stereospecific polymerization

Polymerization in which a *tactic polymer* is formed. However, polymerization in which stereoisomerism present in the *monomer* is merely retained in the *polymer* is not to be regarded as *stereospecific*. For example, the polymerization of a chiral monomer, e.g. D-propylene oxide (D-methyloxirane), with retention of *configuration* is not considered to be a stereospecific reaction; however, selective polymerization, with retention, of one of the *enantiomers* present in a mixture of D- and L-propylene oxide molecules is so classified.

P.B. 19, 32