

OMISSION OF WORDS IN A TITLE

(TECHNICAL NOTE, 20)

*Abbreviations used :*CCC = RANGANATHAN S R : *Classified catalogue code*. Ed 4.

A, B, C, D, E, = Participants

R = Teacher

A.—Rule 262 of CCC prescribes:

"In rendering the Title in the Title Section or in the Heading of a Main Entry, Puff, if any, at the middle or at the end of the Title, is to be omitted and is to be replaced by three dots if in the middle and by "etc" if in the end."

Why this differential prescription in the two different places to indicate the same idea of omission of some parts in the title.

B.—It is a violation of the Law of Impartiality.¹

R.—There must be some reason behind this. Let us put down the possible ways of indicating the omissions and at the end of a title using three dots (...) and the abbreviation 'etc'. Let us take a concrete example. Consider the full title.

"Narrative of a child analysis ; the conduct of the psychoanalysis of children as seen in the treatment of a ten year old boy."

What all words you will remove as puffs ?

C.—"Narrative of a " and "the conduct of the."

D.—We may omit "Narrative of a " and "As seen...boy."

R.—If we follow C's suggestion the title left will be.

"Child analysis ; psychoanalysis of children as seen in the treatment of a ten year old boy."

What symbol would you use to indicate the omission of "narrative of a " and the "the conduct of the."

A.—We can use three dots (...).

R.—Why not 'etc' ?

B.—If we use 'etc' at the beginning or in the middle of the sentence, we get an unintelligible title.

R.—So three dots (...) are preferable to indicate the omission at the beginning and in the middle of the sentence. And why three dots ?

C.—We have been using it that way.

R.—In other words it is a convention, in as much as the sign '+' indicates the concept of addition. It is generally understood.

Now if we follow D's suggestion, we shall get the title reduced to.

"Child analysis; the conduct of the psychoanalysis of children."

How shall we indicate the omissions of the parts of the title at the beginning and at the end.

A.—We have agreed to use three dots to indicate omission at the beginning and within the title. The same symbol can be used to indicate the omissions at the end of the title. It is simple and satisfies the Law of Impartiality.

E.—The suggestion is alright if the title is considered separately; that is standing independently. But in a catalogue entry we have to consider the title as forming part of the title section.

R.—You mean in the catalogue entry there are other words or symbols after the title proper.

E.—Yes. The end of the title proper will be indicated by a full stop. The omitted portion of the title will be indicated by three dots just preceding the full stop. There are chances in writing and in typing of one of the four dots not being put in. If there are words following the title proper, one is likely to mistake the later words as forming part of the title proper with some omissions in the middle. This wrong impression will result more particularly when the first word in the sentence immediately following the title is a proper name and therefore begins with a capital letter. One may not be able to discern whether this word begins a new sentence or is a part of the title.

R.—Therefore, to avoid such a possibility we have to use a symbol different from the three dots (...). The CCC prescribes the abbreviation 'etc'. This again is a convention. The meaning of the symbol is generally understood.

F.—Are we not violating the Law of Parsimony² by prescribing two different symbols to represent the same idea ?

R.—But you have just now seen that such a differential prescription is necessary ^{for} an unintelligible title or if confusion between different parts of the title section are to be avoided. This is an overriding consideration.

REFERENCES

1 RANGANATHAN S R : *Classified catalogue code*. Ed 4. 1958. Sec 033

2 *Ibid* Sec 034.

S R RANGANATHAN

A NEELAMEGHAN

A R DESAI