

SOCIOCOGNITIVE THEORY OF TERMINOLOGY: DIACHRONIC APPLICATIONS*TEORIA SOCIOCOGNITIVA DA TERMINOLOGIA: APLICAÇÕES DIACRÔNICAS**Soraya Carvalho Souza Biller Teixeira*¹*Josefa Monica Almeida Alves*²*Sandro Marcio Drumond Alves Marengo*³*Débora Simões Araújo*⁴**ABSTRACT**

Terminological research has made considerable progress in almost all areas of language for specific purposes, such as Medicine or Law. However, studies with a socio-historical perspective have been relegated to the background. In Brazil, terminological research with a diachronic approach is scarce, which is why we developed our research for contributing to this area of study. This article aims to describe and analyze a medical-legal term found in a *corpus* consisting of 45 *corpus delicti*, extracted from rape criminal cases recorded in Sergipe from 1854 to 1900. The term *copula* was chosen due to its significant frequency and because it is a representative term for the sexual act. Our theoretical foundation is based on the principles of Diachronic Socioterminology and the Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology. In the methodological procedures, first of all, we performed manuscript editions, then we used *Corpus Linguistics* by employing the *software* AntConc and TermoStat for term extraction and identification. After this process, we chose the term to be analyzed and applied it in the terminology sheet model, along the lines of Sociocognitive Terminology. We described and analyzed the chosen term, and as a result, we concluded that this approach allowed us to understand the (re)constructed meanings through real usage of the term, examine its socio-historical movements in its specific contexts, as well as identify its users, enunciators, communicative and discursive situations.

KEYWORDS: Socio-historical terminology. Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology. *Corpus delicti*. Digital Humanities. Diachronic Terminology.

RESUMO

As pesquisas terminológicas têm avançado de forma considerável em quase todas as áreas das linguagens de especialidade, como na Medicina ou no Direito, porém, os estudos com viés sócio-histórico têm sido relegados a um segundo plano. No Brasil, pesquisas terminológicas com abordagem diacrônica são escassas, por essa razão, desenvolvemos nossa pesquisa de forma a contribuir para essa área de estudo. Este artigo tem como objetivo descrever e analisar um termo médico-legal, encontrado em um *corpus* constituído por 45 exames de corpo de delito, extraídos de processos-crime de defloração, registrados em Sergipe no lapso temporal 1854-1900. O termo *copula* foi escolhido por apresentar uma frequência significativa e por ser um termo representativo do ato sexual. Nossa base teórica está fundamentada nos preceitos da Socioterminologia

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Diacrônica e na Teoria Sociocognitiva da Terminologia. Nos procedimentos metodológicos realizamos as edições dos manuscritos, empregamos a Linguística de *Corpus* usando os programas *AntConc* e *TermoStat* para extração e identificação dos termos. Após este processo, escolhemos o termo a ser analisado e o aplicamos no modelo de ficha terminológica, nos moldes da Terminologia Sociocognitiva. Descrevemos e analisamos o termo escolhido, e como resultado, concluímos que essa abordagem nos permitiu compreender os significados (re)construídos através de usos reais do termo, examinar seus movimentos sócio-históricos em seus contextos específicos, bem como identificar seus usuários, enunciadores, situações comunicativas e discursivas.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Terminologia sócio-histórica. Teoria Sociocognitiva da Terminologia. Corpo de delito. Humanidades Digitais. Terminologia Diacronica.

Introduction

Terminological research has advanced considerably in almost all areas of specialty languages, such as Medicine or Law, but studies with a socio-historical bias have been relegated to the background. Terminological studies with diachronic bias began to be recognized at the Terminology Colloquium, held in the city of Brussels in 1988. Ten years later, in Barcelona, a new colloquium whose theme “The history of Ibero-Romance languages of specialty: XII-XIX centuries” made a revision in the traditional concepts of Terminology and established three fundamental axes for these terminological studies (MARENCO, 2016, 2017, 2022). In his texts the researcher reports that the central point of this colloquium was the historical factor, thus distributed - the first axis dealt with research involving the History of the Science of Terms (analysis of dictionaries), focused on the policies of fixation and its development. The second axis developed research starting from the History of Vocabularies and their relations with language. The third and final axis presented research that pointed out the paths of Diachronic Terminology as a form of reflection on Social History (MARENCO, 2016, 2107, 2022).

Pascaline Dury (2004, 2008a, 2008b), a researcher at the University of Lyon, notes that in the last twenty years, little research has been conducted, and in her understanding, the dailychronicity, is still seen as a “poor relative”, and although we find some research in this field, the diachronic deficit is visible.

