

Todorka Alexandrova CHRISTOVA  
Higher Institute of Medicine, Varna

## Therm as Germ An Apology of a New Term



Todorka A. Christova was born in 1960 and graduated from Sofia University in Classical Philology. Currently she teaches Latin at the Higher Institute of Medicine in Varna. Engaged in comparative studies in medical terminology.

Christova, T.A.: *Therm as germ - an apology of a new term.* Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.2, p. 87-91

This paper presents a term-making word-play which has resulted in a glossary. The neologisms/terms describe the cognitive processes in word perception. The idea of the energy needed for these processes is expressed by the archesema *therm-*. The newly occupied space is named *linguothermotics* (LITH). The glossary of 85 terms has been added. Author

### 1. The suitable archesema

Both Old Greek and Latin root-morphemes function efficiently in various science fields including linguistics. The Old Greek "therm-" proved to be a suitable archesema for expressing an idea of ours in describing the cognitive process within the framework of word perception. "Therm-" is used as a germ of a whole family of terms.

### 2. The Idea

Our feeling of warmth in the world of words was rather vague and indistinct. Impulses came from various sources: a Bulgarian colloquial phrase "to make warm" = "to understand"; a casual mistake in writing down "term" with "th"; our former ideas about "cold" and "hot" metaphors and norms; L. Strauss's idea of "cold" and "hot" societies; Surovjagin's interpretation of feeling "being in an intermediate position between the cognitive emotions and the entirely cognitive reason"; Ilja Prigogine's idea of disperse systems.

From our point of view Language is seen as an inconstant, highly organized, open system. Its form and structure are being sustained by a continuous absorption of energy - the energy needed to perceive and understand every word, i.e. to recreate it every time. The idea of this intellectual warmth/heat consumed in the process of word understanding can be expressed by "therm-". Our linguistic mind is "thermed" when there occurs activation and interference between the circle of earlier declared units of knowledge and the circle of new linguistic impressions.

### 3. How the terms were coined

The terms came into being one after the other, headlong. First we coined the purely linguistic ones, using mainly Old Greek morphemes standing for well known notions in combination with the new one "therm-". After them came some notions of cognitive psychology which

we interpreted according to our "thermoscopic" sense. Finally a couple of terms were generated after checkings in a cybernetics dictionary. Additionally we exploited the idea in four aspects:

*thermasia* - a characteristic of the word, representing

1) its property to be perceived by feeling, thought or intuition in its wholeness or in any of its separate qualities;

2) the property of the word to make the mind absorb intellectual energy during the cognitive process;

*therm* - the word itself as an object in the cognitive process;

*thermaesthesia* - the cognitive process taking place (consciously or not) in the linguistic mind of the individual when he/she perceives a word; the process is one of energy consummation;

*thermaesthesia* - the ability of our linguistic mind to perform a cognitive process in the framework of single words.

As a generic term standing for the four abovementioned ones, we use *thermia*.

### 4. The result

The newly coined terms (about 80 in number) formed a field of their own where classificational relations can be seen, too. We call this space *linguothermotics* (LITH).

Every neologism is given a short definition and thus all of them make a glossary. Here are some examples: *xenothermia* - recognition of a word as belonging to a foreign language; *labiothermasia* - property of the word to be perceived by lip-reading; *acrothermia* - recognition of a word as an abbreviation; *thermaletheuma* - the final phase in the cognitive process; verification of the correctness of the perception; *thermophilia* - an inclination to bring frequently one's linguistic intuition and ability to bear on cognitive uncertainty. Some of the terms appear as antonyms: e.g. *diacritothermia* and *syncritothermia* as two poles in the graduation of the perceptive differentiation; some appear as synonyms: e.g. *entropothermia* and *encyclothermia* for "complete undefiniteness of the cognitive situation"; some appear as hierarchical to others: e.g. *grammatothermia* to *morpho-*, *paradigmo-*, *syntagmathermia*.

