

英漢對照

萬物圖解大詞典

Visual Dictionary

Jean-Claude Corbeil

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE DICTIONARY

Initially, we set ourselves two goals:

- a) List all the terms and notions which designate or portray the many elements of everyday life in an industrial, post-industrial or developing society, and which one needs to know to buy an object, discuss a repair, read a book or a newspaper, etc.
- b) Visualize them through graphic representation; i.e., assign to an illustration the role played by the written definition in a conventional dictionary.

The latter implies a constraint: The selected notions must lend themselves to graphic representation. Hence, the list must omit abstract words, adjectives, verbs and adverbs, even though they are part of the specialized vocabulary. Terminologists have not yet adequately solved this problem.

Following a series of tests and consultations, technical graphics were deemed the best form of visual presentation because they stress the essential features of a notion and leave out the accessories, like the fashion details of clothing. The resulting illustration gains in conceptual clarity what it loses in detail and provides a better definition.

To achieve our goals, we assembled two production teams, one of terminologists and another of graphic artists, who worked together under one scientific supervisor.

THE INTENDED USER

The VISUAL DICTIONARY is meant for the active member of the modern industrial society who needs to be acquainted with a wide range of technical terms from many assorted areas, but not to be specialist in any.

The profile of the typical user guided our selection of items in every category. We included what may be of use to everybody and deliberately left out what is in the exclusive realm of the specialist.

Varying levels of specialization will be noted from one category to another, however, depending on one's degree of familiarity with a subject or the very constraints of specialization. Thus, the vocabulary of clothing or electricity is more familiar to us than that of nuclear energy. Or again, to describe the human anatomy, one is confined to medical terminology but to describe the structure of a fruit, one may use both the scientific and popular terms. Familiarity with a subject also varies from one user to another or with the degree of penetration of a specialty. The best example no doubt is the propagation of the vocabulary of data processing brought on by the widespread use of the personal computer.

Be that as it may, the aim was to reflect as best as possible the specialized vocabulary currently used in every field.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DICTIONARY

What distinguishes THE FACTS ON FILE VISUAL DICTIONARY from other lexicons?

Conventional works

Dictionaries come in four basic types:

- a) Language dictionaries

Language dictionaries are divided into two parts.

The first is the nomenclature, i.e., the list of words that are the object of a lexicographical commentary. It forms the macrostructure of the dictionary. For practical purposes, words are

listed in alphabetical order. The nomenclature generally includes words of the common modern language, archaic words — often incorporated in a text — whose knowledge is useful to understand the language's history, and some technical terms that are fairly widespread.

The second is a lexicographical commentary whose microstructure varies according to lexicographical tradition. It generally deals with the word's grammatical category, its gender (if the case may be), its pronunciation in the international phonetic alphabet, its etymology, its various meanings, often in chronological order, and, finally, its uses according to a rather impressionistic typology that includes the *colloquial*, the *popular* and the *vulgar*.

b) Encyclopedic dictionaries

These add on to, the former type of dictionary commentaries on the nature, the function or the history of things, allowing the layman or the specialist to better understand the import of a word. They devote much more space to technical terms and closely follow the development of science and technology. Illustrations are assigned an important role. These works are more or less bulky, depending on the extent of the nomenclature, the importance of the commentaries and the space allotted to proper nouns.

c) Encyclopedias

Contrary to the preceding, encyclopedias do not include a full word list. They are essentially concerned with the scientific, technical, geographical, historical and economic aspects of their subjects. The structure of the nomenclature is arbitrary since every classification, be it alphabetical, notional, chronological or otherwise, is legitimate. The number of such works is potentially unlimited as are the activities of civilization, although a distinction must be drawn between universal and specialized encyclopedias.

d) Specialized lexicons or vocabularies

These works are generally meant to enhance communications or to answer particular needs arising from the evolution of science or technology. They vary from one another in every respect: the method of compilation, the relationship of the authors to the subject, the size of the nomenclature, the number of languages dealt with at once and the manner of establishing equivalents, either through translation or comparison between unilingual terminologies. There is intense activity in this field nowadays. Works abound in every area and in every language combination deemed useful.

THE FACTS ON FILE VISUAL DICTIONARY is not an encyclopedia. For one, it does not describe but names items. Secondly, it avoids the enumeration of items within a category. Rather than list the different types of trees, for instance, it selects a typical representative of the tree family and lists each of its parts.

It is even less a language dictionary. It contains only substantives — without written definitions — few adjectives, and very often complex terms, which is common to all terminologies.

Neither is it a compendium of specialized vocabularies —, as it favors words useful to the average person over terms known only to specialists, who may find it too elementary.

The VISUAL DICTIONARY is the first basic dictionary of terminological orientation, comprising within a single volume, with high regard for accuracy and easy access, thousands of more or less technical terms for which knowledge becomes a necessity in this modern world where science, technology and their by-products permeate and influence daily life.

