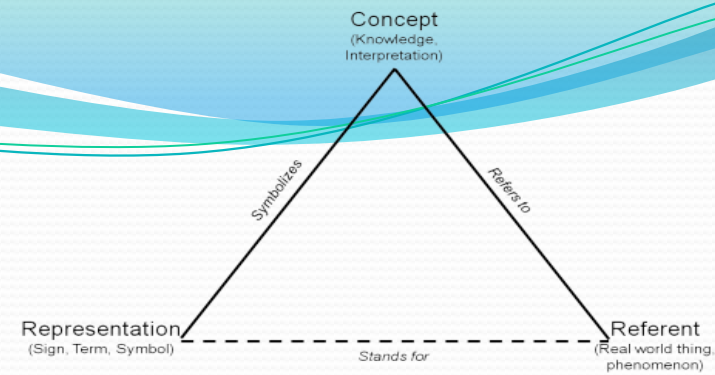


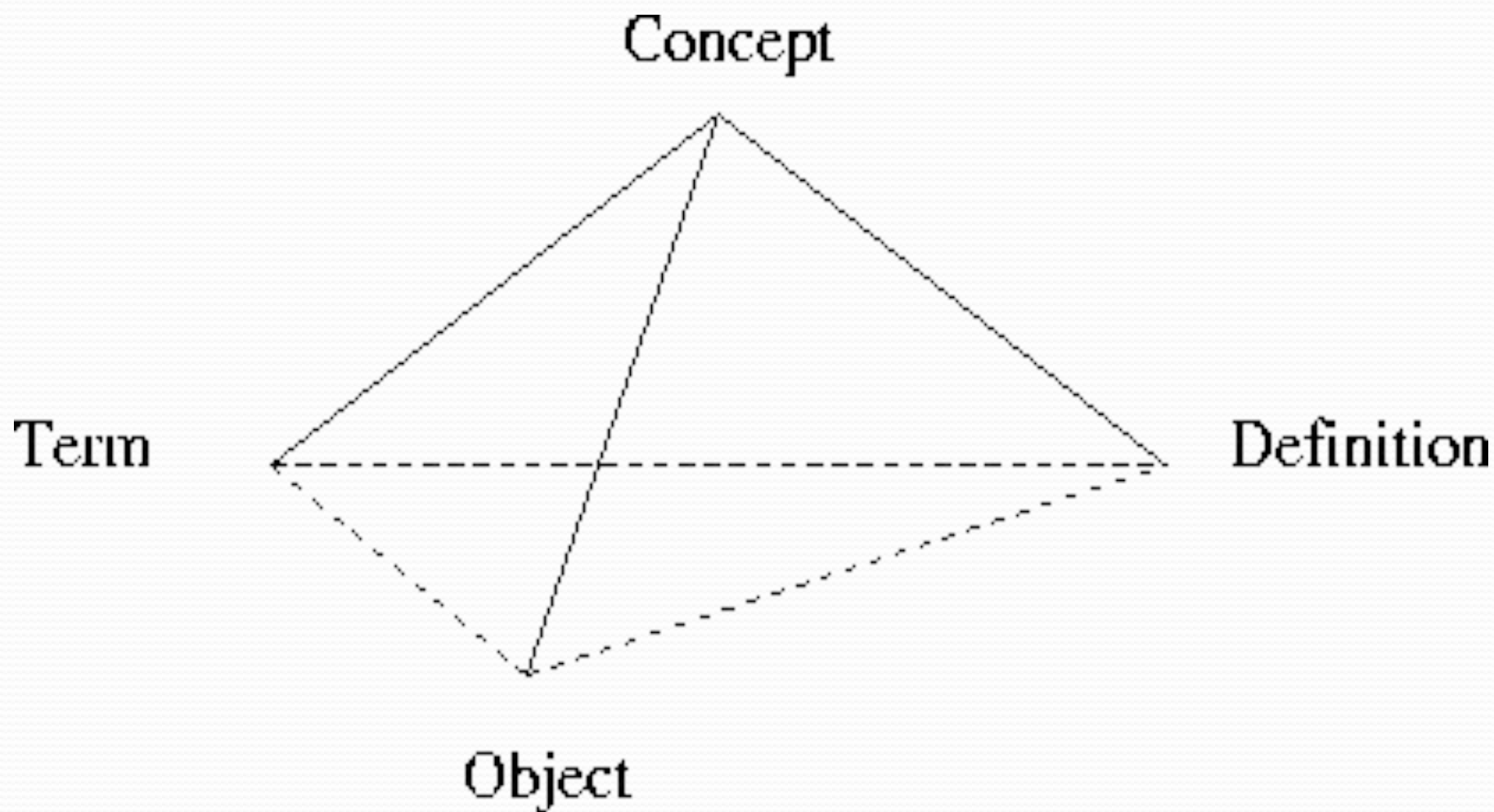
Definitions in Terminology



- **Concepts** as cognitive entities. Thought, knowledge, and communication.
- **Terms** as communicative entities: simple and complex terms, abbreviations, formulas, symbols.
- **Definitions** as linguistic entities.

The terminologists' additional dimension to the semiotic triangle

the dimension of definition resulting in the four intersections *concept*, *object*, *term* and *definition*.



Representation of Concepts


A concept can be represented in dictionaries either by a **definition** or by an **illustration**.

- **Illustrations** are iconic units that reproduce the idea that individuals have of a certain class of objects in the real world.
- **Definitions** are linguistic formulae that are aimed at describing the concept.

There are three types of definition:

- Linguistic definitions
- Ontological definitions
- Terminological definitions

Each type of definition refers to the same reality seen from different perspective. The object of (1) – linguistic sign, of (2) – real world, of (3) – concept of a special subject field.



In the dictionaries we usually see a mixed process somewhere between a linguistic and a terminological definition to define terms.

Definition of Terminological Definition

A terminological definition is a descriptive statement that gives the essential characteristics of a concept as well as characteristics that distinguish the concept from all others.

Terminological definition

Its purpose is to provide a clear **understanding** of what a given concept is, specific to a given **subject field**, and to **position** the concept being defined within its **concept system**.

A good terminological definition responds to the need of subject specialists for identification of a new process, as well as to the need of translators for finding the equivalence of a term.

A number of principles must be followed when defining a term:

- **predictability** - *concept system*
- **simplicity** - concise, clear
- **affirmativeness** - what the concept is
- **noncircularity** - not back to the concept in question
- **absence of *tautology*** - *not a paraphrase of the term, but rather a description of the semantic features of the concept.*

Types of Definition

- intensional definition - brings together ALL the characteristics required for describing a concept;
- extensional definition - enumerates ALL the specific objects that a concept represents;
- operational definition - provides a specific MEASUREMENT PROCESS whereby the concept is measured;
- theoretical definition;
- partitive definition;
- contextual definition etc.



The majority of definitions are
mixed definitions.

Recommendation of the so-called ideal terminological definition

A definition in terminology states the


- (1) genus proximum of the term to be defined and*
- (2) the characteristics that distinguish this definiendum from coordinates that share the same genus.*



**Definiendum = definiens (genus +
differentia)**

Term to be defined = the concept class of
category of the definiendum +
characteristics.

- *rubber* – **elastic substance** obtained
from the coagulated milky juice of
Hevea and Ficus species.



Definiendum	“Definitor”	Definiens	
		Genus	Distinguishing characteristics