Dury and Picton (2009) point out that this deficiency can be explained from the existence of some obstacles: theoretical and historical obstacles, since in TGT scientific knowledge was based on logical reasoning, which in itself excluded the diachronic view. The concepts of mono-referentiality, univocity, absence of connotation and fixed domains were questioned by TCT, but the synchronic character was not. Another reason for this lack of interest in diachronic research can be explained by the fact that there is still much to research in sync. The second obstacle pointed out is of a technical nature – the construction of a diachronic *corpus* runs into the lack of computer resources (the computational tools of *corpus* analysis were developed for synchronic research), textual and financial (the compilation of *corpora* focused on specialized language is very costly). The third obstacle is pragmatic – as terminology is a science that works with applied terms, many researchers prefer to work with the synchronic dimension, because they are of concrete application to companies, scientific laboratories or organizations that use the terminology. Finally, psychological barriers – the term

diachrony refers to preconceived ideas, both in general language and in the language of specialties, evoking the history of language.

Seeking to reduce the existing gap in the terminological research of historical partners, we present this article that has as *corpus*, constant examinations of the body of crime in the nineteenth-century criminal processes of deflowering registered in Sergipe (SOUZA, 2020; FONSECA, 2020; SOUZA et al., 2018). The initial milestone of this period is set in the year 1854, the date of the oldest remaining source of this discursive genre and extends until 1900.

The research problem of this work is expressed through the following question: what does the study of the term *copula* reveal about the macro and micro social and linguistic history of nineteenth-century Sergipe?

We highlight the importance of diachronic reflections, due to their richness in lessons, both for the terminologist and for the translator, as they offer a new approach to terms and concepts. Only diachronic terminology can show the extent to which the evolution of a concept can be complex and unexpected, and fraught with consequences for the name it carries. Only a diachronic analysis can show that the constitution of a concept can be accompanied by a true proliferation of terminology.

The main objective of this article is to describe and analyze the term *copula* based on the terminological form model presented by Teixeira (2021) and Teixeira, Marengo and Finatto (2022), whose elaboration followed the theoretical and terminographic precepts proposed by the Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology. This theory, inspired by Cognitive Linguistics, postulates a close interaction between cognition and language, describing variation as a natural manifestation of cognitive processes. The theory proposed by Temmerman allows the reconciliation between terminology and diachrony, as proposed by the researchers Dury and Picton (2009).

Our purpose is to carry out this study through approaches focused on the polyhedral character of terms and their cognitive, formal, conceptual and functional dimension. We apply the diachronic socioterminological approach (MARENGO, 2016; 2017; 2022) and the precepts of the Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology to theoretically support the description of the term *copula in the* terminological sheet.

In the following section we outline some considerations about the theoretical approaches that underlie the descriptions made in the work.

1. Socioterminology: a view through socio-history

According to the studies of Jean-Claude Boulanger (1991), the term socioterminology emerged in the 80s, with the aim of studying the terminological variation and the circulation of terms in different social contexts. For Boulanger (1991), this variation is as necessary as lexical or linguistic variation in any language and is fundamental to understanding the dynamics of language in different times, places and societies.

Faulstich (1995) defines socioterminology as a discipline that deals with the identification and categorization of linguistic variants of terms in different situations of language use. The researcher (1998, p. 1) stated that

Socioterminology foresees two temporal paths for the analysis of terms in discourse: one through the ways of synchrony, which makes variant forms present the same referential meaning, and another that navigates history, enabling us to systematize variant lexical-terminological structures, which allow us to reconstitute conceptual frameworks of the time, validated or not in the present time (FAULSTICH, 1998, p. 1, free translation⁵).

In the understanding of Faulstich (1998), the relationship between the term and concept corresponds to the signifier and the meaning of the linguistic sign, so that a concept represents a unit of knowledge that contains attributes of a referent that is called a term.

[...] the linguistic signs that find their functionality in the specialty languages, according to the dynamics of the languages; they are items of the specialized lexicon that go through evolutions, [...] and that have specific characteristics that are organized from observable or imaginable traits. Such traits group objects in the real world, according to the intent and extent of the concept (FAULSTICH, 1998, p. 2, free translation⁶).

In the late 90s, Faulstich developed a theoretical construct that emphasizes the categorization of different types of terminological variations. For the author, the terminological variants can be classified into three types: 1) concurrent variants - they are formal variants that can compete with each other or in a process of change, corresponding to one of the denomination alternatives for the same referent, being able to compete in a given context; 2) co-occurring variants - are those that have two or more denominations for the same referent and have the purpose of discursive or textual progression, organizing communication and promoting lexical cohesion and; 3) competitive variants - are variants that have a relationship of meanings between lexical items from different linguistic systems. They are realized through pairs formed by linguistic borrowings and vernacular forms (FAULSTICH, 2002).

The main focus of our study is on the competing variants, since the others were not as productive in our *corpus*, for this reason, we will delve into the two aspects of the competing variants.

Faulstich (2002) points out that, the competitors are divided into: a) linguistic terminological variants - are the variants in which the linguistic phenomenon determines the process of variation.

