ISSN:2828-6235
Impact factor:13.77

International Journal of Literature and Language Studies(IJLLS)

LINGUISTIC FEATURES AND TERMINOLOGY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SPECIALIZED VOCABULARY

Marupova Gulnoz
a second-year PhD student at Bukhara State University.
Doi: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23019243

Abstract: The study of specialized vocabulary represents an important area of modern linguistics, particularly in the context of the rapid development of professional and scientific communication. Terminology reflects the conceptual structure of a particular field and simultaneously demonstrates specific linguistic features at lexical, semantic, morphological, and structural levels. The present study examines the principal linguistic characteristics of specialized terminology and analyzes the processes involved in the formation, development, and functioning of terminological units. Particular attention is paid to semantic specialization, word formation, borrowing, compounding, abbreviation, synonymy, polysemy, and the role of context in determining terminological meaning. The research employs descriptive, comparative, semantic, and contextual methods. The analysis demonstrates that specialized terminology combines characteristics of general language with features determined by the conceptual and communicative requirements of a particular domain. The findings confirm that terminology is not a static system: it develops in response to scientific, technological, cultural, and social changes.

Keywords: terminology, linguistic features, specialized vocabulary, terminological units, semantic specialization, word formation, borrowing, professional communication.

1. Introduction

Language is a dynamic system that continuously develops in response to changes in society, science, technology, culture, and human communication. One of the most significant manifestations of linguistic development is the emergence and transformation of specialized vocabulary. Every professional or scientific field possesses a specific lexical system that enables specialists to name concepts, objects, processes, phenomena, and relationships relevant to their area of activity. Such lexical units are generally referred to as terms, while the systematic study of terms constitutes the field of terminology.

Terminology occupies an important position within modern linguistics because it provides a connection between language and specialized knowledge. A term is not simply a word belonging to a particular professional sphere. It functions as a linguistic representation of a concept within a specific conceptual system. Consequently, the analysis of terminology requires consideration not only of linguistic structure but also of the relationship between language, cognition, and professional knowledge.

Specialized terminology demonstrates a number of distinctive linguistic features. These include semantic precision, systematic organization, structural regularity, terminological motivation, and the ability to form interconnected lexical fields. At the same time, terminology is influenced by the general mechanisms of language development. Terms may be created through derivation, compounding, conversion, abbreviation, borrowing, semantic extension, and other productive processes.

The relevance of the present research is determined by the increasing role of specialized communication in contemporary society. The development of international cooperation and the expansion of scientific and professional communication have resulted in the rapid appearance of new terms and the active transfer of terminology between languages. This process is particularly

visible in fields such as information technology, medicine, economics, tourism, sports, environmental studies, and other rapidly developing domains.

The aim of this study is to identify and describe the principal linguistic features of terminology and to examine the major mechanisms involved in the formation and functioning of specialized lexical units.

The research addresses the following questions:

1. What linguistic features distinguish terminology from general vocabulary?
2. What lexical and morphological processes contribute to the formation of terms?
3. How do semantic relationships operate within terminological systems?
4. What role do borrowing and internationalization play in terminological development?

2. Methods

The research is based on a qualitative linguistic analysis of specialized lexical units. A combination of descriptive, semantic, comparative, structural, and contextual methods was employed to identify the principal characteristics of terminology.

The **descriptive method** was used to identify and classify linguistic features of specialized vocabulary. It made it possible to describe the structural and semantic properties of individual terminological units.

The **semantic method** was applied to examine the relationship between terms and the concepts they designate. Particular attention was given to semantic specialization, polysemy, synonymy, and the development of new terminological meanings.

The **structural and word-formation analysis** was used to identify the principal models of term formation. These models include derivation, compounding, abbreviation, conversion, and the combination of several lexical elements.

The **comparative method** was used to examine similarities and differences in the formation and functioning of terms across languages. This approach is especially relevant in multilingual professional communication, where concepts are frequently transferred from one linguistic system to another.

The **contextual method** was employed to determine how the meaning of a terminological unit may depend on the professional context in which it occurs. The same lexical form may sometimes acquire a specialized meaning when used within a particular domain.

The analyzed material consisted of examples of specialized vocabulary representing different professional and scientific fields. The analysis focused on the formal structure, semantic characteristics, etymology, and functional use of the selected terms.

3. Results

The analysis demonstrates that terminology possesses a number of characteristic linguistic features that distinguish specialized lexical units from ordinary vocabulary.

3.1. Semantic specialization

One of the most important characteristics of terminology is semantic specialization. A lexical unit that has a general meaning in everyday language may acquire a more specific meaning within a professional domain.

For example, the English word *network* has a broad meaning in general language, but in information technology it refers to a system of interconnected computers or devices. Similarly, *field* can denote a physical area in general English, whereas in linguistics it may refer to a specific conceptual or lexical domain.

Semantic specialization therefore involves the narrowing or modification of meaning in accordance with the conceptual requirements of a particular professional field.

3.2. Structural characteristics

Terminological units may consist of a single lexical item or several components. Simple terms include words such as *syntax*, *tourism*, *ecosystem*, and *migration*. Complex terms may contain several lexical components, for example *language acquisition*, *cultural heritage tourism*, *artificial intelligence*, and *environmental protection policy*.

Multiword terms are particularly productive in modern terminology because they allow specialists to represent complex concepts with a relatively high degree of precision.

The structural organization of multiword terms often follows productive grammatical patterns. These include combinations of nouns and adjectives, noun + noun constructions, and combinations containing prepositions.

3.3. Word formation

Word formation is another major source of terminological development. Derivation is particularly productive in English terminology. Affixes such as *-tion*, *-ment*, *-ity*, *-er*, and *-ism* contribute to the formation of professional and scientific vocabulary.

