The present study consists of a synthesis of a General Theory of Subject Indexing Language. The synthesis is based on the analyses of outstanding subject indexing languages -- such as those of Cutter, Dewey, Kaiser, and Ranganathan. The attempt has been to give an introduction to the subject together with the problems posed and insights gained. It gives ideas pertaining to questions and problems introduced, and to the technical apparatus necessary to their solution. The apparatus designated as Logical Forms-Approach is explained.

A tentative version of a general theory of subject indexing language was formulated in 1974. It has been enriched considerably in this study. The degree of the generality of this theory has been demonstrated by using it in explaining the structures of outstanding subject indexing languages on the one hand; and in developing a new subject indexing language on the other. The discussion on the relation among semantic, elementary, and syntactic structures has been enlivened by teleological considerations, and by new suggestions for the theoretical solution of the central problem -- namely, the pin-pointed,
Attempts have been made towards an examination of subject indexing languages in the context of change of purpose in order to provide a more exact explanation of changes and variations of subject indexing languages. An insight into the relations described in this study is an essential prerequisite for developing specific purpose-oriented subject indexing languages.

The inspiration for developing the General Theory of Subject Indexing Language furnished here was received primarily from Ranganathan's line of thinking on classification as embedded in his works on the subject. For applying Ranganathan's line of thinking for the purpose in hand, it has been necessary to augment it by ideas embedded in Susanne K Langer's "An introduction to Symbolic Logic", (1953); and in Manfred Bierwisch's "Modern Linguistics: Its Development, Methods and Problems" (1971).

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