⁵ In the original, “a socioterminologia prevê dois percursos temporais para a análise dos termos no discurso: um pelas vias da sincronia, que faz com que formas variantes apresentem o mesmo significado referencial, e outro que navega pela história, possibilitando-nos sistematizar estruturas léxico-terminológicas variantes, que nos permitem reconstituir quadros conceptuais da época, validados ou não na atualidade”.

⁶ In the original, “[...] são signos linguísticos que encontram sua funcionalidade nas linguagens de especialidade, de acordo com a dinâmica das línguas; são itens do léxico especializado que passam por evoluções, [...] e que possui características específicas que se organizam de traços observáveis ou imagináveis. Tais traços agrupam os objetos no mundo real, de acordo com a intensão e a extensão do conceito”.

This group includes the terminological variants of the following types: phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical and graphic; and the terminological variants of registration - are those whose variation results from the environment of competition in the horizontal, vertical and temporal plane in which the linguistic uses of the terms are made. These variants include geographical variants, which occur in the horizontal plane of different places where the same language is spoken; the variant of discourse, which occurs in the vertical plane and results from the communicative harmony between the enunciator and the user of technical-scientific texts; and the temporal variant, which is configured as more usual in the process of variation and change.

Although several studies have confirmed the construct proposed by Faulstich, the most significant contributions were synchronic in nature. When we explore the diachronic dimension, we observe that research is still in its early stages, as Marengo (2016, 2017, 2022) explained during his investigations into military terminology. He pointed out that there was a dynamic movement during the use of the abbreviations that were found in his *corpus*, indicating the existence of extralinguistic factors underlying the process of terminological variation that were not considered in the construct presented by Faulstich (SANTOS; MARENGO, 2020).

Another point raised by Marengo (2022) was the absence of inclusion of semantic terminological variation, which was proven in research on legal terminology in criminal proceedings of rape and verbal offenses in the city of Aracaju in the nineteenth century, but they had unspecialized social uses that converged and thus pointed to the same crime. The variation of social uses was also recorded in the specialized discourse documents, which indicated a representation of semantic variation. Based on this premise, Marengo (2022) proposes an expansion of the Faulstich construct and calls it the (re) Faulstich construct.

It is important to point out that these results had a direct impact on the elaboration of the construct and, therefore, ratifies Socioterminology more as an approach than an effective theory. As pointed out by Faulstich (2006), Socioterminology focuses on phenomena of variation and change in different specialized discourses, including written, oral and signaled contexts, because it understands that terminological variants must be taken into account, especially in the elaboration of glossaries or dictionaries.

2. Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology

This work was conducted in the light of the Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology developed by the Belgian researcher Rita Temmerman (1998, 2000a, 2000b), which unites the principles of Cognitive Linguistics and the processes of categorization in a specific theory about specialized language. According to Temmerman, the precepts of traditional terminology were inadequate to describe some terminological units employed in specialized texts of the Life Sciences.

Based on psychological theories (ROSCH, 1978) and cognitive semantics (LAKOFF, 1987; GEERAERTS, 1989), Temmerman (2000a) proposes a new interpretation of the formal bases of

the General Theory of Terminology (TGT), incorporating concepts previously developed by the Communicative Theory of Terminology (TCT). According to the author, her propositions “assume that words do not mean objectively but are understood through a process of linguistic communication about a reality outside language, which must also be understood” (TEMMERMAN, 2000a, p. 42).

In this approach, the terms are considered central elements in the terminological analysis and can only be studied in textual corpora (SAGER, 1990; CABRÉ, 1995). The analysis focuses on textual information in order to understand categorization and its relationship with language.

Through the definitions present in the texts, it is possible to find evidence that supports the hypothesis of the existence of a prototype structure that enables the organization and understanding of a category. However, Temmerman points out that many units of knowledge in the Life Sciences have prototype structures, while other categories do not have this structure and, therefore, can be considered concepts as defined by traditional terminology, based on logical or ontological criteria.

Thus, all units of knowledge that present the structure of the prototype are categories, but not all categories have the same degree of prototypicality. And it follows, “the characteristics underlying prototypicality are contained in what is traditionally called encyclopedic information, that is, non-definitional information. Traditional encyclopedic information appears to be essential information in defining categories” (TEMMERMAN, 2000a, p. 43).

According to Temmerman (1998), there are two main objectives for research in terminology: the construction of the theoretical foundation of the discipline and the search for better methods and guidelines for terminology.

The theoretical underpinning of terminology theory needs (1) a theory of knowledge of categories and (2) a theory of the interaction between lexicalization and categorization. Furthermore, terminological theory needs to provide methods and guidelines for terminography involving the description of (a) the understanding of categories and (b) the process of lexicalization (TEMMERMAN, 1998, p. 78).

The Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology (TST) benefited from the discoveries of cognitive semantics that explored the potential for interaction between the world, language, and the human mind, as well as from the understanding that elements of the semantic triangle operate in a social environment. Within this scope, Cognitive Terminology considers the world of science and technology as experiential. Much of our knowledge of the world is embodied and results from our sensory perceptions. In addition, it is important to note that the other part of our knowledge is the result of our reasoning, which is interactive with the input of information through sensory perceptions and the transfer of ideas from users of other languages, received through speech (written and spoken, for which language is the medium).

TST embodied the idea that humans have the ability to create mental categories in addition to perceiving the objective world. Many of these mental categories have a prototype structure, the origin of which is based on the work of psychologist Rosch (1978). The hypothesis of Rosch (1978) is that

each category has a prototype, which is a better example for that category, and that the classification happens based on this. Lakoff (1987) argues that categorization is not based solely on common characteristics, but rather on the possibilities and constraints of the human body and culture. Rosch (1978) studied prototypes through feature configurations, which helped her understand the structure of categories in the mind. Examples of categories such as “bird” may have characteristics such as “can fly”, “has feathers”, “has beak”, “is not a pet”, “lays eggs”, etc. It is not necessary for one or more resources to be shared by all examples in a category. Examples belong to a category because they are similar and share different sets of resources, such as members of a family.

The relationship between the world and language is fundamental to the human understanding of the world, as language is seen as a means to express the perception and conception of the human world. According to the Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology approach, the world is partially in the human mind and language plays an important role in this relationship. By considering the connection between language and mind, this approach recognizes that understanding language is intrinsically linked to understanding the world.

In explaining his theory, Temmerman (1998, 2000a, 2000b) compares the fundamental principles of the General Theory of Terminology (TGT) with those of the Sociocognitive Theory of Terminology (TST) and points out five principles of TGT that are revised by TST.

First principle - The main keyword of TGT is concept. In its traditional definition the concept is a “unit of thought constituted by abstraction based on properties of one or more objects” (ISO/CD 1087-1,1995), understanding as object a phenomenon in the world perceptible or conceivable, being, therefore, a very restrictive concept (TEMMERMAN, 1998, p. 80). The concept comes before the naming of the term. In TST, this keyword is replaced by unit of knowledge. In studying the language and categorization of the life sciences, Temmerman (2000a, 2000b) showed that there are few objective concepts. People understand the world through cognitive frames (Fillmore, 1985) or idealized cognitive models (ICMs) (LAKOFF, 1987), in which units of knowledge structured in prototypes are related.

Temmerman (1998, 2000a) states that few units of knowledge in the field of life sciences do not have a prototype structure; Most, however, have prototype structure and are therefore best referred to as category. For the researcher, it is necessary to describe the information obtained by combining three perspectives: the nominalist perspective (the unit of understanding is the sense of the word), the mentalist perspective (the unity of understanding is an idea that exists in people’s minds) and the realistic perspective (the unit of knowledge is an external form that exists in the universe).

The TGT stipulates that an expert can describe the concept before paying attention to the term. The concept is considered to exist in an abstract way, without recognizing the role that language plays in categorization and communication. This position is the same as that taken by experts on standardization committees. It reflects only one aspect of how specialized language vocabulary can be handled in communication. It is conveniently ignored that terms already exist to communicate about

knowledge in the specialized domain in question. In order to arrive at unambiguous communication, the artificial model insists on clearly delineating a concept and then naming it to obtain mononymy and monosemy.

Since terminology can only be studied in discourse it makes more sense to accept that the term is the starting point of terminological description, rather than what was traditionally called a concept.

Second principle - understanding is equivalent to classifying cognitive models. TGT believes that a clear concept can be given a place in a concept framework. This conceptual framework is based on logical (e.g., x is a type of y) or ontological (e.g., x is part of y) classification. TST believes that comprehension equals categorization. Each category is understood to exist within cognitive models.

Understanding is a structured event. There are two aspects to this: a unit of understanding has intracategorical and intercategory structures and a category has a prototype structure. In TGT, only distinctive features are considered intracategorically important, while only logical and ontological relationships are considered intercategory important.

In TST, the existence of a category is not considered independent of language. Intracategorically a distinction is made between different information modules (such as characteristics, core definition, historical information, procedural information). These information modules can have varying levels of importance, depending on the type of category (e.g., entity, activity, umbrella category) being studied. Intercategorically, perspective, domain, and intent of the cognitive model need to be unraveled.

The intracategorical and intercategory structures of a category can be observed in discourse and imply more information modules than just the distinctive features and their position in a logical or ontological classification.

