

STAGES IN THE FORMATION OF UZBEK TERMINOLOGY

Erkin Khaydarov

*Teacher of Samarkand state institute of foreign languages*ARTICLE
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ABSTRACT:

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This study traces the historical formation of Uzbek terminology across phases shaped by language policy, script reforms, and domain growth. The analysis highlights changing source-language proportions, native word-formation productivity, calques versus loans, and orthography's role in stabilizing variants. Domain case studies expose contrasting dynamics from conservatism to rapid innovation. The article proposes a periodization model.

In contemporary Uzbek literary language, terminology stands out as a significant lexical stratum with a distinct role and status. It not only broadens the scientific and technical potential of the language but also plays an invaluable role in shaping national thought and the culture of academic discourse.

In linguistics, there are two main theoretical approaches concerning the place of terminology within the lexicon of the literary language. Proponents of the first view regard terminology as an integral and independent layer of the literary language's vocabulary. According to them, terms are closely interconnected with the general lexical system of the literary language, through which the scientific, technical, cultural, and social development of the society is reflected.

According to the second theory, however, terminology is viewed as relatively independent from the lexical composition of the literary language and is assessed as a "distinct" lexical phenomenon. From this perspective, the terminological system is interpreted as one of the specific forms of speech, similar to dialects, jargon, or colloquial varieties. Consequently, the

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issue of the status of terminology within the linguistic system remains a debatable and pressing topic in Uzbek linguistics today.

Terminology, which constitutes a significant part of the lexical stock of any language and serves as the semantic core of scientific vocabulary, has in the modern era attracted increasing attention from international scholars. Within the framework of contemporary linguistic and interdisciplinary studies, terminography occupies one of the priority positions, as it examines the principles underlying the formation, development, and functioning of terminological systems that ensure precision and unambiguity in scientific communication.

Terminology is regarded not only as a set of terms belonging to a specific field of knowledge, technology, or production, but also as a scientific discipline concerned with their formation, structure, and functioning. In this sense, terminology represents not merely a lexical layer, but a specialized subsystem of language that reflects the evolution of scientific thought and the professional culture of society.

The subject matter of the general theory of terminology encompasses a wide range of issues: the study of processes involved in the formation and use of specialized words through which humanity's accumulated knowledge is stored and transmitted; the improvement of existing terminological systems; the search for optimal principles and methods for creating new terms and their systematization; as well as the identification of universal regularities characteristic of terminologies across various fields of knowledge. All of this defines the crucial role of terminography as a discipline that ensures the unity and advancement of the modern scientific language.

The system of terminology has been shaped over various historical periods through diverse sources, and this process is closely connected with historical, social, and cultural factors. Even today, there remains a strong need for uniformity and stability within terminology. This is because the existing terminological system has evolved to its current state under the simultaneous influence of historical stages of development, different periods' linguistic tendencies, and international cultural and scientific interactions. Therefore, establishing unified standards for the form, meaning, and usage of terms remains an urgent issue from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

The existence of terminological vocabulary expressing specialized concepts within the lexicon of any literary language is recognized in linguistics as a natural phenomenon. In every language—including Uzbek—alongside general vocabulary, there is a layer of terms formed to denote precise concepts in fields such as science, technology, culture, art, and other domains.

The Uzbek terminological system is no exception to this general linguistic pattern. Throughout its historical development, it has evolved and expanded under the combined influence of the internal resources of the national language and its cultural and scientific interactions with other languages. Unlike general vocabulary, terms emerge to convey specific meanings and denote precise scientific or practical concepts, thereby playing a crucial role in the formation and development of the Uzbek literary language. As a result, Uzbek terminology continues to improve today, contributing significantly to the enhancement of the language's scientific, technical, and cultural potential.