METHODOLOGY

The preparation of this dictionary followed the methodology of systematic and comparative terminological research developed in Quebec in the early Seventies, now widespread in the whole of Canada, Europe, South America, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

We worked in the two languages, English and French, that are the most widely used throughout the world. The research available in both languages ensures a comprehensive stock of notions and terms, thanks to the interrelationship of approaches and specialties proper to

each language and their different perception and expression of the same realities. Eventually, we propose to apply the same methods to other languages, particularly Arab and Spanish.

The methodology of systematic terminological research involves many stages that follow one another in logical order. This progression applies to each language under study, their comparison intervening only at the end of the process with the compilation of terminological files. Thus, the pitfalls of literal translation are avoided.

A brief description of each stage follows :

Field delimitation

First, the content and size of the project must be carefully determined according to its goals and its prospective users.

In the case of the VISUAL DICTIONARY, we selected the major themes we felt should be dealt with, then divided each one into categories and sub-categories, keeping sight of our initial goal to steer clear of encyclopedism and ultraspecialization. The result was a detailed interim table of contents, providing the structure of the dictionary, to be used as a guide and refined in subsequent stages. The actual table of contents emerged from this process.

A dummy was then submitted to the contributing editors, lexicographers and terminologists, for their opinion on the content and the graphic style of the illustrations. Enriched from their comments, the project moved onto the production stage.

The collection of documentary sources

The production plan first called for researching and collecting the material likely to yield the required information on each subject. The research covered both French and English texts.

Here, without prejudice, is the list of documentary sources in order of the confidence placed in them for reflecting correct usage :

- English-French language dictionaries.
- Specialized dictionaries or vocabularies, whether unilingual, bilingual (French-English) or multilingual, whose quality and reliability should be carefully appraised.
- Encyclopedias or encyclopedic dictionaries, language dictionaries.
- Catalogues, commercial texts, advertisements in specialized magazines and large dailies.
- Technical documents from the International Standard Organization (ISO), the American Standard Association (ASA) and the Association française de normalisation (AFNOR) ; directions for use of commercial products ; comparative product analyses ; technical information supplied by manufacturers ; official government publications, etc.
- French or English articles or works by specialists with an adequate level of competence in their field. In translation, these prove highly instructive as to word usage, although caution should be exercised.

On the whole, some four to five thousand references. The selective bibliography contained in the dictionary lists only the general reference works, not the specialized sources.

Sifting through the documentation

For every subject, the terminologist must sift through the documentation, searching for specific notions and the words used by various authors to express them. From this process emerges the notional structure of the subject, its standard or differing designations. In the latter case, the terminologist pursues his research, recording each term with supporting references, until he has formed a well-documented opinion on each of the competing terms.

Since the dictionary is visual, terminologists at this stage searched for appropriate ways of graphically depicting each coherent group of notions in one or several illustrations

depending on the subject. The graphic artists drew from these elements to design each page of the dictionary.

The make-up of documentary files

The elements of each terminological file were assembled from the mass of documentation. Once identified and defined through illustration, each notion was assigned the term most frequently used by the best authors and the most reliable sources to express it. If the terminological file suggested competing terms, one was selected upon discussion and agreement between the terminologist and the scientific director.

Specialists were called upon to discuss highly technical files subject to a greater risk of error.

Graphic visualization

The terminological file, along with a proposal for graphic representation, was then turned over to the graphics team for the design and production of the final illustrated page.

Each terminologist revised the plates pertaining to his files to ensure the accuracy of illustrations, terms and spelling.

General revision of plates

The terminological research was carried out subject by subject following a plan, but not necessarily in order.

The final version of the dictionary underwent two complete verifications. Three revisers in each language were first asked to proofread the entire work, with emphasis on the spelling, without disregarding the terminology. With the help of their commentaries, the written form was standardized throughout the dictionary. Each instance of every word or notion was checked to insure the greatest possible degree of coherence.

All the documentation and terminological files on which the dictionary is based remain in archives.

PARTICULAR PROBLEMS

Users of THE FACTS ON FILE VISUAL DICTIONARY may want to know how regional disparities in English usage were resolved.

American, Canadian or British English ?

English usage, particularly spelling, but also vocabulary, varies with every region.

We elected to follow American standards, using the various editions of Webster's and the Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged Edition (1983), as our basic references.

In a later edition of the dictionary, it might be worthwhile to list the terms in usage in each English-language community.

Terminological variation

Our research revealed a number of cases of terminological variation, i.e., designation of a notion by different terms.

Here is a partial list of such cases:

- A particular term may have been used by only one author or occurred only once throughout the documentation; we then chose the most frequent competing term;
- Technical terms are often in compound form, hyphenated or not, incorporating a preposition or preceded by a noun. This characteristic gives rise to at least two types of terminological variants:

- a) The compound technical term may be shortened by the deletion of one or many of its elements, especially when the context is significant. Within limits, the shorter term becomes the usual designation of the notion. For instance, *objective lens* becomes *objective*, *fine adjustment knob* becomes *fine adjustment*, *revolving nose piece*, *nose piece*. We retained the compound form, leaving it to the user to shorten it according to the context.
 - b) One of the elements of the compound may itself have equivalent forms, generally synonyms in the common language. For instance, *magnetic needle* is equivalent to *magnetized needle*, *eye lens* to *ocular lens*. We then retained the most frequent form.
- Finally, the variation may stem from a difference of opinion, with no bearing on terminology, making it unnecessary to give up the best known term. For instance, the *first condenser lens* and *second condenser lens* of the electronic microscope are called *upper condenser lens* and *lower condenser lens* by some authors. The difference is not sufficient to cause a problem. In these cases, the most frequent or best known form was preferred.

