



THE DEGREE OF SCHOLARLY INVESTIGATION OF TERMS AND TERMINOLOGY IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article presents a detailed comparative analysis of the terminological systems of the Uzbek and English languages. It examines their diachronic development, structural characteristics, and the current state of scholarly investigation within both linguistic contexts. Particular attention is given to the dynamic evolution of the Uzbek terminological corpus under the impact of globalization, as well as to the dominant function of English as a principal donor of international terminology.

Drawing on a range of lexicographic resources and theoretical paradigms, the study reveals significant inconsistencies and gaps in the standardization of Uzbek terminology in contrast to the more highly codified and systematized English model. The results underscore the necessity for enhanced digital integration, as well as the implementation of a coherent and unified strategy for the formation and regulation of neologisms in the Uzbek language.

Keywords: Old Turkic language, modern Uzbek literary language, lexeme, ancient lexicography, medical terminology, military terminology, trade and financial terminology, borrowed words, linguistics, domain-specific terminology, technical terminology.

Introduction

Annotatsiya:

Mazkur maqola o‘zbek va ingliz tillaridagi terminologik tizimlarning batafsil qiyosiy tahlilini taqdim etadi. Unda har ikkala tilning diaxron rivojlanishi, strukturaviy xususiyatlari hamda ilmiy tadqiq etilish darajasi o‘rganiladi. Tadqiqotda globallashuv ta’siri ostida o‘zbek terminologik fondining jadal transformatsiyasi, shuningdek, ingliz tilining xalqaro terminlarning asosiy manbai sifatidagi ustuvor roli alohida ta’kidlanadi.



Turli leksikografik manbalar va nazariy yondashuvlar asosida olib borilgan tahlillar o'zbek terminologiyasini standartlashtirishda mavjud bo'lgan muammolarni, ingliz tilidagi yuqori darajada tizimlashtirilgan model bilan qiyoslaganda, aniq ko'rsatib beradi. Olingan natijalar o'zbek tilida terminologiyani rivojlantirish uchun raqamli integratsiyani kuchaytirish hamda neologizmlarni yaratish va tartibga solishda yagona, izchil yondashuvni joriy etish zarurligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: eski turkiy til, hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili, leksema, qadimgi davr leksikografiyasi, tibbiyot terminologiyasi, harbiy terminlar, savdo-sotiq va moliyaviy terminlar, o'zlashma so'zlar, lingvistika, soha terminlari, texnik terminlar.

Аннотация:

Данная статья представляет собой детальное сравнительное исследование терминологических систем узбекского и английского языков. В ней рассматриваются их диахроническое развитие, структурные особенности, а также современное состояние научной разработанности в обеих лингвистических средах. Особое внимание уделяется динамической трансформации узбекского терминологического фонда под влиянием глобализации, а также доминирующей роли английского языка как основного источника международной терминологии.

На основе анализа различных лексикографических источников и теоретических подходов в работе выявляются существенные пробелы и несоответствия в стандартизации узбекской терминологии по сравнению с более систематизированной и кодифицированной английской моделью. Полученные результаты подчеркивают необходимость расширения цифровой интеграции и разработки единого, последовательного подхода к формированию и нормированию неологизмов в узбекском языке.

Ключевые слова: древнетюркский язык, современный узбекский литературный язык, лексема, древняя лексикография, медицинская терминология, военная терминология, торгово-финансовая терминология, заимствованные слова, лингвистика, отраслевая терминология, техническая терминология.

Terminology, as a specialized branch of linguistics, deals with the study of terms and their functioning within particular domains of knowledge. The systematic study of



terminology has become increasingly important in the context of scientific and technological advancement.

In global linguistics, English has established itself as the dominant language of science, resulting in a highly developed and standardized terminological system. In contrast, Uzbek terminology, although rooted in a rich linguistic tradition, has experienced significant transformation, particularly after independence, due to sociopolitical and cultural changes.

