Locks-ins and vendor lock-in are little difference. Lock-in refers to a general dependency on a technology or system that is costly to change. Vendor lock-in specifically means being tied to a single provide's products or services. That's what wikipedia said about these subject.

According to Ross Anderson in *Security Engineering* (3rd edition, 2010), "*Once a software firm commits to using a platform such as windows or oracle for its products, it can be expensive to change... it's a cheaper to replace tools than to retrain programmers*."

Ross Anderson highlights four features separately: low marginal costs, network externalities, supply-side scale economies and technical lock-in. Together, these effects encourage users to choose vendors they believe will win the largest market share, since compatibility with other users is valuable.

Excamble: lock-in-systems are Microsoft and Apple, which both maintain ecosystms where software, hardware and services depend heavily on one another. Vendor lock-in is like Oracle, or many modern cloud service providers, where customers rely on one company's platform and face high switching costs if they want to move elsewhere.

Notes:

Ross Anderson Security Engineering 3 edition 2020)

wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vendor_lock-in (25.9.2025)