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THE FUNCTIONS OF AFFIXES IN UZBEK SOIL SCIENCE TERMINOLOGY

Hamidova Mohlarbegim Hamid qizi
Lecturer, Department of Philology,
University of Information Technologies and Management
hmohlarbegim@gmail.com

Abstract: This article investigates the role of morphological methods and the linguistic functions of word-forming affixes in the development of Uzbek soil science terminology. In the course of the study, productive and unproductive suffixes that form domain-specific terms are analyzed, and their capacity to convey terminological meaning is examined. In particular, the word-formation models of terms expressing soil types, properties, and processes through affixation are substantiated with illustrative examples.

Keywords: soil science, terminology, affixation, morphological method, word-forming suffixes, linguistic function, terminological system, derivation.

Terminology occupies a distinctive place and holds considerable importance in the structural formation of modern standard Uzbek, and two principal scholarly viewpoints exist regarding its role within the lexical system. According to the first position, terminology is regarded as an entirely independent stratum of the literary language's vocabulary; according to the second conception, it is treated as a speech object standing apart from the general literary language - analogous to dialect, jargon, or colloquial speech. V. P. Danilenko recognizes terminology as an independent functional variety of the literary language, namely the language of science and technology[1]. Within this framework, the language of science develops on the foundation of the literary language, drawing upon its lexical, derivational, and grammatical resources, and constitutes a functional system that stands alongside artistic or colloquial styles. According to I. Ermatov, terminology is the aggregate of terms specific to a given field of science, and through the clarification of the meaning of terms, the scientific concepts they express are also systematized[2]. The interpretation of the concept of "term" differs in logical and linguistic perspectives. For logicians, a term is a word that provides a precise description of an object, and any lexical unit may perform this function. In science and technology, however, a term is a specialized word — either artificially created or borrowed from natural language - whose scope of application is delimited by particular scholarly communities. Unlike general-language lexis, scientific terms are organized into hierarchical systems and attain logical and semantic precision only within a specific terminological field.

In the 1930s, representatives of the Prague Linguistic Circle (N. Trubetzkoy, R. Jakobson) introduced the theory of marked and unmarked units, which represented a new stage in the refinement of logical classification. By the 1960s, the exceptional effectiveness of this theory in the processes of text encoding, machine translation, and information retrieval had been demonstrated[3]. Within this framework, unmarked units are distinguished as those with a zero marker, while marked units are identified as elements that carry an additional informational load. In scholarly usage, it is necessary to distinguish between the concepts of "term" and "terminological lexis."

[1]Даниленко В. П. Русская терминология: Опыт лингвистического описания. – М.: Наука, 1977. – 246 с.

[2]Ermatov I. R. O'zbek tili qishloq xo'jaligi terminologiyasining tizimiy-semantik tadqiqi: Filol. fan. dok. ... diss. avtoref. – Toshkent, 2014. – 80 b.

[3]Трубецкой Н. С. Основы фонологии. – М.: Изд-во иностранной литературы, 1960. – 372 с.

Whereas terms function in professional discourse within the confines of a specific system, terminological lexis also encompasses non-professional words and phrases that have migrated into the sphere of general communication. A term that has entered the general literary language loses its systemic characteristics and moves away from the defining attributes of terminhood. While O. Vinokur regards a term as a consciously formed, always precise and transparent unit, A. S. Gerd defines it as a natural or artificial unit with special semantics that reflects the concepts of a particular stage in the development of science[4]. O. S. Akhmanova links the emergence of terminology to the highest stage of scientific progress. V. G. Gak proposes evaluating the term not as a special type of lexical unit, but as a distinctive mode of application of a lexical unit - a "term-function." D. S. Lotte emphasizes that a term must be viewed as a member of a definite system, and that its status is determined by its position within the system of concepts. In contemporary linguistics, the substantive, functional, derivational, semantic, and pragmatic principles of term interpretation exist side by side. From a substantive standpoint, a term is a specialized linguistic unit that stands in sharp contrast to other nominative units by virtue of its monosemy, precision, systematicity, context-independence, and emotional neutrality.

In contemporary Uzbek linguistics, the systematic investigation of domain-specific terminologies - and in particular the study of the patterns governing the formation of soil science terms - constitutes one of the field's most pressing scholarly tasks. In the compositional-semantic structure of soil science terminology, affixation - that is, the morphological method - holds a leading position; the primary function of affixes is to generate nominative units that express specialized scientific concepts from words in common use. The affixes that participate in the formation of this terminological system serve not merely as word-forming instruments, but also perform the function of linguistically marking the classification of science-related concepts, the physicochemical properties of soils, and the essence of the processes occurring within them. For instance, in terms derived from the internal resources of the Uzbek language within the field of soil science, affixes such as *-li, -siz, -dor, -simon, -lash, -lanish* are productive, and through them the compositional elements of soil (*sho'rli* 'saline,' *chirindili* 'humus-rich'), its deficiencies (*namligisiz* 'lacking moisture'), morphological similarities (*donador* 'granular,' *qumsimon* 'sandy'), and the dynamic processes occurring within it (*sho'rlanish* 'salinization,' *botqoqlanish* 'waterlogging,' *zichlashish* 'compaction') acquire precise scientific expression. The functional nature of affixes in soil science terms is explained by their orientation toward ensuring strict monosemy and emotional neutrality within the bounds of a given terminological field. In particular, term-forming suffixes determine the position of a concept within its hierarchical system: whereas the affix *-lash* expresses the active movement of a process, the affix *-lanish* indicates that the same process has become stabilized as a state - a semantic differentiation of supreme importance for disciplines such as soil science, which rely on precise classification. Moreover, hybrid terms arising from the synthesis of international terminological elements (affixoids) and Uzbek language affixes also serve to enrich the domain-specific lexis. Such a systematic function of affixes in term formation confirms that soil science terminology constitutes not only a lexically rich system, but also a grammatically refined and logically consistent terminosystem. Consequently, the study of the functions of affixes in the formation of soil science terms serves as a foundation for enriching domain-specific dictionaries and for applying the derivational potential of the Uzbek scientific language in practice.

[4] Герд А. С. Терминологический словарь как объект лексикографии // Вопросы языкознания. – М., 1991. – № 4. – С. 1–4.

An analysis of the morphological structure of soil science terminology demonstrates that Uzbek language affixes serve as the principal derivational (word-forming) instrument in shaping the scientific-theoretical conceptual apparatus of this field. The functional nature of affixes is not limited to the mere creation of new words; rather, it is oriented toward systematizing complex science-related concepts and precisely delineating their semantic boundaries. Morphologically, the terminology performs the following functions:

Nominative function: The affixes *-li, -siz, -dor, -simon, -lash, -lanish* of the Uzbek language have been identified as the most productive elements in forming terms that express the composition of soil, its morphological characteristics, and the natural-anthropogenic processes occurring within it. Through these affixes, words in common use acquire a strictly scientific meaning and are transferred into the terminological field.

Classificatory function: Affixes play an important role in organizing soil science concepts into a hierarchical system. In particular, the differentiation of the concepts of process and state through the affixes *-lash* and *-lanish* (for example, *sho'rlash* 'to become saline [as a process]' and *sho'rlanish* 'salinization [as an established state]') ensures scientific precision and terminological monosemy (univocality) within the field.

Structural-grammatical stability function: Terms formed by affixation in soil science terminology possess a systemic character, and their structure and word-formation models fully correspond to both the internal laws of the language and the logical requirements of the discipline. This guarantees the stylistic fluency and logical coherence of domain-specific texts.

Terminological system enrichment function: The mutual integration of native affixes alongside international affixoids creates the conditions for soil science terminology to develop in accordance with contemporary scientific demands and to integrate into global scholarship.

In conclusion, the morphological characteristic of formation through affixes in terminology is of paramount significance and serves to augment the lexical wealth of the language. The study of the functions of affixes in soil science terms, while demonstrating the rich word-formation potential of the Uzbek language, simultaneously serves as an important theoretical and practical source for the future development of comprehensive explanatory and terminological dictionaries in the field.

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