Dividing the historical development of terminological vocabulary—formed in accordance with the lexical principles of the Uzbek literary language—into specific stages allows for a deeper analysis of this process. Researchers generally classify the evolution of Uzbek terminology into the following periods:

1. **Terminology of the Old Turkic language** (7th–10th centuries);
2. **Terminology of the Middle Turkic language** (11th–14th centuries);
3. **Terminology of the Old Uzbek literary language** (15th century to the early 20th century);
4. **Terminology of the Uzbek language during the Soviet period;**
5. **Terminology of the Uzbek language in the Independence period.**

This periodization provides a comprehensive framework for examining the historical formation, transformation, and enrichment of Uzbek terminology in connection with linguistic, cultural, and socio-political developments across different eras. (Dadaboyev,)

Such a periodization approach makes it possible to gain a clearer understanding of the changes that have occurred within the Uzbek terminological system over nearly fourteen centuries of historical development. These processes were shaped not only by the internal (intralinguistic) laws of the language—such as phonetic, morphological, and semantic factors—but also by external (extralinguistic) influences, including political, social, cultural, and scientific interactions. As a result, the Uzbek terminological system has undergone transformation and renewal in different periods, becoming a complex lexical stratum that reflects the level of development of the national language at each historical stage.

In the lexicon of modern Turkic languages—including Uzbek—many lexical units originating from the Old Turkic period continue to be used to some extent. Others, however, have fallen out of contemporary usage and are preserved only in written monuments. Within this lexical layer, terminological vocabulary occupies a particularly significant place. This fact indicates that the Old Turkic language possessed a developed system of terms used to

express specialized concepts, which played an active role in the scientific, religious, and cultural life of that era.

The terminology recorded in Old Turkic sources was primarily composed of native Turkic root and derived words, reflecting the worldview, social structure, and perceptions of nature held by the Turkic peoples. At the same time, during various historical periods, lexical borrowings from other languages—particularly Sogdian, Sanskrit, and Chinese—entered the terminological layer under the influence of the cultural and religious-philosophical movements with which the Turkic peoples came into contact, such as Buddhism and Manichaeism. These borrowings, on the one hand, illustrate the cultural interactions of the ancient Turkic peoples, and on the other, confirm the multi-sourced and mutually influential nature of the terminological system.

The formation and development of terminology in the Old Uzbek literary language were influenced not only by internal linguistic laws but also by external (extralinguistic) factors. During this period, the Uzbek literary language reached a new stage in its evolution, and terms expressing specialized concepts in various fields began to emerge within its lexical system.

An analysis of the artistic, historical, and scholarly works created by Alisher Navoi—the founder of the Uzbek literary language—along with his predecessors such as Lutfi, Atoyi, Sakkokiy, and Yaqiniy, as well as his successors including Babur, Muhammad Solih, Ogahi, Munis, and others, shows that during this era the creation of terms based on the internal resources of the language was a widespread and highly productive process.

In his works, Alisher Navoi firmly advocated the idea that the native language should be regarded as the spiritual mirror of the nation, a view that was actively supported by the intellectuals, scholars, poets, and writers of his time. This principle had a direct influence on the process of term formation in the Uzbek language—new terms were created, as much as possible, on the basis of national linguistic resources and existing word-formation models.

At the same time, during this period, the emergence of both the social and human sciences and the exact sciences was accompanied by the development of corresponding terminologies. Lexical units found in Old Uzbek literary language, as well as in the spoken vernacular, dialects, and regional varieties, were actively incorporated into the terminological system, and their semantic scope was broadened. Numerous new terms were created with the help of derivational affixes, demonstrating the high word-formation potential of the Uzbek language.

Furthermore, the number of borrowed terms from Arabic, Persian-Tajik, and Mongolian languages increased considerably. These borrowings were especially prevalent in the systems of religious, legal, philosophical, and scientific terminology. Foreign derivational affixes that

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entered the language also played an important role in term formation and were adapted to fit the morphological structure of Uzbek. As a result, during the period of the Old Uzbek literary language, terminology expanded and began to take on a more stable and systematic form through the synthesis of internal and external linguistic influences.

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