

TERMINOLOGY AS THE CORE FRAMEWORK OF LINGUISTIC STUDIES

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Abstract

Nowadays, terminology has become a central subject of scholarly inquiry due to the rapid development of this field within linguistics. Ongoing processes such as the creation of new lexical units, semantic shifts in existing words, lexicalization phenomena, the formation of stable multiword expressions, and lexical borrowing across languages have intensified academic interest in terminological studies. Terminology is viewed not only as a subfield of linguistics but also as an interdisciplinary domain connected to sociology, cognitive science, philosophy, and related disciplines. As a scientific field, terminology examines the identification, definition, formation, and systematization of lexical units—specifically terms—associated with particular areas of knowledge across different languages. This article emphasizes the role of terminology as a fundamental component of linguistic theory and practice.

Keywords: Terminology; term; lexical units; lexicology; word formation; semantic change; lexicalization; borrowing; special lexicon; interdisciplinary studies; cognitive linguistics; sociolinguistics; philosophy of language; terminological systems; linguistic development.

Introduction

Recently, large-scale reforms in the educational, socio-economic, financial, and agricultural sectors of our country have significantly increased the influx of international terminology into the lexical system of the language. This process requires specialists in every field to possess adequate knowledge about terms and the conceptual frameworks related to their professional activities. In studying agricultural terminology in the Uzbek language, compiling dictionaries, and systematizing them, it is essential to effectively utilize the achievements of global linguistic research. The rapid development of agriculture has led to the adoption of numerous foreign terms and the need to create appropriate equivalents in Uzbek. Therefore, it is necessary to examine terminological research conducted in various linguistic traditions and to carefully analyze newly emerging terms, including aspects that may previously have been overlooked.

Language, regarded as the highest product of human spirituality, functions not only as a tool for expressing ideas but also as a reflection of social change. Linguistics, as the science of language, studies its social nature, status, functions, structure, classification, laws of usage, and historical development. Depending on its objectives and scope, linguistics encompasses branches such as general linguistics, structural linguistics, comparative-historical linguistics, linguoculturology, neurolinguistics, paralinguistics, ethnolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics, all of which examine language features connected to human activity in society.



With the advancement of science and technology, new concepts and terms continuously emerge. The introduction of new terminology contributes to the development of new disciplines and expands lexicology and terminology, although it also creates certain theoretical and practical challenges.

At present, terminology studies address issues such as the emergence and formation of new lexical units, semantic development, lexicalization processes, the formation of stable word combinations, borrowing, and word formation. Since terms constitute a significant component of the lexical layer of language, terminology has become a central subject of scientific investigation. The need to resolve terminological problems remains актуал, as terminology develops alongside social progress. Although numerous studies have addressed terminological questions, many issues remain unresolved. As noted by Ismailov (2011), semantic aspects of terms still require thorough investigation. Despite existing research on definitions, historical origins, formation processes, cultural-historical development, national identity, and structural characteristics of terms, the classification of terms continues to be one of the most pressing issues in contemporary linguistics.

Materials and Methods

Terminology can be defined as a discipline that studies the collection, definition, formation, and systematization of lexical units—namely terms—within specific fields across languages. According to Sarimsakov (2020), the general theory of terminology examines the creation and application of specialized vocabulary through which accumulated human knowledge is preserved and transmitted. It also addresses the improvement of terminological systems and the development of optimal methods for generating new terms within various domains of knowledge.

In the development of the Uzbek literary language, terminology occupies a distinctive position. Two major perspectives exist regarding its role within vocabulary. The first approach considers terminology an independent layer of the literary lexicon. The second treats it as separate from the general vocabulary system, viewing it as a distinct entity comparable to dialects, slang, or colloquial speech. Etymologically, the term “terminology” derives from the Latin terminus and the Greek logos, meaning “the science of terms.” Felber (1974) distinguishes three interpretations of terminology:

1. An interdisciplinary science concerned with terms and symbols representing specialized concepts;
2. A set of terms constituting the conceptual system of a particular field;
3. The expression and standardization of specialized concepts through terms.

