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PART G

CANONS FOR WORK IN THE VERBAL PLANE

CHAPTER GA

INTRODUCTION

0 Terminology

Terminology is the system of Terms used to denote—that is, to name the classes or ranked isolates in a Scheme for Classification.

01 TWO GROUPS OF PERSONS

Two groups of persons are to be recognised in the discussion of Terminology.

1 Classificationists and the accredited revisers and editors of the Scheme for Classification; and

2 Classifiers applying the Scheme.

We shall have to research for the canons to be observed by these two groups in regard to Terminology—that is,

1 Canons to be observed in the design and construction of the schedule; and

2 Canons to be observed in interpreting the Terms in the schedule while using them in the process of classifying.

The Classificationist can practise economy in the terms used in the schedules and thus satisfy the Law of Parsimony and the Classifier can avoid errors, if the Canons are observed.

1 Vagueness in the Meaning of Ordinary Words

We humans pride ourselves on our possession of articulate speech—that is, language—denied to other creatures. Yet many of our ills—social, legal, economic, political, and even domestic—are traceable to the imperfection and vagueness of language. The language of our conversation is notoriously vague. The language of even carefully prepared documents lends itself to several interpretations; and it hides or confuses the original intention to such an extent that society is forced to maintain the costly profession of advocates. It has to divert to this profession—by the lure of disproportionate emoluments—some of the best brains which should be used in substantial and creative work more beneficial to society. The language of even technical treatises is not always very much better, though there is a world-trend to improve them. Everybody is familiar with the difficulty of deciding whether

1 A certain micro-organism is a “plant” or an “animal”;

2 A given society is or is not a “democracy”; and

3 A certain claim or action is a duty or a right.

Such words are vague, because their meaning shades off imperceptibly into the meanings of other words.

11 REASON 1 FOR A STANDARD TECHNICAL GLOSSARY

Vagueness of ordinary words is one of the reasons why a Glossary of Standard Technical Terms, free from vagueness, must be established for each subject-field.

2 Creation of New Terms

There is a second difficulty. New words are coined to express new ideas and even old ideas. Here are some examples.

1 Laser.— Light amplification simulated by emission of radiation—first discovered in 1960 by T H Maiman.

2 Gnotobetes. A sterile culture of mammals. (First appeared in *Persp biol and med.* V 1; 1958; p. 447-56).

3 'Physics' in the place of 'Natural Philosophy' (early in the twentieth century); consequently, 'Natural Philosopher' stepped out in favour of 'Physicist'. He cannot be called Physician on the analogy of Mathematician, as that term had been already appropriated by the Medical profession.

The publication of the sumptuous supplementary volume of the *New English dictionary* [92] is a proof of this phenomenon as far as a single language is concerned. This volume (which gives about 26,000 new entries) and the original volumes (which have about 500,000 words) together demonstrate also the changes that have taken place in the meaning of terms with the progress of time, with nobody in particular shouldering the responsibility for such changes. Some of these changes are such that it looks as if new terms had been created.

21 REASON 2 FOR A STANDARD TECHNICAL GLOSSARY

Creation of new terms is one of the reasons why a Glossary of Standard Technical Terms must be established for each subject-field.

3 Incidence of Homonym

There is a third difficulty. One and the same term is often used with two or more meanings. Such a term is a Homonym. Etymologists may find justification for the phenomenon of one word having many meanings; they may even enjoy the semasiological pleasure given by it. But it is a source of trouble to most others. For, as a result, thought gets derailed along unintended lines leading to puzzles or at any rate waste of energy in retracing the steps and making the thought go along right lines.

31 EXAMPLE 1

Classification.—See Chap CP for the five meanings of this word.

