

**Amendment to Fundamental Rules
as approved by the BCI Board of Directors
January 16-26, 2009, Board Meeting**

Please replace Sections 9.1 to 9.3.5 with the following text.

9 The Blissymbolics development process

9.1. The BCI organization for the development of Blissymbolics

Blissymbolics vocabulary and grammar development is organized in stages to ensure continuity and consistency in development work. Five different levels within the BCI structure are involved in working together in the creation of new Bliss vocabulary, including Bliss-characters and Blisswords.

9.1.1 Blissymbolics Development Secretariat

The Blissymbolics Development Secretariat (BDS) is responsible for leading the on-going development of Blissymbolics as a written language to be used for communication by persons with communication, language and learning difficulties. The BDS works in interaction with working groups and individual contributors to enlarge and refine the language of Blissymbolics. The Blissymbolics Development Secretariat is appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of operation of two years, renewable. The BDS has one representative on the BCI Board of Directors. The BDS constitutes the primary and core group of the BCI language hub.

• The BDS shall:

- a) coordinate and provide leadership to the development of Blissymbolics by BCI.
- b) exercise its own initiative in the development of proposals for improvement to the system, including recommendations to the Board of Directors re changes in the fundamental rules.
- c) prepare for final approval all recommendations in regard to the addition, alteration, or deletion of standard Bliss-words and other features of the Blissymbolics language.
- d) Once Bliss-words have been approved by the Blissymbolics Approval Council BAC, the BDS will forward the approved Bliss-words to the BCI Board of Directors for their ratification. Once ratified, the Board will allocate the identification numbers to be assigned to the new symbols and appoint a person who will assign those numbers to the approved Bliss-words and incorporate them into the *BCI Authorized Vocabulary*.

9.1.2 The **International Blissymbolics Development Panel (BDP)** consists of Working Groups and Individual Contributors. The BDP engages in discussion with the BDS to achieve consensus on the developing vocabulary.

9.1.2.1 Working groups and individual contributors

- Working groups are national, cultural, language-based or topic-based groups of people working on the development of Blissymbolics. Each working group appoints one of its members to coordinate its work, and to act as correspondent with the BDS.
- Individual Contributors are persons working on the development of Blissymbolics, who are unable to meet regularly with a working group and who correspond directly with BDS.

9.1.3 Blissymbolics Approval Council

9.1.3.1 The **Blissymbolics Approval Council (BAC)** are up to 12 experts appointed by the BCI Board of Directors for two years renewable. When the construction (spelling) of new

Bliss-words is considered by BDS as making the Bliss-word eligible for entry into the BCI Authorized Vocabulary, these Bliss-words will be monitored by at least two BAC members chosen by the BDS.

The BAC team will rely on the *Fundamental Rules (2004)* and monitor the following features of the proposed new Bliss-words:

The *Drawing* (form) of the symbols

The *Gloss*

The *Derivation*

The *Description (or explanation)*

The members on the BAC monitoring team who have participated in the development of a Bliss-word and who could be considered because of their expertise to monitor the glosses, the derivations and descriptions will *not* be asked to undertake a role that might cause them to have a conflict of interest in making decisions within the final approval process. The discretion of the BDS can be used in selecting members of BAC to monitor specific aspects of the new Bliss-words if THE need arises, e.g., while an individual may have participated in the development of a new Bliss-word at a Panel meeting, they could still monitor the drawing or derivation of the Bliss-word. One of the monitors must have English as their native language.

9.1.4 The **Blissymbolics Board of Directors (BBD)** gives final authorization to the new Blisswords presented to them by the BDS. The BCI Board allocates the BCI identification numbers and appoints a person who will assign the specified numbers to the NEWLY approved Bliss-words. They will then incorporate the numbers into the *BCI Authorized Vocabulary*.

9.2 Guidelines for the development of Blissymbolics

9.2.1 Requests, suggestions and proposals

- Requests, suggestions and approvals for vocabulary are generally designated to and developed in categories covering linguistic or conceptual fields. The practice of developing new Bliss-words within the context of a linguistic or conceptual field is used to ensure that the developmental work is carried out in accordance with the logic of the system.
- Requests and suggestions for new vocabulary or grammar or features of the system can be submitted for consideration to the BDS by any Bliss user, caregiver or professional within the field.
- Those proposal Bliss-words are encouraged to include definitions and explanations of these Bliss-words using the Blissymbolics Reference Guide as a reference.