The categories have prototype structure (Rosch 1978; Geeraerts 1989), which can be analyzed both intensionally, that is, through the definition of necessary and sufficient characteristics, and extensionally, through the examples that exhibit the structure of family similarity and the degrees of belonging to the category. Although some categories can be defined by watertight characteristics, most have fuzzy boundaries. The knowledge of the prototypical structure is crucial for the understanding of the terms, and, therefore, the descriptive terminology can elaborate more detailed methods of analysis of the structure of the prototype (TEMMERMAN, 1998, 2000a).

Principle three - the representation of models. Since, in TGT, concepts need to have a place in a conceptual framework, it was believed that they could be defined on the basis of necessary and sufficient characteristics. In TST, descriptions of meaning can have more or less essential units of information. Depending on the type of unit of knowledge, variation occurs in what is considered more or less essential information to be included in a definition. Depending on the type of category, different information modules may vary in informational importance. It is possible to imagine a template of understanding composed of different modules of information that may contain more or less essential information depending on the type of unit of knowledge and other factors, such as the perspective of understanding (TEMMERMAN, 1998, 2000a).

Fourth principle - univocity. For TGT, only one term should be assigned to a concept, admitting no variations or synonyms. In his researches, Temmerman (1998, 2000a) realized that there is little arbitrariness in both categorization and lexicalization, and that science is an intertextual process, therefore, to study the terminological descriptions of the categories of the life sciences, it is only possible in the discourse. It is necessary to study the texts to understand the flexibility and diversity in categorization.

The processes of synonymy and polysemy are functional and fundamental in the process of progressive understanding. In the textual information contains the proof that it is possible to refer to categories prototypically structured in different ways, using (almost) synonymy. In many cases (almost) synonymy can be explained by acknowledging that there may be different perspectives as the author showed in the case of Southern *blotting*, Southern *hybridisation* and *Southern transfer* (TEMMERMAN, 1998; 2000a).

Fifth principle - concepts and terms are studied synchronously. TGT does not study the development or evolution of language because the main emphasis is on the system of concepts, so only its synchronic aspect is considered. With her research, the author observed that the units of knowledge constantly evolve. The evolutionary history of a term or unit of knowledge is essential for its understanding (TEMMERMAN, 1998, 2000a, 2000b).

In summary, we present the main objections of TST to TGT, but it is important to note that Temmerman (2000a) does not devalue the theory proposed by Wüster. We believe that our research aligns with TST considerations, especially the fifth principle, due to our socio-historical approach.

Next, we describe the methodological procedures adopted to conduct our research.

3. *Corpus*

The documentary collection used in this research was obtained from the Historical Documentation Center of the General Archive of the Judiciary Judge Manuel Pascoal Nabuco D'Ávila, located in the annex of the Court of Justice of Sergipe - Forum Judge Gumercindo Bessa, in the Capucho neighborhood in Aracaju. A total of 45 criminal cases were cataloged that are included in the criminal proceedings of defloration/rape registered in the districts of Aracaju, Capela, Estância, Itabaianinha, Maruim, Nossa Senhora das Dores, Propriá and Riachuelo, in Sergipe during the nineteenth century.

The manuscripts were edited, following the philological rigor, as recommended by Cambraia (2005), and will later be part of the database of the Project for the History of the Brazilian Portuguese, which is currently under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Sandro Marengo of the Federal University of Sergipe. These examinations are part of the criminal proceedings of deflowering / rape, registered in the State of Sergipe. The time lapse corresponds to the second half of the nineteenth century, covering two important periods in the history of Brazil – the Empire and the First Republic.

After making the necessary edits, we submitted the edited *corpus* to the *software AntConc* (ANTONY, 2014) and *TermoStat* (DROUIN, 2003, 2010). With *AntConc*, we generated a lexical list

of all the words present in the *corpus*, and their respective frequencies (token), which allowed the identification of possible candidates for terms, as well as their location and context. *TermoStat*, which contrasts specialized *corpus* with non-specialized *corpus*, helped identify lexical units that stood out in natural language. After this analysis, the selected terms were evaluated by specialists from the medical and legal fields, resulting in a total of 192 terminological units and their variations.

In this article, we will analyze the term “copula”, which represents the sexual act and has a significant frequency.

4. Terminology sheet

The elaboration of terminological sheets is extremely important in the elaboration of terminographic works. As stated by Cabré (1993, p. 281), terminological sheets are structured materials that must contain all the relevant information about each term. We used the terminological form model presented by Teixeira (2021) and Teixeira, Marengo and Finatto (2022), which follows the guidelines of Temmerman (2000a; 2000c) on terminographic making. For TST, it is essential to plan how the information will be provided in a terminology sheet, so the author divides the information into four categorized units:

- a) Category unit: type of category? (Relevant information modules); intracategory analysis (prototype structure); intercategory analysis (analysis of cognitive models); b) Linguistic unit: morphosyntactic information (variants in spelling and pronunciation, morphological analysis on collocation formation; use (sociolinguistic level, geographic level); c) Reference unit: a terminographic record can contain contexts, bibliographic or encyclopedic references, etc.) ; d) Identification unit: a terminology card is identified in several ways, for example, author’s name, date, reference number (TEMMERMAN, 2000a, p. 232).