32 EXAMPLE 2

Order (used as Noun) has the following meanings.—

- 1 A body or society of persons united by some common rule of obligation or honorary distinction.
 - 1a A monastic brotherhood or society.
 - 1b One of certain knightly fraternities bound by a dispute both religious and military, as that of the knights of the Round Table.
- 2 According to medieval angelology, any of the nine grades of angels; also any similar class of beings.
- 3 A rank or a class in society; a group or division of men in the same position.
 - 4a *Archaic*. A rank, row, or series.
 - 4b Degree or grade in series; class, as order of five per cent.
- 5 Temporal or spatial arrangement of things; course of occurrence, especially in sequence or succession.
- 6 Regular arrangement, any methodical or established succession, or harmonious relation method; system as of material things like the books in a library.
- 7 Customary mode of procedure; established usage or method.
- 8 Conformity to law or decorum; freedom from disturbances; rule of law or proper authority.
- 9 Condition in general; normal state.
- 10 The prevailing mode of a period, as in letters or manners.
- 11 Short form for 'Order of the day'.
- 12 Action suited to a particular end.
- 13 Rule or regulation by a competent authority, also a command, mandate, precept; direction.
- 14 A direction or pass to admit to a building, a place of entertainment or like.
- 15 An amount ordered as a purchase.
- 16 Putting or keeping in order; regulation, control, observation.
- 17 In Agriculture.—In curing tobacco, a condition of the leaf in which it contains sufficient moisture to be pliable and handled readily without breaking.
- 18 In Architecture.
 - 18a Style of building; and
 - 18b Classical Architecture.—A type of column, and entablature.
- 19 In Biology.—A category of classification ranking above the family and below the class.
- 20 In Commerce.—

20a The direction by which the payee or holder of negotiable paper prescribes to whom payment shall be made; and

20b A commission to purchase, sell, or supply goods.

21 In Ecclesiastic.—

21a Any of the several grades or ranks of the Christian Ministry;

21b The office, position, or status of a person in the Christian Ministry;

21c The conferment of such office; and

21d A prescribed form of service, as for a rite.

22 In Law.—In its wildest sense, any command or direction of a court.

23 In Mathematics.

23a Degree; thus, the order of a curve or surface is the same as the degree of its equation;

23b Of a determinant, the number of its columns; and

23c Arrangement, as the elements of an aggregate.

24 In Military Science.—Position of order, arms.

Note 1.—Besides these, there are also meanings of the term 'Order' when used as verb.

Note 2.—All along, my suggestion has been that in the Theory and Practice of Classification, the term 'Order' should be reserved to denote only the degree of remove of an Array or a Class from the Original Universe; in the case of a Class, this indicates its position in its Chain in relation to the Original Universe (*See Chap CE*).

Note 3.—In particular, the term 'Order' should not be used to denote the position of a Class within its Array or in a Linear Arrangement of all the Classes. To denote this idea without being involved in a homonym, the term 'Sequence' is being used by me. This is recommended.

33 EXAMPLE 3

Subject (used as Noun)

1 One who is placed under the authority, dominion, control, or influence of something else.

2 One who is a subject to a monarch or a ruler and is governed by his law.

3 Basis for action; reason; cause; motive.

4 One who or that which is subjected to any operation or process.

5 That concerning which anything is said or done; the thing or person treated of matter; theme; topic.

6 An organised body of knowledge, as Chemistry, Algebra, or Botany, forming a study.

7 In Fine Arts.—That which it is the aim of the artist to represent, as an incident; scene; figure; group etc.

8 In Grammar.—The word or word-group denoting that of which anything is affirmed or predicated.

9 In Horticulture.—A plant suitable for a definite site or effect.

10 In Logic.—That term of a proposition which denotes what the proposition is about.

11 In Music.—The principle theme or melody phrase on which a composition or a movement is based.

12 In Philosophy.—

12a That of which a quality, attribute, or relation may be affirmed or in which it may inhere; and

12b Hence, substance; substratum; especially, substantive reality.

Note. Besides these, there are also meanings of the term 'Subject' when used as an adjective or as a verb.

34 CAUSE FOR HOMONYMS

Homonyms are due to the number of idea-units to be denoted being greater than the number of words available in a language to denote them. A compromise will be to avoid homonyms within a single subject-field, though the same words may be used with other meanings in other subject-fields.

35 REASON 3 FOR STANDARD TECHNICAL GLOSSARY

Creation of Homonym is one of the reasons why a Glossary of Standard Technical Terms must be established for each subject-field.

4 Incidence of Synonyms

A natural language abounds in synonyms—that is, different words denote one and the same idea. It will be a help if one and the same word is used to denote that idea in all contexts.