It is well established that with the emergence of a language, it undergoes continuous processes of change, renewal, and development. In particular, as historical periods evolve, languages also transform in terms of their scope and domains of usage. From a historical perspective, although the Uzbek language is believed to have originated in pre-Christian times, it has been referred to by different names across various stages of its development. For instance, from the pre-10th century period it was known as **Old Turkic**, from the 11th to the 15th centuries as **Middle (or Old) Turkic**, from the 15th to the 19th centuries as **Old Uzbek literary language**, and from the second half of the 19th century up to the present as the **modern Uzbek literary language**.

Although Alisher Navoi is widely regarded as the founder of the Uzbek literary language, it is important to acknowledge that earlier monumental works were also created in this linguistic tradition. Among them are *Devonu Lug‘otit Turk* by Mahmud al-Kashgari, *Kutadgu Bilig* by Yusuf Khass Hajib, *Hibat al-Haqa‘iq* by Ahmad Yugnaki, *Muhabbatnama* by Khorezmi, and *Qissasi Rabg‘uziy* by Rabghuzi. Furthermore, the Old Uzbek literary language served as a medium for the творчество of prominent poets and thinkers such as Atoyi, Sakkokiy, Sayfi Sarayi, Lutfiy, Alisher Navoi, Mashrab, and Turdi Farogiy, whose works significantly contributed to the enrichment and standardization of the language.

English and Uzbek languages differ fundamentally in terms of their genetic origins: Uzbek belongs to the Altaic (Turkic) language family, whereas English is a member of the Indo-European language family. However, with the advancement of historical periods, science, and technology, interaction between these typologically distinct languages has intensified. In particular, the development of science and technology, as well as the facilitation of communication—making it more precise and comprehensible—has become significantly easier with the emergence and systematic



use of terms and terminology. This article therefore examines the origins of terms, the processes underlying their formation, and their primary functions.

According to V. P. Danilenko, terminology is understood as an independent functional variety of the general literary language, namely the traditional language of science (i.e., the language of science, scholarship, and technology) (Danilenko, 1977, p. 8). The language of science, as one of the functional systems of the general literary language, stands alongside other varieties such as colloquial speech and the language of fiction.

As noted by William Whewell, terminology constitutes the aggregate of terms associated with a particular field of knowledge or the set of words used within a technical domain. By defining the meanings of terms, we simultaneously define the concepts they represent (Whewell, 1967).

According to Olga Akhmanova, terminology emerges only when a particular field of knowledge reaches an advanced stage of its development; that is, a term is recognized only after a specific concept acquires a precise scientific formulation. A crucial criterion for distinguishing a term from a non-term lies in the possibility of providing it with a rigorous scientific definition.

V. G. Gak, while offering a definition of the term, also elucidates its essence and determines its position within the lexical system of a language. He challenges the view that terms should be regarded as a distinct type of lexical unit in scientific discourse, and instead advances the idea that a term is primarily a function—a particular mode of usage of lexical units (Gak, 1972, pp. 68–71).

The discipline that studies terms is known as **terminology**. Terminology is a field concerned with the systematic study of lexical units associated with specific domains, encompassing areas such as science, art, technology, and medicine. Within this discipline, specialized vocabularies are analyzed and presented together with their definitions.

Before terminology emerged as an independent scientific discipline, the introduction of new terms was largely carried out through scholarly interaction among specialists in particular fields. At conferences and academic gatherings, professors, researchers, and leading figures in science would engage in discussions and collectively agree upon the incorporation of new terms into scientific usage.

Such practices were especially characteristic of fields such as physics, mathematics, and medicine, where rapid advancements necessitated the continuous development of



new concepts and their corresponding designations. These conferences, often attended by scholars and innovators from different parts of the world, served as platforms for exchanging discoveries and disseminating new knowledge, thereby facilitating the integration of new terms into the scientific lexicon.

