Terminology

Lesson 6

Creating a term record

Aim of a term record

- To record
  - Conceptual information
    - Characterising the concept
    - Relating it to other concepts in the same field
  - Linguistic information
    - Describing the word/group of words
    - Detailing ‘the company it keeps’
    - Giving equivalents in other languages

Who for ?

- Translators
- Technical writers
- Subject specialists
- Future specialists (students)
- Future terminologists…
  - within the same project
  - to be incorporated into a databank

The fields

- term (headword)
- language
- syntactic category
- definition
- technical note
  - source of the definition
- context
  - source of the context
- context
  - source of the context
- collocations
- equivalents
- isonyms
- remarks

headword

- Find the canonical form (citation form)
  - Lemmatisation:
    - Finding the **unmarked base form**
  - Multiword terms
    - Terminology: the order in which they occur
      - *vascular plant*

        Cf. lexicography

        - *plant, vascular*
        - Cf. **lumping** versus **splitting**

more on headwords

- Upper or lower case ?
  - Upper for proper nouns
- Banish plurals? Not completely!
  - Specific plural meaning
    - *checkers*
  - Not if only found in plural
    - *goods*

acronyms

- Avoid acronyms/initialisms as headwords
  - Full form = canonical form
  - Full form gives maximum information
  - Leave the acronym as a variant

- Use full forms, not short, abbreviated forms

syntactic category

- Indicate the **part of speech**
  - Noun
  - Adjective
  - Verb
  - Adverb
- For French, German, Spanish…
  - Indicate gender of nouns
    - Use the standardized abbreviation *n.f.*

example

- *vascular plant* n.
- *plante vasculaire* n.f.

  – i.e. multiple word terms behave as nouns, adjectives, etc.

definition

- See lesson 5…
- Start with the **context** (where it is found in a genuine text)**:**

“Plants with well-developed internal vein structures that promote the flow of water and nutrients…”

What changes must be made to craft a proper definition?

substitutability

- You must be able to use the definition in the place of the word defined.
- This means that if the word you are defining is a noun, you define with a noun phrase.
- Is this the case for the context ?

‘including word’
definiendum

- The generic / superordinate concept
  - *plant* : is this sufficient ?
  - To find this out, we need to see how the concept is integrated into its structure.
  - **Types de plante**
    - **...**
    - plantes terrestres
      - mousses
      - plantes vasculaires
        - prêles, fougères
        - plantes à graines
          - gymnospermes
          - plantes à fleurs

.

‘including word’

- According to this presentation, the including word would be
  - *terrestrial plant*

defining feature(s)

- To know whether we have the right defining features, we must know what we are distinguishing the term from.
  - i.e. its cohyponym(s)

    Not in text

    Educated guess ?

    non-vascular plant

    Google scholar : many titles such as

    *Occurrence of sucrose phosphatase in **vascular** and **non-vascular plants**.*

defining features 2

- ‘well-developed vein structure’
- **Compare with Wikipedia definitions of non-vascular plant, in English and French:**
  - **Non-vascular plants** is a general term for those plants without a vascular system (xylem and phloem). Although non-vascular plants lack these particular tissues, a number of non-vascular plants possess tissues specialized for internal transport of water.
  - Les **plantes non vasculaires** se définissaient, avant les dernières classifications, comme l'ensemble des plantes, y compris les algues vertes qui ne possédaient pas de vaisseaux conducteurs de sève brute ou élaborée (xylème ou phloème). Bien que ne possédant pas de tissus spécialisés pour les vaisseaux, un certain nombre de plantes non vasculaires possèdent des tissus chargés du transport interne de l'eau.

provisional definition

  - *a terrestrial plant with a well developed vein structure*
- ***non-vascular plant*** will therefore be defined as
  - *a terrestrial plant with no developed vein structure*

The definition simply distinguishes between the two cohyponyms.

An encyclopaedic note will be necessary to explain this difference and to characterize the concept more fully.

sources

- Terminology is based on documentation
- Documentation must be reliable and authorized
  - for scientific terminologies
    - academic publications
      - research articles
      - textbooks

- Note that sources should be quoted for
  - definition
  - context
  - technical note

Wikipedia

- excellent first-stop
  - compare entries in English, French, German…
- good for new technologies
- less valid for overall structure
  - in all cases, be wary, and check sources

technical note

- AKA encyclopaedic note
  - any information which is of use to understand the concept
    - depends on target audience

How the veins carry liquids

The function of veins in plants

New classifications of vascular/non vascular plants

context

Context

The part of a text or statement that surrounds a particular word and determines its meaning. A type of textual support on a terminology record that provides information about the semantic features of a concept or the use of a term.

Examples: defining context; explanatory context; associative context.

http://termiumplus.gc.ca/didacticiel_tutorial/english/glossary/context.html

- Attestation of a term in geniune use
- A recursive field
  - You should be able to add as many as you need.

Functions of context

Attest the real use of the term

Give additional information

Different sorts of contexts

- Defining context
  - Providing a definition
    - The example given here is close to a defining context
- Associative context
  - Providing information on related terms
- Explanatory context
  - Providing any other information on the concept
- Epilinguistic context
  - Providing opinions about the word
- Metalinguistic context
  - Providing information on the word

What sort of context?

- Mischler, et al. (1992)... The mosses alone are the sister group of the tracheophytes (the so-called vascular plants")…

- Allen(1998) Hydrophytes are defined as vascular plants growing wholly or partly in water,especially those perennial aquatic plants having overwintering buds under water **...**

- Rubrio, et al. (2001) A conserved MYB transcription factor involved in phosphate starvation signaling both in vascular plants and in unicellular algae, *Genes and Development*…

collocation

- *Vascular plant families*
- *Vascular plant species*
- *Vascular plant communities*
- *Vascular plant cells*
- *Vascular plant debris*
- *Vascular plant detritus*
- *Vascular plant litter*
- *Vascular plant tissues*
- *Vascular plant distribution*
- *Vascular plant systematics*

equivalents

- *plante vasculaire*
- *Gefäßpflanze*
- *planta vascular*
- *karplant*

etc

and…

Tracheobionta

isonyms

- To know the isonym
  - we need to know the hyperonym
- Tree diagramme – concept structure

duplicate

- Variants
  - Quasi synonyms
  - Synonyms
    - *Higher plant*

remarks

- linguistic note
  - accounts for variation
    - diachronic
      - variation through time

        talking machine – phonograph – gramophone – record-player – hi-fi set…
    - diastratic
      - variation according to social class or level of specialisation

        renal calculus – kidney stone
    - diatopic
      - variation according to place

        pavement – sidewalk - footpath

Analyse concept structures

- How are terms in a text related?
- How can we illustrate the relationship?

- Three main types of relationships
  - Generic-specific
  - Part-whole
  - Indirect

Generic-specific

hypernoym

hyponym hyponym hyponym

= cohyponyms, isonyms

Cf broader term

narrower term (thesauri)

Part-whole

holonym

meronym meronym meronym

Indirect

- All other relationships