## 5. "Therm-" tried to be ubiquitous and omnivorous

It was difficult to stop it. It began putting impertinent questions like these: Do you know what are *thermions* and *thermokymata* in *apprehension quantā*? Or else - What is *oligothermia* - 1) understanding only a small part of a word's nature, or 2) understanding by a small number of individuals, or 3) understanding by oligophrens?

Even if we have built an 80-storey tower of allegedly ideal terms the unreliability attacks us - one can never escape from the need of conventionality and conditionality in the world of words and cannot hide in a warmth of his own.

## LITH Glossary

"*therm-*" expresses the idea of intellectual warmth/heat, coming forth in the process of word perception and comprehension. It is related to recalling, recognizing, identifying, rejection, anticipation, foretasting, guessing and every kind of intuitive penetration into the information in/about the word. "therm-" symbolizes the energy needed in our minds when there occurs activation between the circle of units of knowledge being explained beforehand and the circle of new linguistic facts/impressions.

**THERM** - the word itself being an object - partially or as a whole - in the cognitive process.

**THERMASIA** - a characteristic of the word representing: 1) its property to be perceived by feeling, thought or intuition in its wholeness or in any of its separate qualities; 2) its property to make the mind absorb intellectual energy during the cognitive process.

**THERMAESTHESIA** - the cognitive process taking place (consciously or not) in the linguistic mind of the individual when he/she perceives or comprehends a word; a process of energy consumption in "warming" any part of the word nature; a process of highly subjective character.

**THERMAESTHESIS** - the ability of our linguistic mind to perform a cognitive process in the framework of single words.

**THERMIA** - This is a **GENERIC TERM** generalizing all the aspects of the phenomenon "presence of energy" in linguistic cognition - the object, the characteristic of the object, the process and the ability of the subject. Most often **THERMIA** is defined by the process, the rest of the aspects being implied in it.

### A complete quadruple sample of a specified term:

#### 1 Glossothermia

- A. Glossotherm** - the word being recognized or comprehended as belonging to a certain natural language.
- B. Glossothermasia** - the quality of the word to be recognized or comprehended as belonging to a certain natural language.
- C. Glossothermaesthesia** - recognizing or comprehending the belonging of a word to a certain natural language.
- D. Glossothermaesthesia** - the ability of the linguistic mind to

identify the belonging of a word to a certain natural language.

### Subspecified terms to *Glossothermia*:

- 2 **A. Xenothermia** - recognition of a word as belonging to a foreign language.
- 3 **B. Idiothermia** - recognition of a word as belonging to one's own language.
- 4 **C. Eurythermia** - recognition of a word as being of wide international use.

\*\*\*\*\*

### I. The object - what of it is comprehended

5 **Phonothermia** - recognition of a word as a sound nature

6 **Phonematothermia** - recognition and comprehension of a word as a phonematic sequence.

#### 7 Grammatothermia

- 8 **1. Morphothermia** - comprehension of a word as having a certain morphematostructural partition.
- 9 **2. Paradigmothermia** - comprehension of a word as belonging to a certain model of changes.
- 10 **3. Syntagmothermia** - comprehension of a word in its quality to get into co-ordination with other words and form statements.

11 **Sematothermia** - comprehension of a word as a significate, i.e. as having a certain meaning.

12 **Onomatothermia** - comprehension of a word as a denotate, i.e. as having a certain designative role.

13 **Etymothermia** - comprehension of a word as having its own primordial and genuine meaning.

14 **Ideothermia** - comprehension of a word as having an inner form/shape as a motivating factor.

15 **Hormothermia** - comprehension of a word as having an intentional/connotational motivation which is a result from the interrelation "inner form - meaning"; awareness of how the degree of this motivation changes with the evolution of the meaning.

16 **Idioethnothermia** - comprehension of a word as a realia.

17 **Pragmothermia** - recognition of comprehension of a word in its quality to serve in the communication process; comprehension of a particular function of a word in the process of communication.

18 **Stylothermia** - comprehension of a word as belonging to a certain language style.

#### 19 Slangthermia

1. **Slangtherm-aesthesia** - comprehension of a word as belonging to a certain slang.
2. **Slang-thermaesthesia** - recognition or comprehension of a word by the bearers of a certain slang.

