects and requirements that were considered to be characteristic of specialised vocabularies, with a predominantly prescriptive approach. However, as new perspectives and methodological as well as technical tools have been emerging in linguistic studies in general, it turned out that they cannot be excluded from the investigation and compiling of specialised terminologies, which, at the same time, continue to have their peculiarities and specific issues to be addressed – such as standardisation, creation of ontologies, terminology management, the importance of cognitive function, relation to the organisation of knowledge, the role of terminology in specialised translation etc. Also, it is obvious, that specialised terms largely

behave and function as any other lexical units and have to be studied in context.

The volume is without doubt an exceptional asset for anyone who wishes to understand how concepts, terminological units and relationships between them are defined, processed and organised. Although, as suggested by the title, the main focus is on theoretical approaches, many of the issues are explained through practical examples and a wide range of terminographic resources are referenced, which makes the book accessible to a wide range of readers. It certainly provides input for further academic research and is an invaluable source of information for experts in lexicology and lexicography, translators, translator trainers and students, linguists involved in terminology creation and management and specialists in different fields. The book is well-organised and each of the chapters is written in a clear and comprehensible manner with enough references and cross-references that allow the readers to understand even less familiar topics. As the authors admit, despite the size of the volume and the scope of topics it covers, the field of Terminology continues to develop largely due to the new technological possibilities and tools available. That is why they envisage publication of a second volume, which would certainly be welcome by the community of intended readers.

VANDA OBDRŽÁLKOVÁ
Ústav translatologie, Univerzita Karlova /
Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University
vanda.obdrzalkova@ff.cuni.cz
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5238-5876