Following the guidelines, we filled out the terminological form and described the term “*copula*” linguistically and socially.

5. Analysis and Discussion

The first categorical module of the terminology sheet contains all the relevant information about the term under study.

The term selected is “**COPULA**”, which appears 57 times in the 45 records of examination of the body of crime, in criminal proceedings of deflowering / rape occurred in the State of Sergipe, between 1854 and 1900. This term belongs to the great area of knowledge of Legal Medicine, as well as to the related areas of Medicine and Law, and, finally, to the subdomains of Anatomy, Criminal Law and Criminal Expertise.

Temmerman (2000a) classifies the terms into three categories: entities (which can be objectively perceived), activities (which are conceived in the mind, but materialize and develop thanks to experience and embodiment) and collectives or umbrellas (which indicate the totality of activities

covered by a discipline). In the internal analysis of the category, we observed that the term in question belongs to the category of activity and represents a prototypical structure of the sexual act, because according to Chernoviz (1890, p. 700), it consists of the

introduction of the penis, in erection, into the vagina and in rhythmic movements whose effect is to provoke venereal orgasm and ejaculation, aiming at the fertilization of the egg and consequently the perpetuation of the species (CHERNOVIZ 1890, p. 700).

The information about the categories is analyzed through cognitive models, taking into account the perspective (to whom it is intended), the domain (area to which it belongs) and the intention (the objective). It is observed that: a) the perspectives include specialized agents (experts) and non-semi-specialized (judges, delegate, public prosecutor and defense lawyer, clerks, amanuensis, police secretary, witnesses); b) the fields are medicine, law and criminal expertise; c) the intention is to clarify for the articulators of the law, such as the judges, the delegate, the public prosecutor and the defense lawyer (TEIXEIRA, 2021).

Due to the diachronic bias of this study, all historical and social information is important, as evidenced by the analysis of the selected term. The socio-historical information was categorized in terminological context and socio-historical context, approaching the information at macro and micro levels to apply it in the best possible way.

In the nineteenth century, Sergipe society reproduced a patriarchal model, in which women were seen as objects under male power, either from the father or the brothers. This behavior was reinforced by the Church, and the woman was to be modest and live reclusively at home. The virginity of the young women represented the honor of the family, the most valuable asset, thus ensuring a good marriage. According to Souza (2020), the concern with dishonor was a more impactful and evident violence than the act of rape itself, since the violation of the woman's honor represented the violation of male pride. This is the socio-historical context at the macro level.

In the socio-historical micro context, we analyzed a *corpus* composed of 45 criminal records of 42 criminal processes of deflation. We observed that 75% of these women are young people aged between 11 and 20 years, while 14% are in the age group of 0 to 10 years. In addition, 74% are from the interior of the state and only 19% are literate. The defendants are men with an average age of 32, many of whom are tutors, soldiers of the 18th Army Battalion, teachers or businessmen. (TEIXEIRA, 2021).

In the socio-historical terminological context at the macro level, the term “copulation” is usually accompanied by the qualifier “carnal”. In the Criminal Code of 1830 (BRASIL, 1830) and the Penal Code of 1890 (BRASIL, 1890), it was determined that, if carnal copulation had occurred in a virgin woman, aged between 16 and 21 years, through seduction, deception or fraud, she received the name of “deflation” (BRASIL, 1830, 1890). However, if some type of violence was used on any type of woman, being a virgin or not, then it was recognized as “rape” (SOUZA, 2020). In addition, the variant “copla” was found in two processes in the city of Propriá, in which the same clerk acted, but with different experts (TEIXEIRA, 2021).

Teixeira (2021) points out that in the socio-historical terminological context at the micro level, the term with which we are working is present in the records of examination of the body of crime, which are part of the criminal processes of sexual violence against women. These crimes occurred in the State of Sergipe, between the period of 1854 to 1900, and the term in question appears with a frequency of 57 times, also presenting the variation “copla”. Generally, this term is found in the questions made by the requesting authority (82.6%) and in the answers of the experts (17.4%).

Next, we analyze the linguistic unit itself, examining its morphosyntactic structure to understand the grammar that constitutes it. Our methodology focuses on analyzing the data in a complete way, taking into account all competing linguistic variants, such as phonological, orthographic, morphological, lexical, syntactic and semantic (MARENCO, 2022; FAULSTICH, 2002).

The term COPULA is a nominal phrasing, of the feminine gender. We found the linguistic unit COPLA, present in 02 records of examination of the body of crime. According to Nascentes (1955), COPLA has the same Latin origin, and signified of COPULA, which leads us to classify this unit as a morphological linguistic concurrent variant. This categorization has as theoretical basis the construct developed by the researcher Enilde Faulstich, at the end of the 90's.

