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CRITERIA FOR DEFINING A TERM AS A UNIT OF THE LEXICAL SYSTEM OF ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

In this article, we study some important term characteristics and aspects of its rise and operation. It is shown that a significant number of terms have a dual role as they operate in a specific domain where they are customary and widely used, and in the common area where they have a highly specialized nature. It is conjectured that to carry out demarcation of the terms from the non-terms, it is expedient to take into account the fact that all terms are generally divided into two major groups: proper terms and terminological words. The national and international tendencies in terminology are reviewed. As time progresses, the science of Linguistics, which is directly related to society, continues to develop. New fields and branches of Linguistics are emerging, and new approaches to researching these areas are also created. Since Terminology is a complex field, the study and research of this ground is vital. The scientific study of the lexical-semantic features of legal terms, especially, the comparison of terminological units in three languages, in English, Uzbek and Russia is quite complicated and requires a lot of research and effort from the researcher. This article conveys the definition and distinctive features of terms from linguistic point of view. The author discusses the origin of terms, term-formation, the requirements of terms and modern Terminology. As requirements of terms, the author emphasizes structuralism, ambiguousness, brevity, clarity and linguistic basis. Moreover, research areas of Terminology are mentioned in detail.

KEYWORDS

A term, term-formation, figurative meaning, colored meaning, borrowing, Terminology, Theoretical terminology, Practical terminology, General terminology, Private Terminology, Typological terminology, Comparative terminology, Semasiological terminology, Onomastic terminology, Historical terminology, Functional terminology.

INTRODUCTION

As we all know, with the times, attention to English language is increasing day by day, and the scope of learning, teaching and researching this language is expanding more than ever. Despite the fact that several studies have been conducted in the field of Terminology, which is one of the most complex areas of Linguistics, this area can not be said to have been fully studied and researched. The reason for this can be explained by the fact that the era is developing and various new terms are entering the science.

The word “term” is derived from the Latin word “terminus” which means limit, border. A term is a word or phrase that is a clear and stable expression of a particular concept specific to a field of science, technology, or profession. [1] As terms move from scientific communication to live speech, they become words that are understandable to the public over time. It is very difficult to imagine the scientific and normative picture of the universe without terms since the terms serve as the basic units that make up the scientific text. Linguists have differing views in the field of terminology, with different definitions of the word “term”.

A term can obtain a figurative or emotionally colored meaning only when taken out of its sphere and used in literary or colloquial speech. But in that case it ceases to be a term and its denotational meaning may also become very vague. It turns into an ordinary word. The adjective atomic used to describe the atomic structure of matter was until 1945 as emotionally neutral as words like quantum or parallelogram. [2] But since Hiroshima and the ensuing nuclear arms race it has assumed a new implication, so that the common phrase this atomic age, which taken literally has no meaning at all, is now used to denote an age of great scientific progress, but also holds connotations of ruthless menace and monstrous destruction.

The origin of terms shows several main channels, three of which are specific for terminology. These specific ways are: [3]

1. Formation of terminological phrases with subsequent clipping, ellipsis, blending, abbreviation: transistor receiver → transistor → trannie; television text → teletext; ecological architecture → ecotecture; extremely low frequency → ELF.

2. Use of combined forms from Latin and Greek: aerodrome, aerodynamic, telegraph, thermonuclear, supersonic. This process is common for terminology in many languages.

3. Borrowing from another terminological system within the same language whenever there is affinity between respective fields. Terms can be formed by affixation and prefixes: co-, counter-, cross-, dis-, ex-, extra-, mis-, multi-, non-, over-, para-, poly-, post-, pro-, quasi-, sub-, under-; suffixes: -er/or, -free, -ism, -less, -like, -oid, -ologist, -worthy; combining of different parts of speech.

Terms are not separated from the rest of the vocabulary, and it is rather hard to say where the line should be drawn. Due to the expansion of popular interest in the achievements of science and technology new terms appear more and more frequently in newspapers and popular magazines and even in fiction.

