

Names Of Diseases' As Lexical Units Of A Lexical-Thematic Group

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Abstract: This article examines the vocabulary of the Uzbek language, which reflects the names of diseases that have developed over thousands of years, and the largest lexical-semantic group of terms denoting human diseases.

Keywords: Nomination, linguistic units, phraseology, V. N. Teliya, congenital diseases, infectious diseases, metabolic diseases (metabolic disorders), vitamin deficiencies, tumor diseases, chemical exposure, diseases caused by poisoning, degenerative (destructive, erosive) diseases, allergic diseases.

Introduction: Nomination is the act of naming reality and objects; it is the formation of linguistic units that serve to designate concepts in the form of words, word combinations, sentences, and phraseological expressions. The term "nomination" can refer both to the process of naming itself and to its result, that is, an important linguistic unit. Nomination (from Latin *nominatio* — naming, giving a name, designation) in linguistics refers to the ability to name, that is, to assign names to elements of extralinguistic reality, to distinguish them, and to form appropriate concepts about them. It involves the creation of linguistic units such as words, word combinations, phraseological expressions, and sentences. The meaningful linguistic unit resulting from the naming process is also expressed by this term.

Some scholars also use the term nomination to refer to the branch of linguistics that studies the structure and mechanisms of naming processes.

The branch of linguistics that studies linguistic units from the perspective of their nominative function, particularly the nominative activity of humans and its role in language, is called the theory of nomination or onomasiology. The subject of onomasiology is the study and description of the laws governing the emergence of nominative units and the mechanisms of nomination. Nomination is the main concept of onomasiology. Issues and problems related to the

concept of nomination have been studied by representatives of the Russian linguistic school, such as V. N. Teliya, E. S. Kubryakova, N. D. Arutyunova, D. N. Ushakov, and V. V. Vinogradov, as well as by representatives of foreign linguistic schools like U. Weinreich and S. Ullmann. This linguistic phenomenon has also been investigated by Uzbek linguists in a number of studies. Since the beginning of the 21st century, interest in the problem of nomination in Uzbek linguistics has significantly increased — particularly in studying the means of naming objects and phenomena surrounding reality and the factors influencing their formation.

In various studies, different aspects of the nomination process have been analyzed in detail, examining how specific groups of linguistic units are named from different perspectives. Representatives of different linguistic schools hold diverse viewpoints regarding the classification of the theory of nomination and the interpretation of its core concepts.

The laws of the nominative process are universal and encompass the vocabulary of any language, regardless of its genealogical affiliation or typological features. In the process of nomination, two key categories are distinguished — the method of nomination and the principle of nomination. These categories participate in the formation of a nominative unit. The motivational (motivating) features that form the basis for the

creation of a name represent the principle of nomination. A motivational feature is “a part of the objectified ideal content, on the basis of which its relation to another concept is established.” Motivational features are usually identified for practical differentiation of meanings. The method of nomination, on the other hand, refers to the ways or techniques used to create names.

The lexicon representing the names of diseases forms part of the Uzbek language’s vocabulary, which has developed over thousands of years. These lexical units, expressing human diseases, constitute one of the largest lexical-semantic groups of nominative units. In the study, to classify the nominations of diseases, the approaches of previous researchers to defining and categorizing thematic types are first examined. T. V. Pashkova, for example, classifies disease names in the Karelian language (which belongs to the Baltic-Finnic branch of the Finno-Ugric language family) according to the characteristics of the nomination object as follows:

1. Names associated with pain in a body part or organ.

This type of disease name is expressed through the nomination of the affected organ or part of the body. It includes names related to the head, eyes, joints, teeth, heart, lungs, kidneys, and similar organs.

2. Names based on external symptoms. Some disease names are formed based on their distinct external signs, such as changes in the skin or mucous membranes, allergies, rashes, seizures, scabies, and others.

3. Names associated with physical defects of a person.

These names refer to diseases or conditions related to physical deformities or impairments in the human body.

4. Names related to popular beliefs.

These disease names are based on folk beliefs, traditions, or superstitions about the causes and nature of illnesses.

5. Names associated with animal bites.

Since the Khanty people’s lives were closely connected with the animal world, this type of disease name—referring to injuries or bites caused by animals—became widespread and culturally significant.

F. M. Lelkhova also based her research on the above-mentioned classification when studying the lexical layer of disease names in the Khanty languages, which belong to the Finno-Ugric group. V. A. Merkulova, using Russian language materials, classified the folk names of skin diseases. In his research, N. A. Romanov examined the lexical-semantic features of medical terminology in the Russian language.

Linguist M. Y. Chizhova, recognizing the diversity and multitude of disease causes, classified them as follows:

1. Congenital diseases;
2. Infectious diseases;
3. Metabolic diseases (related to substance exchange);
4. Deficiency diseases;
5. Tumor (neoplastic) diseases;
6. Diseases caused by physical or chemical effects, including poisoning;
7. Degenerative diseases (destructive or deteriorating disorders);
8. Allergic diseases.

She also noted that diseases can be classified based on the organs or body systems they affect, such as:

- diseases of the digestive system,
- cardiovascular diseases,
- nervous system disorders,
- internal diseases,
- and eye diseases, among others.

Such classifications can be further expanded. For example, diseases can be studied according to gender characteristics — diseases of children, women, men, and the elderly — or according to profession, identifying occupational diseases. Each of these areas, she emphasized, requires separate and detailed research.

Since diseases and their types are numerous, doctors are required to use international nomenclature and professional terminology — especially in official documents, medical reference materials, and communication with colleagues (such as in medical consultations). That means they rely on Greek- and Latin-based names, such as: hepatitis (jaundice), diarrhea (stomach upset), alopecia (baldness), pediculosis (lice infestation), and others.

However, when communicating verbally with patients, it is more effective for the doctor to explain the disease using the possibilities of the Uzbek language so that the patient can clearly understand. For example:

- “You have amnesia, that is, memory loss, meaning you cannot recall recent important events.”
- “Your child’s diagnosis is enuresis — inability to control urination at night, a condition common among children.”
- “X-ray examinations show that you have pneumonia, which means inflammation of the lungs.”
- “The Parkinson’s disease you are suffering from is caused by damage to the nervous system. It is

characterized by slowed movements and tremors of the limbs and muscles.”

In the classification forms presented below, we aim to use folk, non-terminological variants when naming diseases. Based on the most important features of nomination and the methods of nomination in the lexical-thematic group “Names of Diseases”, we believe that all lexical units can be divided into nine groups:

1. Named after the body parts/organs affected by the disease.
2. Named after tremor or seizure attacks.
3. Transliteration-based names.
4. Named according to the time of disease onset.
5. Names related to popular beliefs.
6. Named according to the description of the main symptoms.
7. Onomatopoeic names (imitating sounds).
8. Names related to physical defects or impairments.
9. Names associated with animal bites or transmission from animals.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the lexicon reflecting disease names forms part of the Uzbek language’s vocabulary, which has developed over thousands of years, and constitutes the largest lexical-semantic group of nominations expressing human diseases.

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