



# Terminology studies as a science

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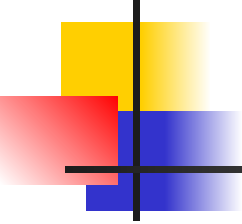
- 1930s Eugen Wüster, Dmitry Semenovich Lotte
- the last quarter of the 20th century on the basis of lexicology
- Reasons for emergence?
- V. V. Vinogradov: "the history of terminology is a story about regularities of development of knowledge about nature and society".



# Specialised lexicon

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- means of fixing history of development of a civilization and one of means of its formation - language and, first of all, special lexicon
- set of lexical units (first of all terms) special areas of knowledge and forming the special layer of lexicon which is giving in most easily to conscious regulation and streamlining



# “Language for Special Purposes” (LSP)

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- A “term” is generally understood to be a “lexical unit” belonging to a “Language for Special Purposes” (LSP). LSPs are, themselves, understood to constitute the language used in specific subject fields. Thus terms, and terminologies, are typically considered to be subject-field-specific lexical units, such as in the various fields of science, technology, humanities, commerce, and so forth.



# Словарь Д.Н. Ушакова

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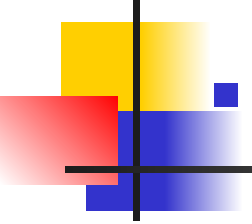
- **ТЕРМИН**, термина, м. (латин. terminus - предел, граница).
  1. В формальной логике - понятие, выраженное словом (филос.). Три термина силлогизма. 2. слово, являющееся названием строго определенного понятия. Точный, неточный термин. Удачный, неудачный термин. Новый термин. Философские термины. Технические термины. Специальные термины (обозначающие специальные понятия отдельных отраслей науки, искусства, техники, производств и т.д.). ...для масс надо писать без таких новых терминов, кои требуют особого объяснения... Ленин. Ё Специальное слово и выражение, принятое для обозначения чего-н. в той или иной среде, профессии. Термины карточных игр. Шахматные термины.



## Commentary to the definition provided by the Ushakov's dictionary

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- No distinction of terms, nomenclature designations and words and phraseological units from popular professional speech



“Historically, the first usage of ‘terminology’ is recorded as referring to a technical vocabulary, i.e. a collection of terms, which has a certain coherence by the fact that the terms belong to a single subject area. It is now also used somewhat more narrowly to refer to an internally consistent and coherent set of terms belonging to a single subject field, as identified as a result of a particular terminological activity, e.g. the compilation of systematic glossaries” (Sager 1990, p. 3).



# The word “terminology”

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- is inherently ambiguous – it can refer to an academic discipline (related to lexicology and linguistics)
- a profession occupied by a “terminologist”
- a set of theories and methodologies (such as the General Theory of Terminology = Terminology Studies)
- a set of terms, such as in “legal terminology” or “medical terminology.”



# Some facts

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- 90% of the new words appearing in the modern languages belongs to specialised lexicon
- the number of terms of separate sciences (chemistry, biology) can exceed number of non-specialised words of a language
- On the average each 25 years the number of sciences doubles
- Threat of "a terminological flood"





# Terminological word stock

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- probably the only area of language, where conscious intervention can be effective



# More facts

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- In the 1940s - 4 theses on terminology studies
- in the 1950th - 50 theses,
- in the 1960th – 231 theses,
- in the 1970th - 463 theses,
- the 1980th - about 1000 theses



# Branches

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- Theoretical :: practical
- General :: specialised
- Typological :: comparative
- Semasiological :: onomasiological
- functional
- historical
- cognitive \ gnoseological terminology,
- terminography
- Terminological text theory
- History of terminology