The Austrian Eugen Wüster, the Latvian Ernst Drezen and the Russian Dmitrij Lotte are considered the spiritual fathers of modern terminology. But Eugen Wüster is considered the father of modern terminology. All three were engineers who recognized the deficits of professional communication. In 1931 Wüster's doctoral theses "Internationale Sprachnormung in der Technik. Besonders in der Elektrotechnik" was published and in the same year D.

Lotte wrote his central article "Pressing Problems in the Field of Scientific and Technical Terminology". [4] The main normative requirements for the term were originally developed by D.S. Lotte. These requirements are: structural, non-specificity, brevity, ambiguousness, clarity, simplicity, comprehensibility, degree of applicability, etc. [5] We will focus on some of these requirements below:

1. Structural: Any term is part of a particular terminological system. It is this feature that elevates it to the status of a term. The term system has two types of structure - logical structure and linguistic structure.
2. Unambiguousness: A term should represent only one scientific or technical concept and one concept should correspond to only one term. One of the most serious shortcomings of the terminology, according to D.S. Lotte, is that the meaning of the term varies from context to context.
3. Brevity: The short version of the term is functionally equivalent to a term. It cannot be used freely and voluntarily.
4. Clarity: A scientific concept has a definite boundary and this boundary is reflected in its definition. The accuracy of a term means that it has all the characteristics of a given concept.
5. Linguistic basis: When it is necessary to choose one of the terms based on one's own or another language, of course, it is advisable to use the term

itself. This is because the excessive and unreasonable use of assimilation terms inevitably leads to the separation of terminology from the vernacular and its incomprehensibility to non-experts.

A.V. Superanskaya, N.V. Podolskaya, N.V. Vasiliev are credited with several meanings of the word "terminology":

- 1) a set or some indefinite set of general scientific terms;
- 2) a set of terms (concepts and names) of any particular branch of knowledge (construction terminology, medical terminology, etc.);
- 3) the doctrine of education, composition and functioning of general scientific terms;
- 4) the doctrine of the formation, composition and functioning of the terms of a certain branch of knowledge used in a certain language, and their equivalents in other languages;
- 5) general terminological teaching.

Based on these definitions, we can say that the first two definitions are associated with a system of concepts of a certain branch of knowledge, and in the last three the concept of terminology correlates with the concept of learning - science about the system of concepts. [10]

Terminology is a group of specialized words and respective meanings in a particular field, and also the

study of such terms and their use. Terminology is currently divided into several areas of research [11]:

1. Theoretical terminology - studies the laws of development and use of special vocabulary (terms).
2. Practical terminology - deals with the development of practical principles of terms, recommendations for overcoming the shortcomings of terms and terminology, tools for their use, creation and translation.
3. General terminology - studies the general properties and problems of special lexicons (terms).
4. Private Terminology - The study of terms that belong to a particular area of a particular language.
5. Typological terminology - comparative study of individual terminology and defining the properties of general and individual terminology.
6. Comparative terminology - comparative study of general and special terminology in different languages and their properties.
7. Semasiological terminology - studies the problems of semantics of special lexemes, changes in semantic units, polysemy, synonymy, antonym, hyponym.
8. Onomastic terminology - studies the special lexemes of naming, the process of their naming, the choice of the optimal form of naming.

9. Historical terminology - studies the history of terminology and analyzes the origin and formation of terms. This is how the terms are regulated. Based on the results of this direction, a new independent science in linguistics - anthropolinguistics - emerged.
10. Functional terminology - studies the role of modern terms in various texts, in situations of professional communication, training, as well as the use of terms in speech and computer systems. Now there are new areas of terminology - cognitive and epistemological terminology.