Foreign linguists have offered diverse perspectives on terminology. Sager (1997) observes that the concept of terminology carries multiple meanings depending on context. When written with a lowercase initial letter, it may refer to the vocabulary of a specific field; when capitalized, it may denote a branch of linguistics. Historically, particularly since the early twentieth century, English scholars have distinguished terminology from lexicology, recognizing it as an independent vocabulary system and treating terms not merely as words but as specialized linguistic units. Cabre (2002) emphasizes that terminology, as a discipline, organizes and



structures concepts to meet the communicative needs of specialists and scientists, thereby facilitating professional communication and production processes.

In agreement with these scholars, terminology should be examined independently from lexicology. Moreover, it should not be limited to linguistics alone but also considered within sociology, cognitive science, philosophy, and related disciplines. Russian linguists have likewise contributed substantially to theoretical investigations of terminology across languages.

Results and Discussion

Throughout the history of linguistics, numerous definitions of the term “term” have been proposed, and extensive research has examined its essential features. Nevertheless, a universally accepted and comprehensive definition has not yet been established.

The word “term” (from Latin *terminus* – boundary, limit) denotes a lexical unit or phrase that precisely and consistently represents a specific concept within science or technology. Unlike general vocabulary items, terms are characterized by precision and lack of emotional or expressive connotations. A term maintains its specific meaning even outside a sentence and conveys concepts related to particular professional or scientific activities. Within special lexicon, terms coexist with professional vocabulary and jargon, yet their usage remains restricted to specialized contexts. At the same time, special vocabulary significantly enriches the literary language, with terminology forming its principal component.

Special lexical units function within organized systems, structured according to specific objectives. According to Nishonov (2009), referencing A.D. Khayutin’s 1786 etymological dictionary, the term was first introduced by the German scholar S. Schütz (C.G. Schutz), entering English and French at the end of the eighteenth century and Russian at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

A term is characterized by clarity, unambiguity, and neutrality within its domain, although it may lose these properties outside its specialized field. Terms are formed using national linguistic resources, including word-formation mechanisms and borrowed elements. As Felber (1974) notes, terms may enter the general lexicon, and conversely, general words may acquire terminological status within specialized systems.

The primary function of a term is to serve specific domains of human activity—science, technology, art, agriculture, crafts—by designating concrete or abstract entities and processes. Leychik (2009) defines a term as a lexical unit of a particular language that expresses theoretical concepts within specialized scientific or professional contexts. This definition suggests that a term belongs not to the general language as such but to language employed for a specific purpose.

From these considerations, several conclusions emerge:

1. A term possesses the semantic and formal properties of words or word combinations.
2. Terms function not in the general lexicon but within language for specific purposes.
3. They serve as tools for expressing generalized scientific or professional concepts.
4. Terms are components of terminological systems reflecting theoretical models of specialized domains.



Comparative analysis of established and newly introduced terms is particularly important, as the development of new scientific branches often reveals relationships between invariant and variant forms. Modern linguistics requires reassessment of the status of the term as a lexical unit and clarification of its semantic scope and qualitative features. This necessity has led to new modeling principles in lexicography. Contemporary terminological dictionaries reflect interdisciplinary integration and knowledge extrapolation, examining various aspects of the same object or phenomenon. The rapid expansion of information technologies and scientific progress demands innovative approaches to terminological modeling and cognitive representation. As A.A. Nemika argues, a scientific term cannot be fully analyzed from the perspective of a single language alone.

The terminology of any discipline constitutes not merely a collection of terms but a semiotic system that names and structures a specific scientific worldview. When a field of knowledge reaches a mature stage of development, it inevitably requires a well-organized system of terms. At this level, conceptual advancement is reflected in the creation and standardization of scientifically grounded terminology.

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