For example:

- *develop* → *development*;
- *specialize* → *specialization*;
- *linguistic* → *linguistically*;
- *tour* → *tourism*;
- *analyze* → *analysis*.

Compounding is also highly productive. Terms such as *webpage*, *database*, *language-learning*, and *sports tourism* demonstrate the ability of English to combine existing lexical elements to create new conceptual units.

Abbreviation represents another important mechanism. Professional communication frequently uses shortened forms such as *AI* for *artificial intelligence*, *ICT* for *information and communication technology*, and *GDP* for *gross domestic product*.

3.4. Borrowing and internationalization

The analysis indicates that borrowing is one of the principal mechanisms of terminological enrichment. Scientific and professional communication has traditionally involved the transfer of terminology between languages.

Many English scientific terms have roots in Latin and Greek. Other terms have been borrowed from French, German, Italian, Arabic, and other languages. In contemporary communication, English has become an important source of international terminology, particularly in technology, economics, business, science, sports, and tourism.

Borrowing may occur through direct adoption of a lexical item or through adaptation to the phonological, morphological, or grammatical system of the receiving language.

International terms facilitate communication between specialists from different linguistic backgrounds. However, they may also create terminological variation because the same concept can be represented by different lexical forms in different languages.

3.5. Synonymy and terminological variation

Although terminology is traditionally associated with precision and unambiguous reference, actual professional communication demonstrates that terminological variation is common.

Different terms may refer to the same or closely related concepts. Variation may result from differences between scientific schools, professional communities, geographical regions, or stages of terminological development.

For example, specialists may use different lexical expressions to describe similar concepts depending on disciplinary or institutional conventions. Therefore, terminological systems cannot always be considered completely homogeneous.

3.6. Polysemy and contextual meaning

Polysemy is another significant feature of terminology. A lexical unit may have several meanings across different professional domains. For instance, the word *platform* may refer to a physical structure in general language, while in information technology it may designate a technological environment or system.

Consequently, the meaning of a term is often determined by the conceptual system and communicative context in which it occurs.

This observation demonstrates that terminology cannot be studied exclusively at the level of isolated lexical units. Context plays an important role in identifying the intended conceptual meaning.

4. Discussion

The results indicate that terminology occupies an intermediate position between general language and specialized knowledge. On the one hand, terms are linguistic units and therefore follow general grammatical, lexical, and word-formation principles. On the other hand, their meanings are determined by specialized conceptual systems.

One of the central characteristics of terminology is **systematicity**. Terms belonging to the same field are not isolated units but form interconnected networks. A change in one concept may lead to the creation of related terms, resulting in the development of terminological fields and hierarchical relationships.

Another important characteristic is **conceptual precision**. In professional communication, terminology serves to reduce ambiguity and facilitate the accurate transmission of specialized information. However, the actual degree of precision depends on the field, the communicative context, and the degree of standardization of the terminology.

The research also demonstrates that terminology is closely connected with linguistic productivity. New terms emerge through existing linguistic mechanisms rather than independently of the language system. Derivation, compounding, abbreviation, borrowing, and semantic change remain important sources of terminological innovation.

The internationalization of terminology has become particularly significant in the modern period. Global scientific and professional communication encourages the circulation of lexical units across languages. English plays a particularly important role in the dissemination of contemporary scientific and technological terminology. At the same time, the adoption of foreign terminology may create problems related to standardization, translation, equivalence, and cultural adaptation.

From a comparative perspective, terminological equivalence between languages cannot always be established on the basis of formal similarity alone. Two terms may appear structurally equivalent while referring to somewhat different concepts. Therefore, translators and researchers need to consider conceptual meaning, contextual usage, and the terminological system of each language.

The findings also suggest that terminology should be considered a dynamic phenomenon. The emergence of new technologies, professional practices, social developments, and interdisciplinary fields continuously creates new concepts requiring linguistic representation. As a result, terminological systems are subject to constant expansion and restructuring.

5. Conclusion

The study has demonstrated that specialized terminology constitutes an important and dynamic component of language. Its principal linguistic characteristics include semantic specialization, systematicity, structural regularity, terminological variation, and the productive use of word-formation mechanisms.

The analysis has shown that terms are formed through a variety of linguistic processes, including derivation, compounding, abbreviation, borrowing, and semantic transformation. At the same time, the functioning of terms depends strongly on professional context and the conceptual system of a particular field.

Terminology also reflects the international character of contemporary scientific and professional communication. The exchange of specialized vocabulary between languages facilitates international cooperation but simultaneously creates challenges related to translation, equivalence, standardization, and linguistic adaptation.

Therefore, the study of linguistic features and terminology requires an interdisciplinary approach combining lexical, semantic, structural, contextual, and comparative analysis. Further research may focus on the terminology of specific professional domains and on comparative studies of terminological systems in English, French, Russian, and Uzbek.

References

1. Cabré, M. T. (1999). *Terminology: Theory, Methods and Applications*. John Benjamins.
2. Coxhead, A. (2018). Vocabulary and English for Specific Purposes research: Quantitative and qualitative approaches. *Routledge Handbook of Vocabulary Studies*.
3. Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge University Press.
4. Faber, P. (2012). A cognitive linguistics view of terminology and specialized language. *Specialized Knowledge Representation*.
5. Sager, J. C. (1990). *A Practical Course in Terminology Processing*. John Benjamins.
6. Temmerman, R. (2000). *Towards New Ways of Terminology Description: The Sociocognitive Approach*. John Benjamins.
7. Wüster, E. (1979). *Introduction to the General Theory of Terminology and Terminological Lexicography*. Springer.