

* Data dictionary :- The data dictionary stores descriptions of data items and structures as well as system's process. It is intended to be used to understand the system by analysts who retrieve the details and descriptions. It stores, during system design, when information about such concerns as dataless alternative names, aliases and data used in specific process must be available. The data dictionary also stores validation information to guide the analysis in specifying controls for the system's acceptance of data.

Data dictionary systems are important for five reasons :-

- (i) To manage the details in large systems.
- (ii) To communicate a common meaning for all system elements.
- (iii) To document the feature of the system.
- (iv) To facilitate analysis of the details in order to evaluate characteristics and determine where system changes to be made.

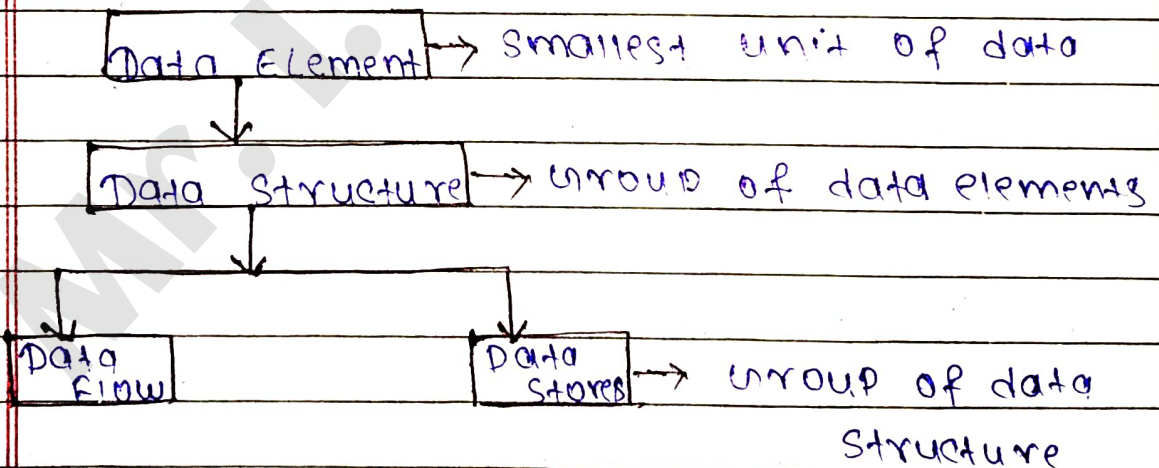
"Whenever you take a step forward, you are bound to disturb something." —Indira Gandhi

(N) To locate errors and omissions in the system.

The dictionary also contains definition of data flows, data stores and process. Data dictionaries can be developed manually or using automated systems.

A data dictionary is intended to provide a complete documentation of or the elements of a data flow diagram namely data items, data stores and data flows.

* Logical Data Description Hierarchy: *



There are three classes of items to be defined in a data dictionary.