

THE ROLE AND CLASSIFICATION OF MILITARY TERMINOLOGY IN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract

The article discusses the role and classification of military terminology within the framework of linguistics. It highlights that military terms are not limited to the military sphere but also serve as essential communicative tools in political, legal, diplomatic and scientific discourse. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, the semantic system of military vocabulary is explained through metaphor, conceptual models and cognitive symbols.

Keywords: Military terminology, linguistics, cognitive approach, metaphor, conceptual model, structural-semantic analysis, sociocultural factors.

Introduction

Language serves as a crucial tool for human development, occupying a central place in the activities of various social institutions. The military sector is also a specialized field that requires the use of language and has its own unique communication system. Military terminology is utilized not only by military personnel but also in scientific, legal, political and diplomatic contexts. In the current context of globalization and international security issues, the study of military terms has become a distinct scientific discipline within linguistics. Military terminology is a linguistic layer that is directly related to a nation's defense capabilities, military structure, military practices, and the way of thinking about war. Today, the study of military terminology in world linguistics has become a pressing topic not only from a linguistic perspective but also from sociocultural, historical, and psycholinguistic viewpoints.

In contemporary linguistics, there is an increasing emphasis on studying language not only as a means of communication but also as a form of human cognition. This is particularly evident in the field of cognitive linguistics, where the

interrelation between language and thought receives special attention. This approach analyzes linguistic units in relation to human consciousness, perception and worldview. Within cognitive linguistics, language is understood not merely as a grammatical system but also as a means to uncover how humans comprehend the world and on what conceptual models, they base their reasoning. In particular, cognitive approaches demonstrate significant importance when analyzing military terminology. In this context, the role of metaphorical expressions, cognitive symbols and conceptual models becomes crucial.

In cognitive linguistics, metaphor is interpreted as a conceptual phenomenon directly related to linguistics, psychology and cultural studies. While traditional approaches viewed metaphor merely as a means of artistic expression, cognitive approaches regard it as fundamental to human cognition.

As emphasized by Lakoff and Johnson in their work “Metaphors We Live By” metaphor shapes the conceptual foundations of human thought [1, p.64]. Every language enriches its lexical wealth with terms from various fields. Terminology, especially military terminology is an integral part of language development. Military terms play a crucial role in the fields of national security, defense, government administration and international relations. Additionally, they hold particular significance as a means of expressing the formation of the semantic system in language, reflecting socio-cultural perceptions and serving as a specialized tool for information transfer.

Language is a vital communicative tool in all areas of social life. The military sector in particular possesses its own unique terminology, which constitutes an important layer of the general lexical system. Military terms express specialized concepts related to military activities, defense, strategy, and security. Their existence ensures precise and effective communication within the military field. In linguistics, terms especially military terms are studied as lexical units that form a specialized layer of language. As A. A. Reformatskiy noted “Terms are special words used in scientific-technical and practical activities that serve to name specific concepts” [2, p.41].

Military terms have characteristics such as communicative clarity, definiteness and the avoidance of synonymy. They semantically differ from general vocabulary and denote concepts specific to the military field: attack, defense, colonel, rocket, operation, battalion, etc.

Military terms manifest in various forms both structurally and semantically:

Structurally:

- Single-word terms: battle, officer, mine.
- Compound terms: airborne troops, operational control center.
- Acronyms: NATO, OTRK (Operational-Tactical Missile Complex).

Semantically:

- Military Operations: defense, attack, retreat.
- Ranks: general, sergeant.
- Military Equipment: tank, drone, shell.
- Organizational Units: battalion, division, brigade.

In foreign linguistics, particularly in English linguistics, the issue of military terminology is studied through the research works of scholars such as A.A. Legler, M.G. Boyko, and A. Gamo. These scholars have conducted scientific work in the fields of military terminology and general terminology studies. Their definitions and scientific perspectives on military terms play a significant role in the formation of military linguistics.

A.A. Legler is one of the scholars who developed the theoretical foundations of military terminology [3.p.90]. He defines military terms as "a set of terms related to a specific field the army and military service." In his view, military terms should be precise and concise. They must express specific military concepts. Military terms should be simple yet unambiguous in both spoken and written discourse. A.A. Legler also analyzes the abbreviations and coding characteristics of military terms, emphasizing that such terms play a crucial role in rapid communication.

M.G. Boyko is a scholar who has deeply analyzed the structure and semantics of military terms, defining them as follows: "Military terms are specialized terms related to military activities, combat operations, the structure of armed forces, weapons and equipment, as well as the fields of strategy and tactics" [4. p.107]. M.G. Boyko particularly focuses on the study of terminological systems. He systematizes military terms and categorizes them into thematic groups:

- Terms related to the structure of the armed forces
- Terms for weapons and equipment
- Terms for military training and strategy



Additionally, M. Boyko highlights the connection of military terms with international loanwords, studying military terminology borrowed from English, French, and German.

Another scholar A. Gamo emphasizes the pragmatic and communicative significance of military terminology [5. p.134]. According to him, military terms must meet the requirements of clarity, conciseness and effectiveness in communication. These terms differ from everyday language and possess a unique status. In the military field, language and terminology serve not only for understanding but also as tools for commands, control and rapid actions. A. Gamo specifically analyzes the normative characteristics of military language: each term must have a designated meaning and should not be misapplied in context. In our opinion, above mentioned scholars study military terms not only as lexical units but also as specialized systematic, logical and functional units. Their research has made significant contributions to shaping the methodology of military terminology.

References

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