

# The “analogue rule” a useful terminological tool in interlingual transfer of knowledge

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## 1. Which of the basic data concerning a new concept are “transferred” from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL)?

A new concept (= a new knowledge unit) in the SL means: new objects being covered, new combination of characteristics, new definition, and new designation X (= name, term or symbol), the latter formed by the SL namer (through the SL convention).

Within the TL namer’s mind, characteristics and concept have interlingual character and need not be transferred from SL to TL; definition is transferable as describing the new concept through known concepts and designations both in SL and TL, while a new designation Y – equivalent to X – has to be formed in TL (through the TL convention).

Therefore, the passage of a new concept, as a new unit of knowledge, from SL to TL for further communication, is done through a noetic translingual interface, which may be considered within the target language namer’s mind.

## 2 Main term-formation mechanisms for concept naming based on the English language

According to ISO, there are three general term-formation mechanisms, which apply in English and may also apply in other languages:

2.1 creating new forms (through processes such as derivation, compounding, and abbreviation),

2.2 using existing forms (through processes such as terminologization, semantic transfer, and transdisciplinary borrowing), and

2.3 translingual borrowing.

## 3 Main term-formation mechanisms for new concepts in Greek (either as a SL or as a TL)

Term-formation mechanisms which apply in Greek fall properly within the three main ISO mechanisms.

a. Creation of a **neologism**, a new Greek word which has never been used till now in Greek (by employing processes and techniques such as derivation, composition, parasynthesis, blending et al.) (case 2.1).

b. Formation of a **polylectic** (multi-word) **complex term** by using known Greek terms in a syntactical interrelation which mirrors the verbal description of the definition. Shortening processes can also be used, such as *initialism formation* and *acronym formation*. (case 2.1).

c. **Transfer of a – monolectic or polylectic – term** from the general language (terminologization) or from another subject field (transdisciplinary borrowing), i.e. use of a common term, or a term from another subject field, as designation of the new concept of the subject field under consideration (case 2.2).

d. **Translingual borrowing** of a term from another language, that is transcription of this term into the Greek alphabet with or without adaptation to the conjugational system of Greek (case 2.3).

e. Application of the **“synecdochical extension”**, i.e. the use – by logical extension – for a concept, a qualification proper to another concept which is related to the former, and has basic importance for it. This process does not constitute a separate mechanism, but a horizontal rule applying to all other mechanisms stated above. Although not mentioned by ISO, this mechanism applies in English too.

## 4. Formulation of the «analogue rule» of naming

**The “Analogue Rule” of Naming:**  
When forming a term in a language (target language) in order to name a new concept that has been primarily named in another language (source language), the namer’s first choice should be to apply a term-formation mechanism analogous to the term-formation mechanism used for the source language term.

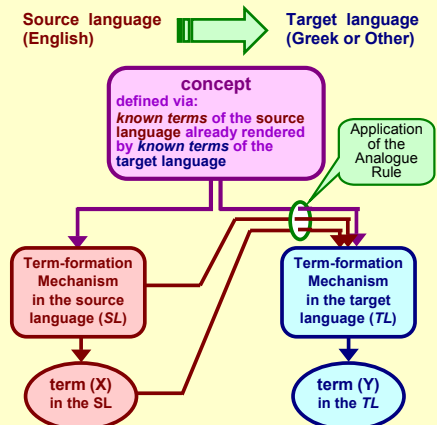


Table 1 – Correspondence of term-formation mechanism data examined according to the Analogue Rule

	Source Language: term X	Target Language: term Y
1	X is a <i>monolectic</i> (one-word) new form: a. a simple term (ST) or b. a monolectic complex term (dD or Dd), with determining component d and determined component D	May Y be a <i>monolectic</i> term (neologism), simple or complex, correspondingly? In case of a complex term, should the immediate components of Y correspond to those of X?
2	A <i>polylectic</i> (multi-word) new form X (a polylectic complex term)	May Y be a <i>polylectic</i> term, with corresponding immediate components to those of X?
3	X obtained by <i>conversion</i>	May Y be obtained by an analogous <i>conversion</i> ?
4	X obtained by <i>terminologization</i> of the general language term x	May Y be obtained by the analogous <i>terminologization</i> of y, y being the TL equivalent to x or other proper TL common term?
5	X obtained by <i>transdisciplinary borrowing</i> from the subject field SF	May Y be obtained by <i>transdisciplinary borrowing</i> of the TL equivalent term from the same subject field SF?
6	X is an <i>abbreviated form</i> of a full form x	May Y be an analogous <i>abbreviated form</i> of the TL equivalent full form y?
7	<i>Synecdochical extension</i> has been applied to the term X	May an analogous <i>synecdochical extension</i> be applied to the term Y?

## 5. Application examples of the «analogue rule»

### Example 1:

In <Electronics> the English term **chip** was formed in the SL as a simple monolectic term, by **terminologization** of the common term “chip”. In Greek, MOTO (Permanent Group for Telecommunication Terminology) applied an **analogous mechanism** by **terminologization** of the common Greek term **πλινθίο** /plinθío/ (= little brick). This rendering made possible to designate **analogously** a number of related concepts such as those in table 2.

Table 2 -Terms containing the component “chip” and their Greek equivalents

English term	Case (Tab.1)		Greek term	
chip	ST	4	πλινθίο /plinθío/	ST
chip-carrier	dD	1b	πλινθιοβάση /plinθío-vási/	dD
silicon chip	dD	2	πλινθίο πυριτίου /plinθío pirítu/	Dd
multichip {n.}	dD	1b	πολυπλινθίο /poli-plinθío/	dD
multichip {adj.}	dD	1b	πολυπλινθικός /poli-plinθíkos/	dD
multichip module	dD	2	πολυπλινθίο δομοστοιχείο /poli-plinθío ðomostoxío/	dD
chip frequency	dD	2	συχρότητα πλινθίου /sichnótita plinθío/	Dd

### Example 2:

In <Information Technology> and <Telecommunications> the English term **bit** was formed in the SL as a new form (ST) by **abbreviating** (hereupon **blending**) the full form **binary digit** without changing the concept designated by the full form. The same mechanism was adopted in Greek too:

SL: binary digit → bit

TL: δυαδικό ψηφίο → δυφίο

(See table 3)

Table 3 -Terms containing the component “bit” and their Greek equivalents

English term	Case (Tab.1)		Greek term	
bit {n.}	ST	6, 1a	δυφίο /ðífió/	ST
bit {adj.}	ST	6, 1a	δυφιακός /ðífiakós/	ST
bit number	dD	6, 2	αριθμός δυφίων /aríthmós ðífiu/	Dd
bit sequence	dD	6, 2	ακολουθία δυφίων /akolouthía ðífiou/	Dd
bit error	dD	6, 2	δυφιακό σφάλμα /ðífiakó sfálmα/	dD
bit error ratio	dD	6, 2	λόγος δυφιακών σφαλμάτων /lóγος-ðífiakón sfalmátou/	Dd
data bit	dD	6, 2	δυφίο δεδομένων /ðífió ðeðoménou/	Dd

## 6. Conclusions

The Analogue Rule does not impose, but simply gives priority to the examination of a term-formation mechanism in TL analogous to that in SL, thereby ensuring:

- utilization of the work which has been accomplished in the source language, where the new knowledge (new concept) was created, and which it is unwise to ignore;
- restriction of arbitrariness in selecting term-formation mechanisms

possibly irrelevant to, or incompatible with, the term-formation mechanisms for the rest of the concepts of the same concept system, where the concept being named belongs;

- minimization of the problems that may arise from future modifications or revisions, which will reasonably be effected in the SL (given that knowledge from future development of the subject field under consideration will most probably remain imported knowledge for the TL).