The term “*terminology*” was first introduced in 1786 in Germany by Professor Johann Schütz. Terminology as a scientific discipline emerged prominently in the 20th century, largely due to the work of scholars such as **Eugen Wüster**, who is considered the founder of modern terminology science. His *General Theory of Terminology* emphasized standardization and unambiguity in scientific communication. Later developments in terminology studies expanded beyond prescriptive approaches to include descriptive and sociocognitive perspectives. Scholars such as **Maria Teresa Cabré** introduced the *Communicative Theory of Terminology*, highlighting the dynamic and context-dependent nature of terms. Thus, terminology today is viewed as an interdisciplinary field integrating linguistics, cognitive science, and information. While the term entered common usage in the French scientific community in the 18th century, it was recorded in English as early as 1801 in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Furthermore, V. M. Leichik emphasizes that the conceptual roots of the term can be traced back even to antiquity.

Although terminology in Uzbek linguistics is generally considered to have emerged only in the late 20th century, the use of terms in our native language, a member of the Turkic language family, dates back to much earlier periods. The development of Uzbek terminology can be traced through a series of historical and linguistic processes -The creation of texts such as the *Avesta* and the Orkhon inscriptions (*Orkhon-Enasoy*), the political and cultural activities of the Qarakhanids, Ghaznavids, and Seljuks, who introduced their own lexical units into the language, the incorporation of loanwords from Sogdian, Sanskrit, and Chinese into Old Turkic, the subsequent introduction and usage of new lexical items in the Old Uzbek literary language through both intralinguistic (within-language) and extralinguistic (cultural, social, and historical) factors.

Through these processes over the centuries, Uzbek terminology gradually formed, expanded, and became enriched, reflecting both the linguistic evolution of the language and its interaction with diverse cultural and scientific influences.

The poetic letters and ghazals that Alisher Navoi—regarded as the founder of the Uzbek literary language—wrote to his teachers and contemporaries, as well as the use



of terms or expressions borrowed from Persian-Tajik within these works, provide clear examples of extralinguistic influences on Uzbek. Similarly, in reply letters and in their own compositions, poets such as Lutfiy, Atoyi, Sakkokiy, and Yaqiniy incorporated Uzbek (Turkic) words into their ghazals and couplets, reflecting the impact of extralinguistic, external factors on the language.

As a devoted proponent of his mother tongue—viewing it as the mirror of the nation—Navoi dedicated his life to the development and enrichment of Uzbek. Following in his intellectual footsteps, another eminent scholar, ruler, and poet, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, composed literary, scientific, and historical works, further contributing to the enrichment and expansion of Uzbek lexical resources.

After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, language policy shifted towards:

- Revival of native lexical resources
- Replacement of foreign terms with Uzbek equivalents
- Standardization of terminology in official domains

Scholars such as **Sh. Rahmatullayev** and **A. Hojiyev** contributed significantly to Uzbek lexicology and terminology studies.

The analysis of the historical and linguistic development of terminology in both English and Uzbek demonstrates that terminological systems are deeply intertwined with the evolution of society, science, and culture. English terminology, having been systematically studied and standardized since the 18th and 19th centuries, benefits from its position as a global scientific language, extensive institutional support, and well-established lexicographical resources. In contrast, Uzbek terminology has evolved over centuries through both internal linguistic development and external influences, including Persian-Tajik, Arabic, Russian, and later English lexical borrowings.

The works of seminal figures such as Alisher Navoi and Mikhail Lomonosov illustrate that the enrichment of a language's lexicon and the establishment of a functional terminological system are closely linked to the intellectual, cultural, and scientific achievements of a society. Terminology develops in response to human activity across diverse fields, including medicine, technology, economics, and communication, reflecting both the intrinsic needs of each discipline and broader social demands.

Thus, the emergence, consolidation, and refinement of terms are not isolated linguistic phenomena but are contingent on historical progress, interdisciplinary exchange, and the active participation of scholars and practitioners. Studying both English and



Uzbek terminologies provides valuable insights into how global and local scientific languages interact, adapt, and evolve, offering lessons for the development of precise and functional terminological systems in other languages as well.

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