DIALECTICS OF UDC (7)
(Continued from Abgila, 3.166)

SECTION 5
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[Locates the faults in each sentence. Replaces it by a new one.
 Adds a few new sentences. Restates the Section in 4 paras. This section
 is on Connecting Symbols needed by faceted and phased classes.]

0 The Text

"The series of numerals and signs of association is arranged
for certain purposes in a definite order of succession, and in this series
the signs of association must be regarded merely as additional digits.
On the other hand, they have a special function in respect of which
their order of succession is arbitrary and reversible. The same
feature is characteristic of languages which are both inflexional and
prepositional. Thus we can refer to a "metalworker" or "worker
in metals" the dominant word being arbitrary according to the point
of view. Similarly, in representing the compound concept "mining
for copper in England" different specialists will consider each noun
in turn in this concept to be the dominant one. In such cases there
is no such thing as a logical order of succession of the constituent
nations, and the compound notion is to this extent an arbitrary
subdivision of each constituent."

1 Sentence 1

This sentence has no unity in the verbal plane. Nor has it
unity in the idea plane. It may therefore be replaced by the
following three sentences. Some new words will come up in thus
splitting up. They are shown in brackets.

1. The series of pure numerals and signs of association is
   arranged in a definite order of succession.

2. (This arrangement is designed) for certain purposes.

3. In this series the signs of association may be regarded
   merely as additional digits.
0 Using the hitherto accepted standard terms, this sentence may be amended to: "The sequence of pure numerals and connecting symbols is arranged in a definite order of succession."

1 The term "pure numerals" may be replaced by "scheduled decimal fractions."

2 Scheduled decimal fractions and connecting symbols occur in a sequence in a class number. Therefore, the words "in a class number" after "order of succession" will add to clarity.

3 In anticipation of sentence 2 of the text, "definite" may be replaced by "preferred."

4 "Order of succession" may be replaced by "sequence". Thus "sequence" is twice used in the sentence. One is tautological. The first "sequence" may hence be omitted.

5 The sentence may therefore be amended to: "The scheduled decimal fractions and connecting symbols occur in a preferred sequence in a class number."

12 The New Sentence 2

1 Replace "purposes" by "results".

2 This sentence may hence be amended to: "Thus arrangement is designed for certain results."

13 The New Sentence 3

0 Using the hitherto accepted standard terms, this sentence may be amended to: "In this sequence, the connecting symbols may be regarded merely as additional digits."

2 Sentence 2

This sentence has no unity in the verbal plane. Nor has it unity in the idea plane. It may therefore be replaced by the following three sentences.

1 On the other hand they have a special function.

2 That is to mark off the blocks of decimal fractions.

3 In respect of this function their order of succession is arbitrary.
4 (It) is reversible.

21 The New Sentence 1

1 "On the other hand" is used to emphasise a function to be fulfilled by the connecting symbols after the statement of their being "regarded merely as additional digits" in sequence. But being "regarded merely as additional digits" in a sequence does not imply their not fulfilling a function. Thus "on the other hand" is out of place here. It may be omitted.

2 This is a new idea dealing with a "special function" to be fulfilled by the connecting symbols. This sentence should therefore begin a new para. "It" may hence be replaced by its antecedent "The connecting symbols."

3 This sentence may therefore be amended to: "The connecting symbols are designed to fulfil a special function."

22 The New Sentence 2

This sentence is introduced to describe the special function mentioned in the new sentence.

23 The New Sentence 3

0 Using the hitherto accepted terms, the sentence may be amended to: "In respect of this function their sequence is arbitrary."

1 The sequence is made arbitrary by the classificationist to provide for different points of view of looking at a subject. Thus the "arbitrariness" of the sequence is not "in respect of this function." This function is made possible because of the arbitrariness of the sequence. Therefore the words "in respect of this function" may be replaced by "To fulfil this function."

2 "Their" apparently stands for "connecting symbols". But in reality, the sequence of the "decimal fractions and the connected symbols" taken together is meant. To express this, "Their sequence" may be replaced by "the sequence of scheduled decimal fractions and connecting symbols."

3 This sentence may therefore be amended to: "To fulfil this function the sequence of scheduled decimal fractions and connecting symbols is arbitrary."
24 The New Sentence 4
This sentence may be retained as such.

3 Sentence 3
This sentence has no unity in the verbal plane. Nor has it unity in the idea plane. It may therefore be replaced by the following two sentences:

1 (Some) languages are both inflexional and prepositional.
2 The same feature is characteristic of such languages.

