17 - Terminology

PO-053 - (23887) - GHOST TERMS: LOCATING MISSING ANATOMICAL TERMS FROM MATCHING OPPOSITE PAIRS

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In 1956, the IANC established seven rules for Latin anatomical nomenclature, all of which remain in place, of which rule six states: “That differentiating adjectives shall be, in general, arranged as opposites.”

This poster focuses on a phenomenon within the standardized list of Latin anatomical nomenclature, the *Terminologia Anatomica* (TA2), in which one part of a paired name has been changed so that it no longer accounts for the other half, leaving the original name of the pair holding a seemingly useless descriptor. An example of this phenomenon is the name *facies posterior humeri* [TA2 1196]. In English, this name translates to “the rear face of the humerus”. If we say “the rear face” of anything, it implies that there should be a “front (or *anterior*) face” of that thing; otherwise, the adjective *posterior* serves no purpose. However, there is no *facies anterior humeri*, thus breaking rule six, and this poster examines what happened to these missing, or “ghost”, terms.

Having noted all the terms in the TA2 which contain comparative locatives in the nominative case, we isolated the ones for which there is no respective opposite. Then we searched for the missing (or “ghost”) term and what its new name is. Too many opposing terms have had one side change its name while the opposing term retained its original structure. Anatomical names are supposed to be helpful. When the rule of opposing adjectives is broken, the nomenclature becomes harder to use for everyone involved.

Palavras-chave : Latin, anatomy, terminology