The integration of terminological diversity – a terminology resource of German grammar

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In linguistics the appropriate use of terminology is anything but trivial (Ziem & Neumann, to appear 2019). Scholars from different backgrounds may refer to the same concept by means of different terms or may even operate with different concept structures. This diversity and sometimes even inconsistency poses massive challenges for learning environments like the grammatical online information system *grammis* (https://grammis.ids-mannheim.de), where easy access to information for user groups with varying backgrounds is a priority.

We present the terminological database of *grammis* and how it deals with terminological diversity. The resource serves as *grammis*’ knowledge organization system (KOS; Mazzocchi 2017) and is used, among other things, for information retrieval (IR). After an extensive methodological revision (cf. Suchowolec et al. 2017), the core of the terminological resource is a comprehensive concept structure consisting of approx. 1,700 concepts of German grammar which are interconnected by hierarchical (generic and partitive) and non-hierarchical relations. The resource’s data model allows for various attributes being assigned to each concept. These include (theory-specific) terms for synonymy management and a label to mark concepts as pertaining to a particular school of thought or a particular linguistic subdomain. Also, our resource is designed to be descriptive on the concept level allowing for parallel concept structures (e.g., different views on the basic functional components of a sentence).

The resource’s descriptive design, the inclusion of parallel concept structures and the disambiguation mechanisms in place enable the integration of terminological diversity in one system – both on term and concept level. The result is a versatile terminology management system with varied applications. *Grammis*’ users benefit from the integration of terminological diversity as it enhances IR by offering multiple search pathways. On term level, a search for *Tun-Wort* leads to the same results as a search for *Verb*. On concept level, the inclusion of parallel concept structures allows users that are familiar only with the concept *Satzglied* to discover the similar but not identical concept *primäre Komponente* (Zifonun et al. 1997). The ability to specifically access all concepts that pertain to a certain theoretical background opens up applications that go beyond IR (for example, the terminological infrastructure is currently used for an upcoming online publication on grammatical terminology in school education).