40 TRACE ELEMENT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SYNONYMS

Quite often it happens that two words, superficially appearing as synonyms, have a trace of difference in meaning. This trace element is of great significance. This is often ignored in popular usage. This is a source of great danger in the communication of ideas. A first-rate poet is extremely sensitive to this. The epic poem *Ramayana* by Valmiki abounds in evidence of such sensitiveness and of the use of the correct member of the class of the so called synonyms to fit in exactly with the context. (*See also* Sec MB13). Homer and Shakespeare are also adepts in distinguishing between so-called synonyms and never treating them as true synonyms.

41 EXAMPLE 1

Webster's *Dictionary* mentions 'Order' and 'System' as synonyms. But the under-mentioned note added to it in the *Dictionary* itself brings out that they are not true synonyms. There is a trace element of difference in their meanings.

"'Order' is formal, or regular disposition, or arrangement. 'System' implies a definite, methodical, or logical order or plan". This trace element of difference is often missed by writings on classification. This obstructs communication.

42 EXAMPLE 2

Again, the terms 'Arrangement', 'Order', and 'Sequence' are often used as synonyms in writings on classification. I have been all along suggesting that the term 'Sequence' alone should be used. The reasons for this suggestion can be elaborated as much as in the case of the suggestion of the use of the term 'Order' (See also Note 3 in Sec GA32).

43 EXAMPLE 3

The terms 'Thorax' and 'Chest' are often taken as synonyms. But according to the *Concise Oxford dictionary*,

1 The term 'Thorax' denotes "(Ana, Zool) part of trunk between Neck and Abdomen or Tail".

2 The term 'Chest' denotes "Part of human or lower animal's body enclosed in ribs". [32].

44 EXAMPLE 4

The numerous entries of "See headings" found in the List of Subject-Headings, published by the Library of Congress [81] and the American Library Association [4], form a formidable list of examples of synonyms.

45 REASON 4 FOR STANDARD TECHNICAL GLOSSARY

Existence of synonyms in a language is one of the reasons why a Glossary of Standard Technical Terms must be established for each subject-field.

5 Organisation for Glossary of Standard Technical Terms

There should be an organised attempt to

- 1 Delimit the vagueness of words and eliminate ambiguity;
- 2 Establish an agreed Standard Terminology free from homonyms and synonyms for each subject-field; and
- 3 Lay down methodology to coin new terms, when new ideas come into being or an old term has to be replaced.

6 International Standards Organisation

The first proposal for an international organisation for standard glossary was mooted at a meeting of the Austrian Standards Institution in 1931. Dr Eugene Wuester was the prime mover. World War II delayed the realisation of this idea. In 1952, the proposal was again revived by Austria and Holland. This resulted in the establishment, in 1952 itself, of the international organisation ISO/TC 37 for the promotion of "Standard Glossaries". The work is of gigantic dimensions. It is said that Electrical Technology alone would require 50,000 technical terms to be established. The function of the international organisation will have to confine itself to the establishment of certain standard principles for the building of technical glossaries in the different languages of the world. This is being done. It is not easy to reconcile the conflicting qualities of the different languages. And yet, every attempt is being made to overcome this difficulty [6, 78].

7 National Standards Organisation

The production of the Standard Glossary for the diverse disciplines will have to be done only by the national organisations of the different countries. ISO/TC 37 is promoting this activity among the national standards organisations. Already about 30 countries have begun to take interest in this subject; and nearly 2,000 standard glossaries have been published. In India, ISI/EC:2 (the Documentation Sectional Committee of the Indian Standards Institution) has already produced two glossaries pertaining to Library Science [63, 64]. Further a set of Canons for Terminology was published in 1950 [148, 152]. These canons aim at reducing to a minimum the number of radicals for use in the Standard Glossaries in the different languages. If these canons are followed, the Standard Terminologies in the different languages may to a large extent become internationally intelligible.



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CHAPTER GB

CONTEXT

1 Canon of Context

The denotation of a term in a scheme for classification should be determined in the light of the different classes or ranked isolates of lower order (upper links) belonging to the same primary chain as the class or the ranked isolate denoted by the term in question.

