Abstraction Terminology Across Disciplines



Linguistics

Hyponymy/Hypernymy describe hierarchies of meaning (e.g., Dog -> Animal). Semantic generalization describes how specific terms are abstracted into broader categories.

Cognitive Science

Conceptual abstraction underlies cognitive generalization. Marr's Levels of Representation describe abstraction from computational goals to neural implementation.

Computer Science

Abstraction layers structure code (data, control, types). Stepwise refinement moves from general problem descriptions to concrete implementations.

Category Theory

Functorial abstraction models mappings between categories. Categorification lifts set-based structures to abstract categorical relationships.