20 **Propriothermia** - recognition or comprehension of a word as a proper name.

21 **Terminothermia** - comprehension of a word as belonging to a certain terminological or special purpose language.

22 **Dithermia** - comprehension of a word as belonging 1) to the common language and to the terminological language at the same time or 2) to two different terminological languages.

23 **Classificothermia** - comprehension of a word as having a classificational definiteness and position:

24 1. **Hierarchothermia** - awareness of taxonomic relations, i.e. Genus-Species, concerning the given word.

25 2. **Partothermia** - awareness of partonomic relations, i.e., Part-Whole, concerning the given word.

26 **Bisthermia** - twofold comprehension of a word with different grammar-categorical belonging.

27 **Polysemothermia** - comprehension of a word as polysemantic.

28 1. **Bithermia** - awareness of two different meanings.

29 2. **Trithermia** - awareness of three different meanings.

30 **Heterothermia** - comprehension of another meaning when a word is polysemantic.

31 **Monothermia** - recognition or comprehension of a word as a simple one (which does not mean that the word is simple).

32 **Tomothermia** - comprehension of a word as a composite one:

33 1. **Dichothermia** - awareness of two components.

34 2. **Trichothermia** - awareness of three components.

35 **Chronothermia** - comprehension of a word as subject to time distinction.

36 1. **Synchronothermia** - awareness of the contemporary status of a word.

37 2. **Diachronothermia** - awareness of the evolution of a word through time.

38 3. **Panchronothermia** - eliminating or unawareness of the time factor.

## II. The object - how it is being comprehended

39 **Opsithermasia** - quality of the word to be perceived visually:

40 1. **Alphabetothermasia** - as written in a certain alphabet.

41 2. **Graphothermasia** - as written in a certain type or hand or print.

42 3. **Orthographothermasia** - as having orthographic characteristics.

43 4. **Kinetothermasia** - when rendered by gestures.

44 5. **Labiothermasia** - by lip-reading.

45 **Acusithermia** - an aural perception of a word.

46 **Dactylothermia** - perception of a word through touching by fingers.

47 **Mediothermia** - comprehension of a word by the medium of another word/words in a minimum context piece.

48 **Syllexithermia** - comprehension of a word through a larger context piece.

49 **Allothermia** - comprehension of a word through associative link with another word or image.

50 **Paizothermia** - a quality of a word to be achieved by the linguistic mind through play and fun.

51 **Pseudothermia** - false or mistaken recognition or comprehension of a word as a whole or a part.

52 **Hypothermia** - uncomplete, insufficient recognition or comprehension of a word or any of its qualities.

53 **Aristothermia** - the best possible comprehension of a word.

54 **Dysthermia** - hard and difficult recognition and comprehension of a word.

55 **Telethermaesthesia** - recognition and comprehension of a word from a distance no matter how exactly.

56 **Protothermia** - the first recognition and comprehension of a word when it is still unknown.

57 **Deuterothermia** - repeated subsequent recognition and comprehension of a word already known (in principle),

58 **Mnemothemasia** - quality of a word to be stored in one's mind.

59 **Mnestithermasia** - quality of a word to be recalled and reproduced easily when needed.

60 **Omnithermasia** - quality of a word to be recognized and comprehended by everybody.

61 **Stenothermia** - comprehension of a word as an abbreviation, a stenographic sign, a mathematical symbol or other symbolic sign.

62 **Acrothermia** - comprehension of a word as an abbreviation including only the first letters of a word-combination. It may be totally cooling down in the passing of time.

### III. The subject - how he/she performs the comprehension

63 **Gnosticothermia** - degree of differentiation by which the complex information of the cognitive linguistic process is worked into concepts; a cognitive complexity.

64 1. **Diacritothermia** - analytical, differentiated, detailed recognition and comprehension of a word.

65 2. **Syncritothermia** - integral, undifferentiated recognition and comprehension of a word in full, as a mass.