31 The New Sentence 1
This sentence may be retained as such.

32 The New Sentence 2
1 The words "of arbitrariness" may be added after "feature."
2 This feature is not in all the terms of such a language. Only a multi-worded term has it. Each constituent is used to represent a single concept. Even here the arbitrariness is characteristic of only the sequence of the constituent substantives and not of the term as such. This should be specified.
3 This sentence may therefore be amended to: "The same feature of arbitrariness is characteristic of the sequence of the constituent substantives of a multiworded term in such a language.

4 Sentence 4
This sentence has unity in the verbal plane. But it has no unity in the idea plane. Also it is an elliptical sentence. The ellipsis has to be filled up. It may therefore be replaced by the following five sentences. Sentences 1, 3 and 4 are introduced to fill up ellipsis.

1 There are different points of view for choosing the dominant word in a compound term.
2 The dominant word is (therefore) arbitrary.
3 The term "metalworker" is compound.
4 The dominant word can be "metal" or "worker" according to the point of view.
5 Thus we can refer to a "metal worker" or "worker in metals".

41 New Sentence 1

The word "dominant" is vague. It can denote differently in different contexts. Here it denotes "first". Hence it should be replaced throughout by "first."

42 New Sentence 2

"Compound" may be replaced by "multi-worded".

5 Sentence 5

This sentence has unity in the verbal plane. It has also unity in the idea plane.

1 The representative of the "concept" is not mentioned. Evidently it is the class number. This may be specified. Hence the words "in a class number" should follow "Mining for copper in England."

2 The word "Compound" in this context may be replaced by "multi-worded."

3 "Concept" or class in the idea plane is "subject" in the verbal plane and "class number" in the notational plane. Here we are considering the verbal and notational planes. "Concept" may hence be replaced by "subject".

4 "Noun" may be replaced by "Substantive".

5 The words "name of" may precede "this".

6 This sentence may thus be amended to:

"Similarly in representing the multi-worded subject "Mining for copper in England" by class number, different specialists will prefer different substantives in the name of this subject to be the first one."

6 Sentence 6

This sentence has no unity in the verbal plane. Nor has it unity in the idea plane. It may therefore be replaced by the following two sentences.
In such cases there is no such thing as a logical order of succession of the constituent notions.

The compound notion is to this extent an arbitrary subdivision of each constituent.

61 The New Sentence 1

By using standard terms already arrived at, the sentence may be amended to: "In such cases there is no such thing as a logical sequence of the constituent substantives."

62 The New Sentence 2

Replace "compound notion" by "the subject represented by the totality of words".

Replace "to this extent" by "thus".

A subject cannot be a subdivision of a constituent word. Hence the words "the subject represented by" may be interpolated between "of" and "each".

Replace "constituent" by "constituent substantive".

The sentence may therefore be amended to: "The subject represented by a multiworded term is thus an arbitrary subdivision of the subject represented by either constituent substantive."

7 Restatement of the Section

In the restatement the necessary paragraphing has been effected.

The scheduled decimal fractions and the connecting symbols occur in a preferred sequence in a class number. This arrangement is designed for certain results. In this sequence the connecting symbols may be regarded merely as additional digits.

The connecting symbols are designed to fulfil a special function. That is to mark off the reversible blocks of decimal fractions. The sequence of scheduled decimal fractions and connecting symbols is arbitrary. It is reversible.

Some languages are both inflexional and prepositional. The same feature of arbitrariness is characteristic of the sequence of the
constituent substantives of a multiworded term in such a language. There are different points of view for choosing the first word for a multi-worded term. The first word is therefore arbitrary. The term “metal worker” is multiworded. The first word can be “metal” or “working” according to the point of view. Thus we can refer to a “metal worker” or “worker in metals”.

Similarly in representing the multi-worded subject “Mining for copper in England” in a class number, different specialists will prefer different substantives in the name of the subject to be the first one. In such cases there is no such thing as a logical sequence of the constituent substantives. The subject represented by the totality of words is thus an arbitrary subdivision of the subject represented by either constituent substantive.”

8 General Observations

Though beyond the scope of this series, it is difficult to withstand the temptation to make a few observations. The desirability of the principle of reversibility of the sequence, enunciated in the section, is questionable. It is no doubt a step towards removal of rigidity in the sequence. But it is rigidity removed at the cost of sacrificing one of the necessary qualities of a classificatory language. This is freedom from homonym. To lose this quality in order to remove rigidity is to court chaos. This is too bad. The purpose of the “reversed class number” should be left to be served by the catalogue. Ranganathan’s Chain Procedure enables the catalogue to serve this purpose admirably.