# Named Entity or Entity Name?

The expression "named entity" or "entity" denotes one of the most central concepts in text mining for life sciences. However, it is very fuzzy and different and partly contradictory definitions coexist. Most users of the expression "named entity" are unaware of the semantic subtleties involving the words "entity", "name" and "term". The literature on (biological) text mining provides evidence for the semantic problems that characterize the expression "named entity", mainly the separation between the realm of language and the realm of the particular domain of interest. For the latter, a specific typology of entities is introduced. According to this typology ambiguities involving biological language expressions are demonstrated.
On the level of language evidence is provided for a similar terminological confusion about the notions of "name" and "term". In a new typology the problematic expression "named entity" is substituted by either "name" (on the language level) or "non-lexicalized entity" (on the domain level). To denote the practice hitherto identified as "named entity recognition" the expression "name recognition" is suggested.