

### **Scientific and functional aspects**

Throughout the last fifteen years, and in spite of often differing ideologies concerning a substantial number of the guiding principles of terminology, agreement has been reached. The fact remains, however, that in every country, the objectives and the working methods of terminology are subject to a wide range of factors, such as the country's political, socioeconomic and linguistic situation. Rondeau & Sager (1986)

Not all experts agree that terminology constitutes a separate discipline, nor do all consider it a theoretical subject. For some, terminology is a practice dealing with social needs that are often related to political and/or commercial ends. In the opinion of others, terminology is a true scientific discipline that owes much to the other subject fields from which it borrows fundamental concepts; but it is, nevertheless, considered a separate discipline in the sense that it has reformulated and synthesized the original foundations so that it could build its own field. There are many intermediate positions which, although recognizing that terminology contains some original theoretical aspects, only conceive of it within the framework of other, more consolidated disciplines.

In the 18th- and 19th-century, scholars were alarmed by the proliferation of terms and were most worried about the diversity of forms and the relationships between forms and concepts. They were not concerned with the nature of concepts nor the foundations for creating new terms. Theoretical concerns about the nature of terms arose later when terminological work began to be organized in some special fields as a result of practice.

We can thus say that terminological theory arose and is even today developed through practical experience that is, in its turn, motivated by the need to provide solutions to language-based problems in communication.