Terminological sense

This calls for a brief commentary on the terminological sense as compared to the lexicographical sense.

The long history of language dictionaries, the fact that they are familiar reference works, known and used by everyone from schooldays, means that a certain tradition has been set that is known and accepted by all. We know how variants designating the same notion are classified and treated; therefore, we know how to interpret the dictionary and how to use the information it gives or does not give us.

Terminological dictionaries are either recent or intended for a specialized few. There is no real tradition guiding the preparation of such dictionaries. If the specialist knows how to interpret a dictionary pertaining to his own area of expertise because he is familiar with its terminology, the same cannot be said of the layman who may be confused by variants. Finally, language dictionaries have to some extent disciplined their users to a standard vocabulary. But since they relate to recent specialties, the terms listed in specialized vocabularies are far from set.

This aspect of the vocabulary sciences must be taken into account in the evaluation of the VISUAL DICTIONARY.

Spelling variations

The spelling of English words varies considerably. It sometimes differs according to the variety of English: for instance, *center* is American while *centre* is British. Often, the problem lies in determining whether a word should be written as a single word or in two words, with or without a hyphen: for example, *wave length* and *wavelength*, *grand-mother* and *grandmother*, *cross bar* and *crossbar*. Finally, there is some question as to the doubling of consonants in words like *levelling* and *traveller*. In every case, we used the spelling favored by Merriam Webster's and the Random House Dictionary.

Jean-Claude CORBEIL

P.S. In this edition, the British English terms are shown in *italics*.

前言

有些事物用文字解說，遠不及採用圖畫表示那樣生動鮮明和容易記牢，刺繡針法、糕點麵食、機械零件等就是例子。《萬物圖解大詞典》收錄與現代日常生活息息相關的名詞術語，約一萬五千條，採用圖解代替文字釋義，讀者可一目了然，準確理解詞義。

本詞典取材廣汎，包括衣、食、住、行、天文、地理、工藝、園藝、運動、遊戲、人體構造、能源、機械、儀器、武器等，可以說是應有盡有。各類常見的名詞術語，凡可以用圖畫表示的，大都在收錄之列。

本詞典既有別於百科全書，也不是專科詞彙簡編。書中沒有詳列各門學科的所有詞條，以免龐雜；也沒有收錄專家才用得着的術語，以求實用。這是特別為一般讀者編纂的名詞術語詞典，不求卷帙浩繁，不以艱深為尚，力求精確簡明，便於翻檢，以滿足讀者日常應用的需要。

全書圖畫都盡量突出事物的特徵，畧去枝葉，極其清楚明確。舉例來說，在服裝篇裏，各種裙子的名稱一一臚列，配合圖解，一望而知，至於有多少褶子，有沒有緞邊，就不加以贅述了。

原書在北美出版，已有英文版本和英法文對照版本兩種。英文版本只收錄美式英語詞，英法文對照版本則在美式英語詞後用斜體字標出常用的英式英語詞，供讀者參考。英漢對照版本根據英法文版本編成。讀者既可看圖識詞，也可以藉索引和圖解找出英語詞的中譯，或反過來找到所需的英語詞。由於文化背景和生活習慣不同，有些東西在英語裏劃分得很精細，在漢語裏則只有概括的名稱。就馬蹄和鞋子來說，各部分都有特定的英語名稱；長短不同的項鏈在英語裏也各有專名，在漢語裏卻沒有對應名稱。遇到類似的情況，在漢英詞典中根本無法找到所需的英語詞，本詞典正好有助於解決這種難題。因此，《萬物圖解大詞典》不僅是掌握林林總總名詞術語必備的詞典，更是學習英語不可缺少的案頭工具書。

THE FACTS ON FILE VISUAL DICTIONARY FOR A NEW DICTIONARY A NEW USAGE GUIDE

THE FACTS ON FILE VISUAL DICTIONARY is divided into three parts:

- TABLE OF CONTENTS
- ILLUSTRATIONS depicting the ENTRIES
- ALPHABETICAL GENERAL INDEXES

There are two ways of finding what you are looking for. You may refer either to the illustration or the word.

Starting from
the **illustration**

You want to know what an object is called

- Look in the **table of contents** for the **theme** which best corresponds to your query
- You will find **references to illustrations**
- Alongside the illustration, you will find the corresponding **word**.

Starting from
the **word**

You want to know what a word stands for

- Look for the word in the alphabetical **general index**
- You will find **references** to the **illustrations** in which the word appears
- You will see from the **illustration** what the word stands for.