2 Warning to Classifier

This Canon is necessitated by the fact that one and the same term denotes several different entities, in popular as well as in technical usage—that is, by the persistence of homonyms as between different subject-fields, even if homonyms are avoided within one and the same subject-field. It may be stated that this Canon is usually overlooked by beginners; and this leads to many absurd placings. The tutorial hours in my School of Library Science are usually rendered most enjoyable to the teacher as well as the taught on account of the fund of humour so amply provided by the neglect of this Canon by the beginners. The importance of this Canon has to be rubbed in repeatedly, in discussing class numbers in the tutorial hours.

3 Example

31 ACCIDENT

The term 'Accident' naturally occurs in Engineering, in Insurance, in Personnel Management, in Sociology, and in Law. If we have a book which has the term 'Accident' as the dominant catch-word in its title, we should not put it into any one of these classes at random. When fixing the class number of the book, we must see that the context in which the term is used in the book agrees with the context in which it is used in the schedule.

32 FOUNDATION

The term 'Foundation' occurs in "Analysis (Mathematical)", in "Buildings", and in "Knitting". But the denotation of the term is obviously different in these cases. We must be guided by the Canon of Context when placing a book whose title contains the focal word 'Foundation'.

33 MORPHOLOGY

The term 'Morphology' occurs in Biology, Botany, Zoology, Medicine, Crystallography, and Linguistics. One can easily imagine

the funny situation that will arise in a tutorial class when a "Text-book of Morphology" is classified by different freshmen differently.

4 Law of Parsimony in the Schedule

The classificationist should trust the classifier to be guided by the Canon of Context and himself abstain from violating the Law of Parsimony by repeating any or all of the upper links along with a lower link. Generally, CC respects the direction of the Law of Parsimony. But DC and UDC do not. They will do well in having more confidence in the classifiers using the Canon of Context on their part.

5 Example 1 of Violation

In the following table, column 3 gives the subject term used in DC Ed 17 (1965) or UDC Ed 3 (1961), as the case may be, against the class number in column 2. The terms in italics in column 3 should be omitted as it denotes the upper link as can be seen from the columns 4 and 5.

Lower Link			Upper Link	
SN	Class Number	Class Term in the Schedule	Class Number	Class Term in the Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
Decimal Classification				
1	368.384	Accident <i>insurance</i>	368	Insurance
2	537.6	<i>Electric</i> current	537	Electricity and Electronics
3	551.527 1	Solar <i>radiation</i>	551.527	Radiation
4	611	<i>Human</i> anatomy	610	Medical science
5	621.374 4	Current <i>measure-ment</i>	621.374	Measurement of electric quantities
6	624.15	Foundation <i>engineer-ing</i>	624	Civil engineering
Universal Decimal Classification				
7	368.41	<i>Insurance</i> against accidents	368	Insurance
8	535.2	<i>Light</i> radiation	535	Light
9	537.3	<i>Electric</i> current	537	Electricity
10	543	Analytical <i>chemistry</i>	540	Chemistry
11	551.465	Ocean <i>currents</i>	551.46	Oceanography
12	624.154	Pile <i>foundation</i>	624.15	Foundation

6 Example 2 of Violation

Ed 17 of DC (1965) improves upon Ed 16 (1958) in certain places in respecting the Canon of Context. The last three in the following table form an illustration. But in the second, Ed 17 continues to ignore the Canon.

SN	Class Number	Terms in	
		DC Ed 16 (1958)	DC Ed 17 (1965)
1	620	Engineering	Engineering
2	627	Hydraulic <i>Engineering</i>	Hydraulic <i>Engineering</i> and Construction Works
3	627.1	Inland waterway <i>Engineering</i>	Inland waterways
4	627.12	River and lake <i>Engineering</i>	Rivers
5	627.13	Canal <i>Engineering</i>	Canals

CHAPTER GC

ENUMERATION

1 Canon of Enumeration

The denotation of a term in a scheme for classification should be determined and should be left to be determined in the light of or through the sub-classes or ranked isolates (lower links) enumerated in the various chains having the class or ranked isolate, as the case may be, denoted by the term in question as their common link.

2 Warning to classifier

There is no agreement or uniformity in the denotation of terms as used by different persons and by different schemes. Nor is it possible to force any such uniformity by the fiat or the order of any government or academy. Hence, the only course open to the users of a scheme for classification is to find out the denotation of a term by a reference to each class or ranked isolate and the chains of sub-classes or ranked isolates shown in the scheme to be comprehended by it.