Concluding the linguistic unit, we present the abnotations, which are fragments taken from the *corpus*, because as Hoffman (2015, p. 48) states, language is carried out through texts, that is, “it is in the whole of the text that one can best explain, functionally and communicatively, the specialized linguistic use, the preference for certain linguistic resources”.

[fól.05v] (...)and the Chief Doctor of Police sworn the oath to the Holy Gospels to the same experts and faithfully carried out their mission by declaring with truth what they discovered and found and what in their conscience they understood; He instructed them to examine the person who is present and declare the answer to the following questions: First if there was deflowering according to what means employed, third if there was carnal **copulation** [fól.06r] fourth if there was violence for libidinous end, fifth what is the value of the damage caused. **08-CMN -30 -08 -1876.**

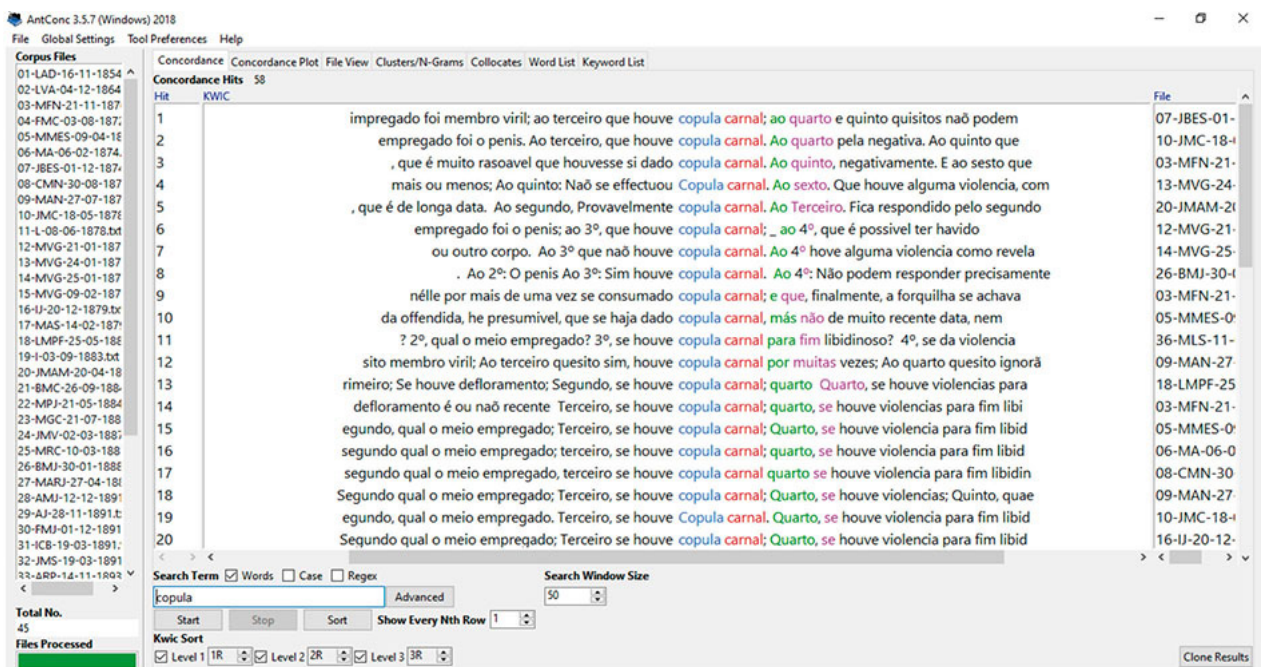
[fól.08v] Proceeding from the symptoms found we find the rupture of the hymen, and that a *causa* wrought this destruction, and whatever that *causa* is attributed to it is certain that in any discussion of any discussion, that we are offered we conclude that there are rare *cazos* in which the hymen can be destroyed except by the act of **copulation**, and that the seos, flaps or caruncles constitute a strong preznption of the dysfloration operating by the virile limb; [...] **10 -JMC -18 -05 -1878.**

[fól.08r] [...] the Delegate to the Pyrites deferred the undertaking of the *estillo*, to well and faithfully carry out their miscoes, declaring with truth what they discover and *contrascem* and charged them to proceed from *concién* [fól.08v] of *Conciencia* the examination of the Body of Delicto of *defloramente* in the person of Maria Joze da Conceiçaõ, and that they answer the following *Quizitos*. to the first if there was defloration or structuring; Second. What means is employed; Third. One hears carnal **copla**; Room. if it is recent; Fifth. If there was use of *penotism* of *substancia neticica* or in the cork for the execution of the crime [...] **44-MJC-17-01-1900.**

[fol.03v] [...] the Delegate, after the said experts having declared that under the word of honour they were fulfilled to perform their duties well and faithfully, charged them to proceed to examination in the aforesaid, I say in the person of the offended, and to answer the following questions: 1° if there was with effect the deflation, according to which the means employed, third if there was carnal **copulation**, fourth if there was violence for libidinous end, fifth if the deflowering is recent? **45-MAS-27-04-1900**.

