

Acknowledgments

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Terminology: Theory, methods and applications

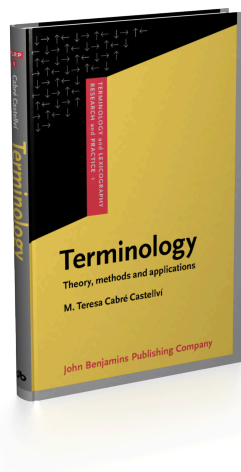
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Acknowledgements

This book was first published in Catalan in 1992. I devoted three years to writing it after having being the head of the Catalan Centre of Terminology (TERMCAT). At that time, the theoretical understanding that I had assumed of terminology did not question the universality of the principles that had been established by the GTT, although in its applied side it introduced social elements. The latter are essential to account for the needs that terminology has when standardising the use of a minority language, such as Catalan, which is spoken within a technologically-developed society. A few years later, I realised that the theory that I had assumed until then and the practice I had developed were somehow contradictory and that these contradictions would not be overcome solely with a social-based terminology. The major contradictions had to do necessarily with the very understanding of the discipline, its delimitation, the description of its subject of study and its general aims. The universal validity of the premises established by the classical theory, which are indebted to the historical and scientific context when they were formulated, was thus questioned; but questioning them did not mean that their appropriateness for particular applications, subject areas and goals be denied. This book, however, does not cover the new formulation which was very vaguely insinuated in 1992 and has been progressively taking shape in the works I have published since then. Fortunately, several specialists from all over the world have agreed on this position, although we still cannot count on a totally integrated theory, which accounts for terms conceived as units that represent and transfer specialised knowledge and also for their integration into the specialists' competence and their use in different registers of specialised communication and different scientific and cultural contexts.

The English version of this book would not have been possible without the contribution made by several people who I would like to name explicitly.

I would like to thank J. C. Sager for the friendship he has shown me in his revision of the English version of the book but, above all, I want to thank him for everything I have learned from him. Without this knowledge, I would not have thought about terms in the same way.

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M. Teresa Cabré