3 Arithmetic

The enumeration of the sub-classes of the class denoted by the term 'Arithmetic' shows that it comprehends only what is known as "Lower Arithmetic" in DC and LC. But "Higher Arithmetic", otherwise known as "Theory of Numbers" is also comprehended by the term 'Arithmetic' in CC. "Theory of Numbers" is not comprehended either in 'Arithmetic' or in 'Algebra' in SC; in fact it does not appear to occur anywhere in that scheme.

4 Geometry

41 DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

Till Ed 14 of DC (1942), according to the enumeration of the sub-classes of the class denoted by the term 'Geometry' included "Pure Geometry", "Infinitesimal Geometry", "Systems of Geometry", and "Analysis Situs". But it did not include "Descriptive Geometry" or "Analytical Geometry". But this was changed in Ed 16 (1958) by the insertion of the inclusive heading "513-516 Geometry" and in Ed 17 (1965) by the inclusive heading "513-516 Geometries". The latter ignores the convention that the term 'Geometries' stands for "Systems of Geometry" and not for "Geometry using different methods such as Analytical and Pure". In spite of this make-shift, there is no class number for "Geometry" as a whole.

42 COLON CLASSIFICATION

But in CC the term 'Geometry' is shown by enumeration to include all the above-mentioned divisions, except "Analysis Situs" which is shown under Analysis as "Foundation".

The enumeration in SC and LC agrees with that of CC.

5 Radiation

51 DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

In Ed 14 of DC (1942), the term-group 'Radiation Light Optics' given against the number 535 deviated from the accepted connotation of the term 'Radiation'. Thus it violated the Canon of Currency so much that but for the Canon of Enumeration a classifier would experience many pit-falls. For, only visible radiation was enumerated under it. Moreover, in the index, the number given for 'Ultraviolet ray' was 535.6. In the schedule this number represented "Colour". The irony is easily seen. Another radiation—X-Ray—is referred in the index to 537.53. In the schedule the term X-Ray does not occur. But the term against this number is "Induction Spark in rarified gases."

The first fault was rectified in Ed 16 (1958) by the retention of the term 'Optics' alone to denote the class under consideration. "Ultraviolet" was transferred to 535.844 under 535.84 Spectroscopy. But 'X-Ray' was continued under 537 Electricity.

In Ed 17 (1965), the name of the class denoted by the number 535 was changed to "Visible Light and Paraphotic Phenomena" and 'Ultraviolet' was brought under this class and given the number 535.014, under 535.01 Spectral regions. Infra-red was also brought under this class for the first time and given the number 535.012. But X-Ray is still continued under "537 Electricity".

52 COLON CLASSIFICATION AND SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION

On the contrary, the enumeration of the sub-classes of the class denoted by the terms 'Radiation' in CC and 'Light' in LC show that all the radiations mentioned above including X-Ray are comprehended by the respective terms. It may be remarked, as an aside, that the term 'Light' used by LC does not conform to the Canon of Currency. SC does not recognise so many rays. There is no enumeration of the different kinds of radiation under the class denoted by the term 'Light'. However, from the index entry one has to infer that the sub-class 'Light-Rays' of 'Light' includes also "X-Rays". But no mention of any other radiation is made, either in the enumeration or in the index.

6 Philosophy

In all the schemes, except CC, the enumeration of the sub-

classes of the class denoted by the term 'Philosophy' includes Psychology. In CC, on the contrary, Psychology is left out of the enumeration under the class Philosophy and is given a place co-ordinate with it.

7 Political Science

The enumeration of the sub-classes of the class denoted by the term 'Political Science' in CC excludes Constitutional History. It is provided a place under "History". This is also confirmed by the special rule V32.

8 Law

The enumeration of the sub-classes of the class denoted by the term 'Law' in Ed 17 of DC (1965) includes Constitutional Law. And the enumeration of the sub-classes of "Constitutional Law" includes "Constitutional History".

CHAPTER GD

CURRENCY

1 Canon of Currency

The term used to denote a class or a ranked isolate in a scheme for classification should be the one current among those specialising in the subject-field covered by the scheme.