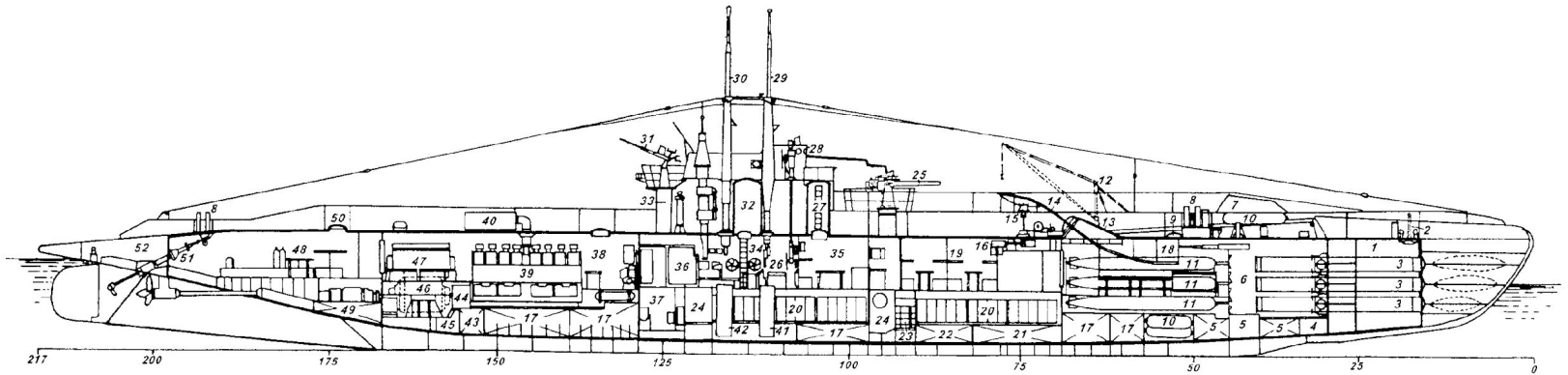
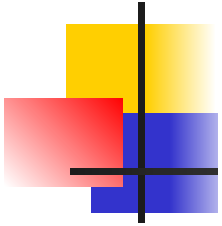
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- Streamlining of special lexicon provides mutual understanding of experts



# 'Good' and 'bad' terms

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- Robert Boyle: “the chemical analysis”
- Carl Linnaeus: laid the foundations for the modern biological naming scheme of binomial nomenclature
- M. V. Lomonosov: system of linguistic terms in Russian



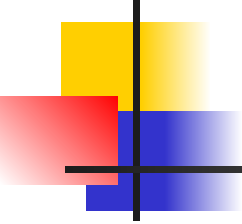
## 1960s the USA

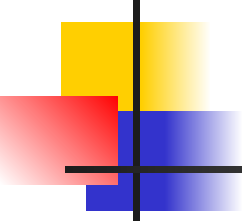
Streamlining of names of spare parts

9000 units => 2300 units

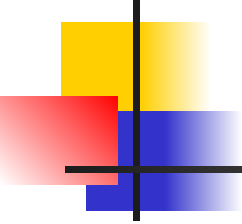
700 kg => 100 kg

4,6 m<sup>3</sup> => 0,85 m<sup>3</sup>

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- 1993 European Council:
  - specialty "terminologist" included into the list of the most perspective specialties of 21 century

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- Theoretical problems of terminology studies
  - Practical problems of terminology studies
  - Links to other sciences



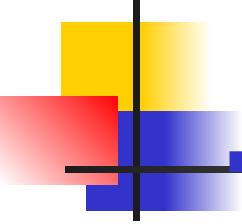


# The **objectives** of Terminology (as intended by Wüster, as formulated by Cabré)

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- To eliminate ambiguity from technical languages by means of standardization of terminology in order to make them efficient tools of communication.
- To convince all users of technical languages of the benefits of standardised terminology.
- To establish terminology as a discipline for all practical purposes and to give it the status of a science.

# Directions of terminological work

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- ~~Creating inventory of terms~~
  - Terminology streamlining:
    - - systematization of concepts
    - - analysis of terminological word stock
  - Normalization of terms:
    - - unification
    - - optimization
  - Codification (including standardization and recommendations)
  - Harmonization (for several languages)



# Wüster's Terminology

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- the classic view in terminology or the Vienna school.
- has been subjected to critique especially from linguists who stress that language should be perceived as a vehicle for communicating meaning by means of generalized symbols as lexemes that signify meaning by reference to culturally constrained concepts and ideas.



# Sociocognitive terminology as defined by Temmerman

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- is promoted as a reaction against the 'classic view' on Terminology.
- promotes a methodology for concept analysis that reflect how terminology is used within discourse communities, opposing the normative and functionalist role of classic terminology, that in its aim for standardization imply how terms should be used in order to ensure consistency and communicative economy.