66 3. **Thermact** - a cognitive complexity having a degree of differentiation adequate to a certain cognitive situation. In simple constructed situations Thermact is poorly differentiative while in complex constructed ones Thermact is highly differentiative, e.g.: in getting over a new, yet unknown word in a foreign language in an unfamiliar context one needs a highly differentiative and intense Thermact - that is, a high degree of cognitive complexity, i.e. hot gnostico-thermia, while in comprehending known words in one's own language in known contexts (i.e. by rough stereotypes) it is most appropriate to stay at a low degree of cognitive complexity - i.e. cool gnosticothermia.

67 **Reflexothermia** - linguocognitive type of recognition and comprehension of words characterized by calm, considered and careful processing of information and checking the truthfulness of the possible hypotheses.

68 **Impulsothermia** - linguocognitive type of recognition and comprehension of words characterized by rash, spontaneous and impetuous processing of information.

69 **Bradythermia** - slow passing of the linguocognitive process, regardless of the quality and the result.

70 **Tachythermia** - speedy passing of the linguocognitive process.

71 **Thermokatanoiesis** - 1) Volitional linguocognitive process performed in a certain situation with increased attention and awareness, and 2) Active and conscious linguocognitive conduct in principle; implies self-analysis and introspection; requires a specific linguoamental disposition.

72 **Thermeclampsia** - a sudden flash, illumination, discerning or identification of a certain quality of a word.

73 **Thermaltheuma** - the final phase in the linguocognitive process when the word is its object - verification of the correctness of comprehension.

74 **Eleutherothermia** - multivariant and non-obligatory character of interrelations during linguocognitive processes. It is conditioned by the principle of not entirely determined speech-thought processes and by the principle of probable brain functioning.

75 **Sympherothermia** - linguocognitive ability to identify a word as a whole or any of its qualities through correlation with a certain memorized standard or pattern lying in the mind.

76 **Entropothermia** - a total undefiniteness of the linguocogni-

tive situation; inability to comprehend the word. Synonym: encyclothermia.

77 **Holothermasia** - property of the word to be comprehended in its whole nature through only one of its qualities; conditioned by the rise of irradiation in the linguistic mind.

78 **Thermokatallage** - a sudden turn, change in the dynamics of the linguocognitive process, e.g. when another kind of type or print or alphabet appears in a written text; when word/s from another language appear in the text; when a tone in oral speech is suddenly modulated to a great degree, etc.

79 **Thermocontrast** - the result from thermokatallage.

80 **Thermoscopia** - study and analysis of linguocognitive processes mainly in the framework of the word; close examination of the qualities of words as objects of recognition and comprehension.

81 **Thermophilia** - an inclination to frequently exercising one's linguistic intuition; ability to bear cognitive uncertainty.

82 **Thermophobia** - lack of tolerability in cases of cognitive multifariousness; fear of temporary undefiniteness or laxity.

83 **Thermohedonia** - taking pleasure from the linguocognitive process; a feeling of sweet intellectual warmth and comfort in this; enjoying singly word understanding.

84 **Thermomania** - addiction to linguocognitivity of various types: polyglottia, reading dictionaries, solving crosswords and word-puzzles, coinage of new lexical units etc.

85 **Linguothermotica (LITH)** - a new-cropped terminological field of neoterms, including the archesema "therm-". They describe the cognitive process having under review the word and its qualities. The therm-terms represent the idea that language is a highly organized open entity where form and structure are being sustained by a nonstopping absorption of energy.

### Alphabetic Index

Acrothermia	62	Dythermia	54
Acusithermia	45		
Allothermia	49	Eleutherothermia	74
Alphabetothermasia	40	Entropothermia	76
Aristothermia	53	Etymothermia	13
		Eurythermia	4
Bisthermia	26		
Bithermia	28	Glossothermia	1
Bradythermia	69	Gnosticothermia	63
		Grammatothermia	7
Chronothermia	35	Graphothermasia	41
Classificothermia	23		
		Heterothermia	30
Dactylothermia	46	Hierarchothermia	24
Deuterothermia	57	Holothermasia	77
Diachronothermia	37	Hormothermia	15
Diacritothermia	64	Hypothermia	52
Dichothermia	33		
Dithermia	22	Ideothermia	14