THEORY OF TERMINOLOGY AND ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES

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Abstract: The article analyzes the conceptual foundations of the theory of terminology and its main principles, as well as the possibilities of their application to Uzbek technical terminology. The purpose of the research is to generalize the terminological approaches put forward in various theoretical schools, develop a model of term selection and standardization principles, and demonstrate ways to apply them in national technical terminology. Historical-comparative, theoretical-synthetic, and empirical analysis methods were used. As a result, a model of terminological principles based on accuracy, systematicity, context-independence, functional compatibility, brevity, national–international compatibility, and conceptual harmonization was developed. This approach contributes to the creation of a unified terminological database in Uzbekistan and the development of a national terminology policy.

Keywords: terminology, principles, univocality, systematicity, standardization, technical terminology, harmonization.

Introduction

In the context of globalization, the emergence of new terms in the field of science and technology is a natural process. In Uzbek, the issue of standardizing technical terms and using them on the basis of a unified system is urgent. In many sources, the same concept is expressed by different terms. As a result, inconsistencies arise in textbooks, scientific articles, and production documents. This complicates the formation of a unified conceptual field in scientific and technical development. Therefore, the standardization of Uzbek technical terms and the creation of a unified electronic terminological base are among the pressing tasks of today.

Terminology and the concept of a term are close in theory, but they differ functionally and structurally. Terminology refers both to the set of terms used in a given branch of science, technology, or other field and to the discipline that studies their structural, semantic, and functional features. A term, in turn, is a word or word combination that denotes a specific scientific or technical concept. Hence, it is essential to study the theoretical foundations of terminology and apply them in national technical terminology.

Literature Review

There are several theoretical approaches in linguistics regarding the interpretation of the concept of a term. In the sources, the most significant ones are classified as follows:

- **Substantial approach**: views a term as a special word or word combination, emphasizing univocality, accuracy, context-independence, and emotional neutrality.
- **Functional approach**: considers terms not as special words but as lexical units that perform a special function. As one source notes: *"From a functional perspective, terms are not special words, but words with a special function; any word may serve as a term."*

• **Derivational approach**: focuses on word-formation processes in terminology. *"The derivational perspective is closely connected with the processes of term formation."*

• **Systematic and semantic approach**: emphasizes the systematic character of terms, their relations within a conceptual framework. Lotte (1961) considered a term as *"a member of a specific system."*

• **Pragmatic approach**: analyzes the role of terms in context, communication, and professional usage, including when terms extend into general language.

In international terminology studies, Sager (1990) highlights the integration of linguistic and technical approaches in term standardization. Cabré (1999) views terminology not only as lexicography but also as a tool for the systematization of scientific knowledge. Eugen Wüster's *General Theory of Terminology* (GTT) emphasized the relationship between terms, concepts, and conceptual systems, introducing the onomasiological approach.

In Uzbek linguistics, terminological layers can be traced back to Old Turkic (7th–10th centuries). Mahmud al-Kashgari's *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* provides valuable insights into early terminological lexicon. Alisher Navoi's *Muhokamat ul-lug'atayn* also addressed professional vocabulary. Modern terminology research in Uzbekistan began in the 1920s. Among contemporary scholars, To'xtiyeva (2010) emphasized that technical terms should maintain semantic accuracy and phonetic convenience when adapted into Uzbek. Jo'rayev (2020) stressed the importance of developing Uzbek terminology based on corpus technologies.

Recent approaches also integrate communicative and socio-cognitive aspects (Protopopescu, 2021). Standards developed by ISO/TC 37, such as ISO 704, ISO 860, and ISO 10241, regulate term selection, definition, and harmonization.

Methodology

The study applied the following methods:

1. **Historical-comparative analysis** – comparing theories of Wüster, Lotte, Sager, Cabré, and others.
2. **Theoretical-synthetic analysis** – generalizing different approaches to develop a unified model of principles.
3. **Empirical analysis** – collecting and analyzing 200 terms from IT, electronics, mechanics, and energy.
4. **Expert evaluation** – 10 experts (linguists and technical specialists) rated terms on accuracy, phonetic adaptation, and international compatibility using a 1–5 scale.

Results and Analysis

Despite several decrees and resolutions on terminology in Uzbekistan, their implementation remains insufficient. For example, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 22, 2019 *"On measures to improve work in the field of terminology"* called for a unified database of terms, but a full electronic platform has not yet been developed.

By contrast, in international practice (e.g., IATE, Termium Plus), comprehensive terminological databases have been created. In Uzbek, however, technical terminology lacks an integrated corpus. This leads to inconsistencies, such as:

• *press-forma* vs. *shtamp qolip*,
• *3D printer* vs. *uch o'lchovli printer*,
• *mikrochip* vs. *mayda sxema*.

Based on the analysis, the following principles model is proposed:

1. **Accuracy (univocality)** – each term must denote a single concept.
2. **Systematicity** – terms must be considered as elements of a system.
3. **Context-independence** – terms should retain their meaning regardless of context.
4. **Functional adequacy** – terms must be comprehensible and convenient for users.
5. **Brevity and morphological stability** – terms should be concise and structurally stable.
6. **National–international compatibility** – terms must align with international terminology while conforming to Uzbek linguistic norms.
7. **Conceptual harmonization** – terms must be harmonized with equivalents across languages and disciplines.

Discussion

The findings suggest that the standardization of Uzbek technical terminology should be implemented in stages. First, existing terms should be collected and compiled into an electronic database. Next, terms should be unified in accordance with international standards while preserving national linguistic characteristics.

Furthermore, cooperation between linguists, technical experts, and IT developers is essential in creating a unified terminological platform. Such a platform should include an online dictionary, fast search tools, and machine-translation support.

Conclusion and Recommendations

1. A **national strategy** for the standardization of Uzbek technical terms should be developed.
2. All existing technical terms should be collected and compiled into a unified electronic database.
3. New terms should be approved based on international practice, while preserving Uzbek phonetic and semantic features.
4. An **electronic terminological platform** should be developed in the state language and made available as an open resource for specialists.

The activities of **terminology councils** should be strengthened, and their decisions should become binding in practice..

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