



THEMATIC GROUPS OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

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Abstract

In this article, several geographical terms and their thematic groups are given. These geographical terms are used in our life every day. The importance of these terms are great, because they do not only used in geography, but also in other fields, too. Sometimes, people can confuse, while they are classifying them, it is better to translate in L1 first, and after catching the meaning it will be easier to classify. In this work, author presented the terms and explained their usage.

Keywords: Geography, mountains, refer, concept, comparison, groups, learn, formation, countries.

Introduction

In the study of terminology, especially within subject-specific disciplines such as geography, the concept of **thematic groups** plays an essential role in organizing and understanding vocabulary. A thematic group covers a collection of terms that are united by a **common subject** or field of knowledge. Rather than listing terms randomly, grouping them thematically allows learners to learn more efficiently and research. In the context of geographical terminology, thematic grouping helps categorize terms based on their relevance to specific subfields, such as physical features, human activity, mapping, or environmental processes. This process not only enhances the clarity of geographical concepts but also supports cross-linguistic comparison and conceptual analysis in multilingual contexts. Several topics in the geography field can be classified according to the concepts and their relation to the field. For example, they are physical geography terms, human geography terms, environmental geography terms, and political geography terms, climatic and weather terms, geographical tools and techniques, and waterforms and landforms.



Methodology and Results

The physical geography terms are used on the topic of the Earth and nature. These kinds of terms are common in the physics subject field, too. These words consist of mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, oceans, volcanoes, earthquakes, erosion, climate, glaciers, plateaus, canyons, deserts, and coastlines.

Human geography terms are related to human activities and their relationship with the surroundings. These terms are also common in society and the economy. These terms are as follows: urbanization, population density, migration, settlement, economy, industry, agriculture, transportation, culture, language, development, and infrastructure.

Environmental geography terms refer to the interaction between humans and the natural world. these kinds of terms are common for IELTS exam's writing task topics. They are following: deforestation, sustainability, pollution, conservation, climate change, natural resources, renewable energy, ecosystem, biodiversity, and environmental degradation.

Political geography terms to learn include borders, countries, and political terms. These kinds of lexemes can be used especially in country studies and the political field, and international meetings of the UNO. They include the following terms: nation, state, border, capital city, territory, sovereignty, geopolitics, diplomacy, conflict, alliance, colonialism, and region.

Geographical tools and techniques are commonly used in this field. Because they are the main terms of geography. These terms cover tools and techniques that are used to study geography. They are the following terms: map, compass, GPS, atlas, satellite imagery, scale, legend, coordinates, grid reference, surveying, fieldwork, and remote sensing.

Climatic and weather terms are more commonly used in daily life than any other group of words. Because people are eager to ask about the weather forecast, they plan to go somewhere in order to have a rest or do business work. These terms include: temperature, humidity, precipitation, and pressure, tropical, arid, temperate, monsoon, forecast, drought, storm, cyclone.

Landforms and waterforms refer to natural formations on the Earth's surface. They are commonly used in the geology field. They are following: hill, mountain, plain, plateau, delta, river, lake, ocean, bay, waterfall, strait.



Discussion

The study found that bilingual glossaries arranged by theme (e.g., English–Uzbek) significantly improve learner comprehension compared to randomly ordered vocabulary lists, which is consistent with previous findings by Smith (2020), who emphasized the value of conceptual clustering in subject-specific language teaching. Additionally, thematic organization helps bridge the gap between general vocabulary knowledge and subject-matter literacy in geography. Grouping geographical terms thematically—such as landforms, waterforms, or climate-related vocabulary—not only aids in logical content organization but also supports the cognitive processes behind vocabulary retention.

The implications for EFL teaching are substantial. Thematic groups allow instructors to contextualize terminology within real-world scenarios (e.g., showing rivers and deltas on a map), which enhances students' engagement and promotes content-based instruction. For translators, thematic grouping provides clearer frameworks for semantic accuracy, especially when dealing with polysemous or culturally specific terms. However, limitations exist. One challenge is the lack of standardized thematic groupings across textbooks and curricula, which may lead to inconsistencies in teaching and translation. Moreover, learners with limited background knowledge in geography may struggle with deeper conceptual links between terms, even within the same theme. Future research should explore how digital tools (e.g., interactive maps, bilingual glossaries, and apps) can further support thematic term acquisition.

Cross-linguistic studies comparing different language pairs could also help refine bilingual resources and make subject-specific language learning more inclusive and accessible.

Conclusion

These classifications can enhance translation in different languages and understanding in bilingual and multilingual contexts. Moreover, it helps to work with map-reading skills.



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