Universal Terminology

Vocabulary

The vocabulary is the raw material from which the terms of the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$ are built. The vocabulary is essentially language dependent and consequently must be specified again with any new language. However, the domain of the vocabulary is very precisely limited: the extension of the terminology strictly regulates the extension of the vocabulary. The gross anatomy domain is compatible with a vocabulary of approximately 2000 words, giving less than 5000 lexemes in each language.

It must be understood that the vocabulary is a distinctive feature of the terminology and consequently is directly responsible for its final quality. The selection of words must be carefully performed and to some extent, an inter language coordination is necessary for an international terminology.

Warning: This chapter is a preliminary version, to be extended at some later stage.

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6.1   The role of vocabulary

The vocabulary has been defined as a atom of the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$in *chapter 04*. In other words, the vocabulary is a basic unit of knowledge in this domain. What is a tuberosity or a glomus? Even the best expert in anatomy, who certainly has an excellent idea of what it means, will not be sure that his understanding is shared by the authors of the terminology. The need for a common ground onto which the terminology is developed is evident. Explicitness, as well as an easy access to definitions, should be the rule.

This is to say that the vocabulary aspects of the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$are as important as the anatomical terms and the notion of lists. There is a need for vocabulary entities defining the words and their lexemes. Such entities will be specified in the taxonomy of the domain as non physical entities. They will be specified through their own hierarchy, from general to particular. They will receive definitions in the relative scope of the domain of anatomy, this means that we do not have to consider a too large scope like ordinary lexicons, making our task considerably simpler and consequently more precise.

As a general statement, any word may potentially receive three lexemes for its expression: a noun, an adjective and a prefix. The use of a lexeme or another is a matter of tradition, usage and grammar, but whatever is the final choice, the word remains the same. And it is theoretically the vehicle of the same meaning in all languages. Of course, knowing about the versatility of modern language and their usage, ambiguities and approximations are possible. The authors of the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$are responsible for the choice of words and they have to face the heavy weight of tradition and usage between modern languages that are not necessary compatible with the expected precision of a modern terminology.

When developing the vocabulary of the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$in a multilingual environment, we have gained a considerable knowledge about the variations of meanings attached to the vocabulary. It is important to check that corresponding words share the same meaning in all languages. It is also important to try to use the same word in all languages when possible.

6.2   Log of updates

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6.3   Credentials

This document is part of the book "Universal Terminology" accompanying the website on Terminologia Anatomica, sponsored by the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. It expresses the vision of the authors of the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$ about the foundations of the science of ontology, supporting the here presented terminology. Despite it is as exact as possible, close to the reality of the database of the terminology and the surrounding software, approximations, errors and ambiguities are possible and should be considered as independent of their willingness and intents.

Identified comments about the content of this document and the website and its presentation are welcome. An appropriate answer will be given when pertinent.

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