9.2.2 Questionnaires

- Requests, suggestions and proposals for new vocabulary and grammar can be organized in questionnaires and distributed by the BDS to working groups and individual contributors for their consideration and comments.
- New vocabulary can also be proposed, discussed and agreed on at international panel meetings.
- Blissymbolics development is an interactive process. A linguistic or conceptual field under development may require one or more successive questionnaires for refinements of the new vocabulary, grammar or features of the system.
- Bliss-words developed in accordance with the *Fundamental Rules* (Word building strategies for vocabulary extension) will be sent to the **International Panel** by mail

for acceptance or processing through questionnaires. The circulation of the questionnaire should take place within a two month time-frame. Accepted Bliss-words go directly to the **Blissymbol Approval Council (BAC)**. Controversial Bliss-words are forwarded to meetings.

9.2.3 Specialist consultation. In developing Blissymbolics within a certain conceptual field, consultations with one or more specialists are recommended in order to determine the best way of representing the group of concepts for international use and to identify the distinguishing features of the concepts being symbolized. Specialists from different countries can work as advisors when dealing with grammatical issues. A specialist can be a professional within a field.

9.2.4 Meetings

- **Blissymbolics Developmental Panel Meeting:** Blissymbol development meetings are normally held every second year or more often if the work so requires. The BDS informs working groups and individual contributors about the meetings and prepares the program of the Blissymbolics development work for these meetings.
- The meetings are open to all persons interested in the development of the language or with experience from its use in teaching or communication,
- The meetings will include at least 10 participants, a majority of the participants will have previous experience of the development work. The needs of different nations, cultures and language groups should be considered when planning the participation at the meetings, including representation from both English and Nordic language groups. BDS has the ultimate decision regarding the participants and the representation at the meetings.
- **Informal ad-hoc meetings:** Informal ad-hoc meetings (he so-called “kitchen table” meetings) are recommended on anyone’s initiative, to prepare a linguistic or conceptual field to be submitted to the BDS.
- **Working Group Meetings:** The working groups are responsible for organizing their own meetings.

9.2.5 Summary of Development Process

- Proposals for new Bliss-words can be sent out in questionnaires and discussed during at least one international Blissymbol development meeting in order to reach an agreement with regard to each new Bliss-word. An informal voting procedure may be used when an agreement cannot be reached. If new information about a concept is received the Bliss-word can be brought forward for renewed discussion.
- The BDS decides when new Bliss-words are ready to be brought to members of the Blissymbolics Approval Council for monitoring.
- BDS recommends to the BCI Board of Directors new Bliss-words and new Bliss-characters for their authorization and their inclusion in the authorized vocabulary.
- The BCI Board allocates identification numbers to be assigned to the new symbols and appoints a person to assign the specified numbers to the symbols. The first 2300 symbols have been assigned numbers according to the ISO/IEC 2375 registration submission.
- BCI Board of Directors has the final authority for accepting into the BCI Authorized Vocabulary the Bliss-words and Bliss-characters recommended by the BDS, in the form authorized by the BAC.

9.3 Criteria for the evaluation of new Bliss-words and Bliss-characters

9.3.1 Blissymbolics is used by persons with communication difficulties. This implies that the special needs of these persons are taken into consideration in the developmental work. New Blisswords and Bliss-characters are therefore developed to respond to:

- a) The needs of persons at all levels of development
- b) The needs of persons with language and learning difficulties. This may require special Blissword synonyms for persons functioning at a lower developmental level
- c) The life situations of AAC users

9.3.2 New Bliss-words and Bliss-characters are developed in accordance with the Fundamental Rules of the Blissymbolics language.

9.3.3 New Bliss-words are developed with regard to:

- a) National and cultural differences
- b) The maintenance of the logic of the system
- c) The maintenance of Blissymbolics as a multicultural and international language
- d) The maintenance of a language that can be used by persons with communication difficulties (See clause 2.0)

9.3.4 Guidelines for approval of new Bliss-words

- a) The Bliss-words must accurately reflect the meaning of a concept (For conciseness, elements can be eliminated, but the remaining elements must still reflect the concept accurately.)
- b) For concepts with many possible different labels or glosses the basic meaning of a concept as it is used in communication, should be represented in the Bliss-word.
- c) Bliss-words must be easy to explain.
- d) Bliss-words must be graphically effective
- e) Bliss-words must be concise. They should be short rather than long.
- f) Bliss-words must be easy to learn. The explanation should be logical enough to be easy to remember.

9.3.5 **Guidelines for approval of new Bliss-characters.** New Bliss-characters may be created only in exceptional cases. Those exceptions are:

- To represent an important often used concept not available in the present standard vocabulary
 - To represent a concept used in a group of Bliss-words
 - To represent a Bliss-word synonym for an important concept, which has been developed based on the needs of the users
 - When proposing a new Bliss character, an explanation must be given as to why the concept cannot be represented by sequencing existing Bliss characters. This explanation must be recorded and retained by the BDS until the new character has been encoded in ISO/IEC 10646. and Unicode.
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