

radiative transition

A transition between two states of a *molecular entity*, the energy difference being emitted or absorbed as *photons*.

In principle, radiative and radiationless transitions can be distinguished in molecules. The first occur by absorption or emission of light quanta, and the latter is the result of the transformation of electronic excitation energy into vibrational/rotational energy.

See also *radiationless transition*

O.B. 185; 1996, 68, 2270; 1984, 56, 234