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LINGUISTIC CATEGORIZATION

A French/English Case Study

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LINGUISTIC CATEGORIZATION OF ARTIFACTS

"First, people recognize objects as having properties in common with entities stored in memory, and this recognition results in an encoding in an internal representation system. Second, people connect objects with words, both in producing a name for an object and in understanding an object name used by someone else. These two acts are surely closely connected"

Malt et. al 1999

BOX/
BOITE/
CARDBOARD/
CARTON

*Examining
English/French
Categorization*

QUESTIONS OF TRANSLATION

From French to English, "carton" loosely translates to "box." However, the English "carton" can also find its equivalent in the French "carton", while the English box can also be translated by "boîte", and yet "boîte" is most often translated as "can."

Examples of lexical categorization can be found in the following slides.
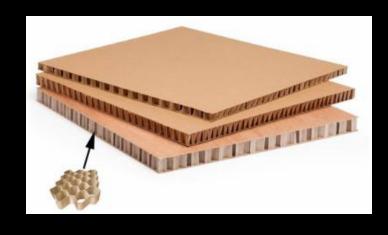
English | *French*

(CARDBOARD) BOX | CARTON

CARDBOARD | CARTON

(MILK) CARTON | CARTON DE LAIT

Boîte

FR: Une boîte (en plastique)

EN: a plastic box, a storage container

FR: Une boîte à gateaux

EN: a biscuit tin

FR: Une boîte aux lettres

EN: post box (UK), mail box (US)

Boîte

FR: Une boîte
de pois chiches

EN: A can of
chickpeas

FR: Une boîte
(de nuit)

EN: A nightclub

FR: Une boîte
mail

EN: An (email)
inbox

FR: Une boîte
(slang)

EN: A company,
a workplace

DZIĘKUJĘ - THANK YOU - MERCI

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