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TERM AS A UNIT OF SCIENTIFIC LEXICON

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ABSTRACT

This article depicts the role of terms in vocabulary. A number of researches have been explored and revealed peculiar characteristics of the terms. Furthermore, the nature of terminological units has been depicted by the help of the views of several scientists.

KEYWORDS

Terms, terminology, names, lexical system, terminological system

INTRODUCTION

The formation and development of various fields of science and technology are accompanied by an increase in the volume of specialized information in various fields of knowledge, which, in turn, is inevitably associated with the development and improvement of linguistic means and methods of transmitting this information [1, p. 120]. Linguistic studies of the peculiarities of the functioning of language in the field of scientific and professional communication are of

particular importance during the period of rapid progress of science and technology in the modern world. As defined by A.A. Reformatskiy, in the development of science, language does not play the role of a random ingredient, but is a structural element in the essence of science. Language “enters” science primarily through terminology [2, p. 164].

The formation and development of each independent field of knowledge, the strict identification of the

subject of research, the main categories and patterns of development of the subject or concept under study contribute to the actualization of new knowledge about the nature of the object under study. The growing volume of knowledge about terms and terminological systems turns into qualitatively new ideas about the nature and functional status of these concepts [3]. The system of concepts of any field of science is reflected in the system of terms corresponding to it. The term as a linguistic sign continues to attract the attention of many researchers, and terminology as a linguistic branch has received the right to independent existence [4], [5]. Terminology in a broad sense is understood as that part of the modern lexical system of a literary language, which consists of the names of the system of concepts of science, technology, official business language and their reflection in production, social life in general or in their individual branches. In accordance with modern research, terminology reflects in the language objects, phenomena and concepts of science and technology that objectively exist or are identified through scientific analysis; it is a historically progressive linguistic phenomenon associated with the history of the development of science and technology; social phenomenon; dialectical unity of form and content [6, p. 141]. Thus, terminology in our study appears not as a set, but as a system of signs of a special field of activity that serves its communicative needs [7, p. 4]. We consider terminological systems as a set of terms that

are correlated with a certain field of human activity and are the names of scientific concepts. A term is an element of a term system, which is defined as a nominee of a system of concepts of science or technology, that is, it distinguishes a professional concept from the system of concepts of a certain special field of activity [7, p. 4]. Terms of a certain field of knowledge reflect concepts that are interconnected and represent a certain system; therefore, there is a connection between the terms that unites them into a system [8, p. 251].

The study of terminological vocabulary and the creation of the theory of the term was founded in the 17th century. In the middle of the 19th century, a thorough study of the specifics of the term and terminology was carried out by such scientists as F. Greenough, E. Catridge (England), E. Gilbert (France), G. Eggeberch (Germany). In their works, terms were identified with mathematical formulas, with symbolic signs of chemistry and mathematics, with lexemes of special disciplines. Historically, the study of terminology is carried out in two main directions - normative and descriptive, which implement two different views on it as an object of linguistic research. Regulatory requirements for the term were first formulated by the founder of the Russian terminological school D.S. Lotte and were further developed in the works of O.S. Akhmanova [9], A.A. Reformatzky [2] and others. From the standpoint of

the normative direction, a term is considered as a special word or a stable compound that serves to accurately designate a concept specific to a certain area of knowledge, production, or culture. As we see, representatives of the normative approach interpret the term as a word (or phrase) of a special sphere of use, which is the name of a special concept and requires a definition [10, p. 15]. Scientists who adhere to this direction set the following requirements for the term: independence of the term from the context, conciseness of the term, its unambiguousness, simplicity, degree of implementation of the term, systematicity of terminology.

In each individual term system and during a certain period of time in the development of a certain field of knowledge, a term must be characterized by a limited content of one or another concept. Representatives of the normative approach deny the contextual changing meaning of the term and insist that within a certain terminology system the term has a constant meaning. The clarity and limited meaning of a term are predetermined by the presence of precise limits for a special concept, which are established using the definition of the term, which reflects the necessary and sufficient characteristics of the concept. A term must directly or indirectly reflect the characteristics of the concept that it denotes, by which it is possible to distinguish it from other concepts. However, some categories of terms, such as the terms anthroponyms

(Stokes - Adams disease, Alport's syndrome, Somogyi unit) do not reflect the connection of a certain concept with others.