In the figure below, it is possible to observe how the Concordance function presents the results in a KWIC (KeyWord In Context) format, allowing the visualization of the term in a contextualized way, as well as the identification of the file in which the word was inserted. We selected the term copula represented in the color blue. To its right, in red color, we find another word that can be articulated to it, in this specific case it is the carnal lexia. Thus, they form a complex UT of terminological significance.

Figure 01: Search result for <copula> with the Concordance function



Source: AntConc

In the reference unit we highlight the etymological basis of the terminological unit, because it is through the etymology that important clues are found about the conceptual and defining changes.

The search for references was developed at three levels, namely: lexicographic definition, encyclopedic definition and terminological definition (LARIVIÈRE, 1996). To this end, we made use of books and manuals of Legal Medicine as well as dictionaries, specialized or not. In the etymological reference work of Professor Antenor Nascentes (1955, p. 135), the term derives from the Latin, *copula*, meaning union. The specialized lexicographic reference, however, not temporalized in the dictionary of Pedro Pinto (1921, p. 144) we find as a result - *coitus*, sex congress. In the work of Law

Professor Chrysolito de Gusmão (1945, p. 222), *copula* is represented as the material objectification of the crime is in copulation; it's the consummative moment.

We also used non-specialized lexicographic works published between 1854 and 1900, and found in Vieira, 2º VOL, 1873, p.504 - s. f. (from the Latin *copula*). Coitus, carnal gathering of two sexes; Moraes Silva, 8th ed., tome I, 1890, p. 540 - s. f. (from Latin), connection, junction. § sexual gathering. **Copula:** S. f. sexual gathering; coitus; and Figueiredo, 1899, p. 345 - union or sexual connection. (Latin *copula* - from + *apere*, call).

We finished filling out the form with the identification data of the person responsible for the information provided and date, which was carried out by Teixeira (2022).

Final considerations

We understand that the exploration of terminologies in their most diverse dimensions, be they textual, temporal, cognitive, formal, conceptual and functional were allowed by the use of a sociocognitive and historical approach in this work.

We believe that this proposition is a theoretical-methodological gain, by allowing the understanding of the (re)constructed meanings of uses of the term, glimpsing its circumstantiated socio-historical movements, (re) recognizing its users, enunciators, communicative and discursive situations, opening space to reveal the historical-social dynamics of certain communities of practices through their linguistic-terminological reverberations.

The adequacy of the terms to the cognitive categories framed as entity, activity and umbrella, according to the proposal of the Belgian researcher Rita Temmerman, in our specific case, was (and continues to be) the object of much reflection and questioning. Although I argue that a terminographer needs to know how to recognize structures that are prototypical (and that this recognition occurs through textual sources) to fit them into categories, we recognize that this is not an easy task.

Another data of unique relevance focused on the statement of Temmerman (2000a) that the prototypical structures inscribed in the *entity* category are exempt from presenting socio-historical information, since, in the author's view, they can be described ontologically. The nature of our work leads us to disagree with this perspective, because when working diachronically, or specifically with a given past synchrony, the socio-historical aspect, in its non-teleological movements of variation and structural and/or conceptual change, is essential for the construction of the polyhedral character of each and every term, even those of more recent specialty areas. Therefore, we do not believe that it is possible to construct an encyclopedic knowledge - taking the term as a unit of knowledge - without resorting to information that constitutes and is constructed in/of the dynamic nature of the term and only possible to see and understand it fully from the rescue of its roots in the diachronic dimension.

The terminological form model applied here allowed the elaboration of a more enlightening definitional statement, resolving doubts of those possibly interested in studies with diachronic bias. The terminological form presented allowed the collection, organization and presentation of relevant information for the development of a definitional statement, in the environment of meaning of the unit of knowledge in which it was applied.

We agree with Marengo (2016) when he states that socio-historical terminological studies aligned the reciprocity between the study of the linguistic system and its interrelationship with history and culture.

Sergipe was a territory in a large and abrupt process of social, political, economic and cultural change macro historically. Their social system was based on a strongly patriarchal structure, which represented male domination. The woman had no active voice, neither in the family nor in the wider society. Seen as an object, her virginity was regarded as an important part in the constitution of honor and the moral and economic value of the entire patriarchal family structure. There was an urgent need for reparation once this honor was violated, and this fact undoubtedly generated a settlement of the idea of female fragility and inferiority added to the conception of male possession and dominance.

In short, we believe that the diachronic studies of specialized languages and the discourses related to them are of great importance for the construction of a greater knowledge of the Social and Linguistic History of the Brazilian Portuguese.

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