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## DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT AND THE TERM

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**ABSTRACT:** The development of science and technology naturally gives rise to the emergence of new concepts and, accordingly, terms denoting them. With this regard, this article discusses the new words appearing in the linguistics, the differences between term and concept, their definitions and classification by various linguists.

**KEYWORDS:** Concept, term, the theory of term, a mental category, system of concepts, language for special purposes, vocabulary, word formation, word creation.

### INTRODUCTION

Currently, due to the rapid development of science and new technologies, the volume of specialized vocabulary continues to increase. As a result, new branches of knowledge arise or the conceptual apparatus of previous scientific disciplines is restructured. All this leads to the emergence of new terms and terminological systems. In such circumstances, modern terminologists continue to study not only the essence of a term and its properties, but also the process of the emergence of terms, their ordering, standardization and unification, which must be controlled in order to avoid misinterpretation and translation of terms. It is important to understand what constitutes the essence of a term, since “terms act as an object in a wide range of areas of theoretical and applied activity, each of which highlights the aspects it needs in the term”.

The problem of the definition and essence of the term has been studied by many famous native and foreign linguists, such as A.A. Reformatsky, V.V. Vinogradov, V.A. Tatarinov, O.S. Akhmanova, G.O. Vinokur, A.V. Superanskaya, N.V. Podolskaya, N.V. Vasilyeva, V.P. Danilenko, V.M. Leichik, S.V. Grinev-Grinevich, J.C. Sager and many others.

When referring to the anthology of V.A. Tatarinov’s “History of Russian terminology”, one can be convinced that the formation of the theory of the term, and, accordingly, the study of the essence of the term, was not an easy task [6; p.334]. Linguists have proposed different concepts of what a “term” is and views on essence of the term.

A large number of definitions of the term can be explained by the philosophical epistemological approach, according to which terms act as tools for codifying information contained in scientific and technical texts, to describe areas of knowledge and types of activity. In the process of codification, other means are used along with terms cognitions such as proper names, symbols, diagrams, etc. Taken together, terms and other means of cognition reflect concepts, categories and patterns of a certain field of knowledge in the current state and contribute to the discovery of new knowledge in certain areas.

In connection with the emergence and development of cognitive terminology, a definition of the term appeared “as a dynamic phenomenon that is born, formulated and deepened in the process of cognition, the transition from a concept - a mental category - to a verbalized concept associated with a particular theory, concept, understanding one or another area of knowledge and (or) activity” [4; p. 264]. Within the framework of this approach, the term is assigned an instrumental function, according to which it acts as a catalyst for “the process of forming an integral conceptual apparatus of a scientific discipline” [3; p. 458] and a tool for “involving new objects in the field of scientific analysis and launching term-creative processes.” This implies a logical connection between the term and the concept it denotes. Regardless of the approach to defining the term, such a connection is recognized by everyone who works with terms in theoretical and practical aspects.

In an attempt to summarize all theories of the definition of a term, the authors of the book “General Terminology: Issues of Theory” defined the following characteristic: “A term is a special word (or phrase) accepted in professional activity and used in special conditions. Term is a verbal designation of a concept included in the system of concepts of a certain area of professional knowledge. A term is the basic conceptual element of a language for special purposes. Within its terminological field, the term is unambiguous. Terms that sound the same in different fields are homonyms (wave in hydraulics, radio engineering, optics and in general vocabulary). For its correct understanding, the term requires a special definition (precise scientific definition).”

The development of science and technology naturally gives rise to the emergence of new concepts and, accordingly, terms denoting them. This process occurs in every language and is universal. Consequently, the replenishment of terminologies can occur in several directions.

Among the sources for replenishing terms are:

- Vocabulary of the native language after its appropriate selection and specialization;
- Borrowing foreign terms;
- Formation of a term using word-formation means of the native language, either in the course of natural term creation in the process of studying a certain branch of knowledge, or by tracing, borrowing a concept from a foreign language and creating one’s own term;
- Creation of a term from international term elements [5; p. 248].

Adaptation of special vocabulary in a language occurs in ways different from the processes of adaptation of commonly used vocabulary. However, not every word can be called a term. For example, the American linguist K. Sager believes that terms represent a functional class of lexical units, since the main tasks of terms are to clearly express important meanings and clearly distinguish a number of concepts used by a separate specialized field of knowledge [2; p. 258]. Some meanings of terms are characterized by greater clarity and narrower focus to suit the requirements of the science or field of activity for which they are intended. There may be situations when a word is perceived as a term by a non-specialist, but for a specialist it is just a commonly used term. And, conversely, specialists may use terms that will be considered commonly used by people ignorant of any field of knowledge. Linguists consider a term as a lexical unit that has a special function - to express special concepts, in which content and formal structures are distinguished.

A lexical unit that acts as a term has a nominative meaning - it directly names the special concept (class of objects) that corresponds to the term. According to the Dictionary of Terms Used in Terminology [1; p. 117], a term is a lexical unit consisting of one or more words that denotes a concept within one branch of knowledge. However, there are many cases where one lexical unit expresses several concepts. Moreover, they may refer to different terminologies. And, conversely, the same concept can be expressed using several terms.

When studying terms, a classification approach is often used. There are various classifications of terms based on various characteristics: content, formal, functional, intra- and extralinguistic. In accordance with the objectives of our study, it is proposed to classify terms into standardized (used exclusively in standards), non-standardized (used in legal, technical and other documents other than standards) and terms denoting economic concepts used in the electric power industry. There are three types of terminological work: streamlining (joint work of specialists in search of the most complete correspondence of the terms of the designated concepts), standardization (selection of one term for each concept and consolidation of it in special documents) and unification (correlation of scientific and technical concepts expressed by terms in different national languages).

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion a significant difference between a term and a commonly used word can be considered the fact that as soon as the definition changes in the course of the natural development of science, the scope of the concept or concept changes, and the term denoting it loses its meaning. Terms are not used in everyday speech, but serve as the most important means of professional communication. Terms should be devoid of various connotations characteristic of words in common vocabulary. The terms are given a single form and strict scientific definitions that are not associated with national and cultural associations among representatives of different nations or residents of different parts of the same country. A definition is a scientific definition of a concept designated by the corresponding term. In order to construct definitions, a systematic approach to the phenomena being termed is required.

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