Term forging on the basis of native language should be the key instrument in building the field terminological systems, because the term lexicon “is formed primarily on the basis of linguistic resources of each native language and only partly through foreign words” [12]. However, today one of the most common – although not always justified and effective – ways to replenish term lexicons, is borrowing. This causes a sharp increase in the number of foreign words that retain specificity of their own language and are usually poorly adapted to peculiarities of the recipient language. Due to their pronounced foreign qualities, such units shatter formal semantic language balance because the process of collection of inappropriate to native language words is long, and many of such words cause qualitative (but unwanted) changes at the lexical semantic, structural, and morphological levels.

However, tendency to borrow is fairly traditional in the Eastern-Slavonic term lexicons, because according to famous Russian linguist A. A. Reformatskiy, consequence of term mintage steps is as follows: 1) borrowing of an international term (if any), 2) translation of an established foreign professional term, 3) terminological specification of common words, 4) borrowing a term from other fields, 5) modern word coinage [13].

Many researchers, including specialists of the Institute of Ukrainian scientific language, as well as D. Lotte, A. Terpigorev, N. Moskalenko, A. D’jakov, T. Kyjak, Z. Kudeljko and others, favour the use of internal resources of the native language in new terms creation [14]. Only “ignorance of the richness and creative possibilities of the native language and misunderstanding of problems and ways of international standardization of term lexicons can explain refusal of building terminology based on the native language” [15].

Given that a terminological neologism can and should be based mainly on the native lexical tools, namely: 1) by semantic transformations (narrowing or expanding the semantics of common words or terms), 2) by affixation, 3) by formation of terminologized collocations, in particular, by the method of syntax combination [16], it is inappropriate to ignore such language capabilities and introduce into the scholarly use new, often unjustified, foreign words.

The term set as an integral part of the most dynamic language level – the lexical one – is actively developing, being continuously enriched with new units. Therefore, quantitative expansion of term systems occurs, particularly, at the expense of linguistic potential, the use of which involves creation or finding a native term, or by borrowing it from other languages. In this regard, two major trends to replenish terminological funds have been identified: national and international. However, this distinction is rather arbitrary, since it is based not that much on lingual but as much on extra linguistic criteria. The national trend is to provide advantage of native words over the foreign ones, while the international trend manifests itself in wide use of the borrowed lexemes, i. e. it is not about internationalisms.

Since “purism has been one of the factors of language stability” and “refines language taste and linguistic consciousness of ordinary citizens” [17], the basis of each naturally formed term system should be the native words [18]. So those countries that care about their language, defend and implement native term lexicons. A. A. Reformatskiy had noted that the developed countries “along with use of the old terminological funds, updated term lexicons with their native words” [18].

In the Russian language, the desire to use specific words is also felt. The father of Russian terminology Mikhail Lomonosov spoke against dominance of

foreign words, and on the verge of 18th-19th centuries the writer and statesman A. Shishkov was a strong advocate of Russian purism [19]. At the dawn of aviation, instead of foreign term aviator ‘airman’, the Russians began to use the neologism летчик ‘pilot’ that successfully operates now, as well as the Velimir Khlebnikov’s neologism samolyot ‘airplane’ [20]. The founder of the Soviet terminology D. S. Lotte and the authors of the dictionaries of synonyms V. M. Kljueva and Z. E. Aleksandrova give preference to own Russian words against the borrowed ones, including: бессмыслица “nonsense” against abrakadabra, великан “giant” against gigant, доказательство “proof” against argument, изречение “aphorism” against aforism, опрятный “tidy” against аккуратный, очертание “cut, outline” against abris, перерыв “break” against antrakt, предположение “assumption” against hypothesis, принадлежности “accessory” against atribut, etc. [21]. F. Filin was also proponent of native Russian term lexicon [22]. This is despite the declared tendency to “internationalization” that is still noticeable in the Russian scientific terminology. Today the main ways to create native scientific and technical terms are: 1) providing new meanings to existing words, 2) modification (creation of derivative terms using derivative affixes), 3) compilation of term stems, 4) formation of collocations, 5) construction of abbreviations [23]. The value transfer may occur by classification subordination of concepts, by concept

similarity, by technical analogy, by external analogy, by contiguity of concepts [24].

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