A term cannot be polysemantic; the unambiguity of a term is established by fixing the meaning of each term by a certain specific system of concepts. However, many researchers in scientific and technical literature prove that terms can develop polysemy not only within a scientific or technical field, but also within a certain terminological system [11]. In the polysemy of the term it is worth seeing a manifestation of the common laws of development of terminological and commonly used vocabulary [12, p. 42].

The systematic nature of terminology is based on the principle of classification of concepts, which leads, in turn, to the selection of necessary and sufficient features that are included in the term, after which words and their parts are obtained to create the term. Synonymy in terminology is an undesirable phenomenon; terminological synonyms perform other functions and have a different nature from the general literary language. Regarding the provision on the conciseness of the term (the term must be compressed), it can be noted that there is a contradiction between the desire for accuracy of the term system as a whole and for the conciseness of its constituent terms, since the tendency to increase the information content of the term, which can be traced over the past decades, has led to a complication of the

structure terminological name and to the general lengthening of the term [13, p. 46]. The descriptive direction in the study of terminology, in line with which our research is being conducted, is, on the contrary, based on the position put forward by G.O. Vinokur, that the role of a term can be any 15 word. Terms are not special words, but words with a special function [14, p. 5]. It is the descriptive approach that takes into account the presence of natural connections between specialized and commonly used vocabulary, which are found in the commonality of methods and means of lexical nomination, the operation of universal semantic laws, and considers the language of the scientific field as a functional variety of literary language, since terminology functions on the basis of a specific language.

Terminological vocabulary (terms) is characterized by a large content capacity; A linguistic sign is more terminological the more information is needed to understand it. To understand the essence of terminological vocabulary, special knowledge is needed, and its semantic consistency stands out as an independent object of the content plan of the thematic sphere and can be characterized by its depth and regularity. A term can be either a general literary word or a word of a special form. Thus, two polar approaches to the study of the term express in scientific terminology one of the basic positions “natural - artificial” [4]. The general essence of the trends in the

development of terminological nomination (its methods, sources, specialization of models) lies in the complex process of interaction between the general literary language and its functional varieties (in particular, what serves the sphere of professional communication). Everything generated in the sphere of special, scientific communication “is realized by means of general literary language, receiving a certain modification, and then returns to it as an incentive for the development and dissemination of phenomena that arise in its subsystems” [11, p. 47]. The use of commonly used words in the function of terms is based on the generalizing nature of the word and the potential possibilities that are inherent in its 16 content structure. The meanings of many words are constantly expanding and enriched with new conceptual features. Terms that arose as a result of the semantic development of the significant meanings of commonly used words are a completely objective phenomenon in the context of the growth of the cultural and educational level of native speakers. For example, the word water “water” reflects a material denotation not only at the level of everyday, everyday consciousness - “the transparent, colorless liquid, which falls from the sky as rain, issues from the ground in springs”, but also at the level of theoretical thinking: “a transparent, odorless, tasteless liquid, a compound of hydrogen and oxygen, H₂O, freezing at 32° F or 0° C and boiling at 212° F or 100° C.” As we see, the problem of “socially predetermined polyvariance” [6, p. 150] of

the word and its meaning in terminology has not lost its relevance. The formation of terms by transferring meaning by contiguity or similarity - formal or functional - is a method that is quite common in various term systems of many languages. Such terms are formed from commonly used words, in the semantic structure of which there are “meaningful support points” to designate a new denotation, for example: to wean (household) and to wean “gradually abandon the life support system” (medical), to tease “to tease, irritate” (domestic) and to tease “to dissect tissue with a needle” (medical).

The enrichment of the language with new units occurs in parallel with the development of scientific concepts, which are named in the language. Any linguistic sign is the result of professional thinking, which names a specific fragment of an extralinguistic series. Therefore, the idea of a term as a codified linguistic sign has been illuminated in the terminological concepts of many domestic and foreign scientists. Issues related to lexico-semantic phenomena in terminology (polysemy, synonymy, antonymy) can be considered quite ambiguous regarding their solution. Representatives of the normative approach, based on the fact that the term should mark a strictly limited, clearly fixed concept, were inclined to deny the presence of polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, connotation in terminology, or sought to eliminate such phenomena as much as possible. However, the

realization that a term is a word in a special function, as well as numerous studies of terminologies and term systems in the field of functioning have shown that terms function in accordance with the laws of natural language.

Terms that are means of special communication, like words, do not remain identical to themselves over time. They contain within themselves the potential for their change. One of the actualizations of this potency is polysemy, which should be considered not only as a state, but also as a process. That is, we can say that all words are actually or potentially ambiguous.

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