Spiegel provides a brief outline of levels of special languages and the processes of standardization.

The *truncated* form of *Wüster's* lecture on the interdisciplinary nature of terminological studies is regrettable, not so much because it wrests credit from his pioneering achievement in the study of special languages—he is consistently quoted—but more importantly because it omits the description of the links that the study of special languages must establish with linguistics, logic, ontology, information science, and the special subjects. These may now be widely recognized but cannot be underestimated. The closely argued contribution by *Wersig* on methods of terminological work should be compulsory reading for anybody entering this field and is exemplary in its conciseness.

Klaus' highly condensed but fundamental observations on the semiotic implications of standardization stress that standardization is and must remain a relative concept. This is followed by *Filipec's* excellent essay on the nature and types of terms. *Pelka's* brief comparison of special languages with non-linguistic means of communication raises the significance of the interface with other semiotic systems. All three articles show by implication points of departure for further research.

In the chapter on descriptions of German special languages we find *Schütze's* exploration of the semantic structure of the compound words, and his outline of the syntagmatic possibilities of this type of word formation. *Herzog's* investigation of word formation tendencies in a special field (data-processing), which is characterized by homogeneity and directly traceable influence of foreign borrowings, illustrates clearly the different conventions developed by similar speech communities to deal with the same phenomena. Another section of Pelka's thesis presents a classification of metaphoric usage, and *Drozd's* description of reduction tendencies provides an exemplary demonstration of linguistic behaviour asserting the principle of economy against that of precision, which usually results in compromise. *Beneš's* comprehensive statement of the syntactic peculiarities of the German language of science is an example of the influence of pragmatics on text types and grammar. Whereas the previous articles were mainly concerned with the classificatory use of language, *Warner's* essay on phrase structure returns to the communicative aspect. Though written with a directive purpose the article contains substantial insights into the nature of special languages and the categorical nature of some of the statements does not detract from the value of his observations which are well-founded and justified by reference to linguistic behaviour.

The section on sociolinguistic aspects of special languages is well introduced by *Ischreyt's* first attempt at establishing aspect categories for special languages and their consequences for methods of standardization. To demonstrate the paucity of research in this area this is followed by a new article by *Bausch* which represents an original and genuine step forward in research. Taking as his starting point the communicative process in general he questions the assumptions made in relation to the widely accepted principles of economy and precision and demonstrates their paradoxical nature. In his analysis of the different requirements and potentials of special languages he comes very close to seeing them as gradations on a sliding scale moving from natural language (open system) to artificial language (closed system). *Möhn* postulates the values of the diachronic approach to the study of special languages and exemplifies the mutual influence of common core and special language. This point of view is exemplified by an excerpt from *Spiegel's* thesis on the historical growth of a special language which demonstrates tendencies in word creation.

The final chapter is a factual description by *Schewe* and *Spiegel* of the methods and nature of the terminological work carried out by the DIN, the VDI and by ISO and this is a useful summary statement for a wider public unaware of the institutional efforts in language planning.

From such a first anthology a reader expects substantial insights into the subject, examples of proven research methods and more indirectly indications of areas not yet explored but requiring investigation. These criteria are largely met and at the same time the variety of authors brought together here prove the interdisciplinary character of this aspect of applied linguistics, the relevance of this field of study to a great diversity of other disciplines, and also the existing lack of cohesion in approach which has to be overcome before the results of all these research efforts can be translated into the guidance our communication conscious society needs so much.

The bibliography is very select, but the reader is referred to a forthcoming major bibliography which should further help to consolidate the infrastructure of the study of special languages.

J. C. Sager

BORKO, H., BERNIER, C. L.: **Abstracting Concepts and Methods.** New York–San Francisco–London: Academic Press 1975. 250 p. = Library and Information Science Series. ISBN 0-12-118650-4

The authors state in their preface that the text is meant for graduate library school study, exercises are provided at the end, as well as the glossary mentioned. The authors present their topic in three sections with three chapters each, as follows: I. Nature of abstracts: 1 Characteristics and types of abstracts. 2 Historical review of abstracting services. 3 Criteria, instruction and standards. II. Abstracting procedures: 4 Contents and format. 5 Editing. 6 Publishing. III. Mangement, automation, and personnel: 7 Abstracting services. 8 Automatic abstracting. 9 Career opportunities. In Section I eight examples for different kinds of abstracts are presented and a new kind (actually already introduced by C. Bernier in 1970) of a document surrogate for the fast reader is described: *terse literatures* (these are very short condensations). Some varieties possible are explained such as "Terse conclusions", "Terse explanations", "Terse intensions", a.o.

The text is very well presented. The sub-chapter on 'Classifying and indexing of abstracts' has been kept too short and too general. Otherwise it looks like a very necessary book, not only for teachers and students of library science but also for every practitioner in information science, especially for all the editors and publishers of abstracting and indexing services.

I. Dahlberg

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