2 Implications

This Canon has the following two implications:—

1 The terms chosen at the time of the design of a scheme for classification should accord with their current usage; and

2 Obsolete ones should be changed later into current ones, as and when the need arises.

3 Impact on Schedule

To meet the second implication of the Canon of Currency the terms in the schedules of a scheme for classification should be constantly revised. It has been found from experience that the load of revision is frequent and great, if a scheme for classification gives a single schedule for all subjects including Compound and Complex ones. The name of a compound subject, for example, is often a composite term; it may occasionally be replaced by a single word. In either case, the frequency for change of name is great. On the other hand, the frequency for change in the fundamental constituent terms going into the formation of the name of a compound subject is much more stable; and the frequency of change in them is small. Quite often these fundamental constituent terms are isolate terms. Therefore, the load of changing obsolete terms into current ones will be small in a scheme for classification consisting of a schedule of Basic Classes and of a number of schedules for the diverse kinds of Ranked Isolates.

4 Impact on Catalogue

As a secondary means of meeting the second implication of the Canon of Currency, the Class Index Cards in the catalogue of a library should be constantly revised. A note should be added in a card with an old obsolete term as heading in distinctive style showing the period of its currency. Also, a new card should be written for the current equivalent heading. This impact of the theory of classification on the theory of cataloguing has been set forth in the following terms: "One of the basic Canons of Classification is that the term used to denote a Class in the Schedule for

Classification should have a fixity of meaning. In deference to this Canon, individuals that have to do with the administration of libraries may use the same term with the same meaning at all times. But there are forces, beyond the control of individuals, which change the meaning of terms in course of time. The vicissitudes in the meaning of terms like Philosophy, Philology, Anthropology, Sociology, and so on, are cases in point. Nobody in the world, much less the classifier or the cataloguer, can arrest this semasiological change and evolution of the words in human use. A library catalogue, being a permanent entity, has to take note of the changes in terms" [102].

5 Addition of New Entries

"Again, the need for addition of stray entries from time to time makes it imperative that the physical form of the catalogue should be such that any given entry can be removed, corrected, or replaced without disturbing the other entries. This would rule out the ledger form of the catalogue and makes Card Catalogue the form *par excellence*" [102].

6 Outmoded Cards

In a Classified Catalogue the Class Index Cards with the outmoded Headings should be retained for about a generation or two until they disappear from the memory of most of the readers. In a Dictionary Catalogue, a *See also* Subject Entry Card should be inserted in the place of the old Specific Subject Entry Cards.

7 Examples

Some examples for the replacement of the old obsolete terms by the new current ones are given in Sec GA2 of this book.

CHAPTER GE

RETICENCE

1 Canon of Reticence

The terms used to denote a class or a ranked isolate in a scheme for classification should not be critical—that is, express any opinion of the classificationist.

2 Humbugs

In its earlier edition, DC used the term 'Humbugs' to denote a class in Metapsychology. This is a privilege or rather a freak of genius. It can be tolerated only in Dewey, even as the Johnsonian definition of 'Oat' as "A grain which in England is generally given to horses but in Scotland supports the people" was tolerated in his famous lexicon. In Ed 16 (1958) 'Humbugs' became 'Charlatany'. This did not improve matters. Fortunately, Ed 17 of DC (1965) has replaced 'Humbugs' by "Frauds in Occultism". This has removed the old violation of the Canon of Reticence.

3 Minor Authors

Another term frequently occurring in the earlier editions of DC violating the Canon of Reticence is 'Minor'. The term 'Minor Authors' was found scattered over all the pages of the Literature schedule. How is it the province of a classificationist to adjudge men of letters as "Major" and "Minor"? Even among literary critics, opinion is divided. What is worse, the valuation changes from time to time. According to the famous gentleman whose name forms a part of the name of the Library of the University of Oxford, Shakespeare was worse than a minor author. His plays were thrown out. But a century or two later, the "Worse than 'Minor' author" had shot up in public estimation as the "Major most" author and the very library had to pay out fabulous sums of money to secure representative copies of the Quartos thrown out. The critical word 'Minor' could have been served by the colourless descriptive word 'Other'. From Ed 16 (1958) onwards, DC has bypassed this problem.



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