

One option is to base a general landscape classification scheme on the concept of ‘affordance’ (Gibson 1966), which refers to the characteristics of an object or an environment that relate to its potential for interaction, in this case human interaction. Affordances are likely to play an important role in landscape categorization; things with similar affordances are more likely to be grouped together into some category. The more important aspects of the affordances of natural landscape with respect to human beings includes the domain of topography (landforms) and hydrology (water in the landscape) and then land cover (vegetation). The aspects of landscape considered include:

1. Topography (landforms)
  - Convexities: eminences
  - Concavities 1: longitudinal depressions in the landscape
  - Concavities 2: oval or round openings in the earth
  - Passes (saddle points)
  - Vertical faces (cliffs)
  - Edges of elevated areas
  - Horizontal areas (plains)
2. Hydrology (water in the landscape)
  - Sources of drinking water
  - Bodies of standing water
  - Watercourses
  - Sources and sinks
  - Confluences
  - Parts of large water bodies
  - Shore-bounded land areas (islands etc.)
3. Land cover (vegetation)
  - Vegetation assemblages
  - Enclaves and refugia

p. 371 This list can serve as a starting point for identifying landscape terms in any particular language, and bears some resemblance to domains recognized by Voegelin and Voegelin (1957). However, the use of this terminology for landforms and hydrology is merely to establish an initial set of categories for tabulating existing dictionary entries for landscape terms. This terminology is not used with the consultants or to describe the terms used in the target language in resulting landscape dictionaries.

It is critical to note that what aspects of landscape are salient for a particular language community depends on their lifestyle, culture, history, and spirituality—their ‘lifeworld’. Mohanty (1997: 60) explains this term: