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THE STUDY OF TERMS AND TERM ELEMENTS IN WORLD LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: This article examines the historical development and contemporary theoretical interpretation of terms and term elements in world linguistics. Particular attention is paid to the formation of terminology as an independent scientific field, the relationship between a term and a concept, the structural and semantic characteristics of terms, and the role of international term elements in the formation of scientific and technical vocabulary. The study analyzes the theoretical views of major terminology scholars, including Eugen Wüster, Juan C. Sager, Maria Teresa Cabré, Rita Temmerman, A. A. Reformatsky, V. V. Vinogradov, V. P. Danilenko, and other researchers. Special consideration is given to the development of linguistic terminology and the classification of linguistic terms proposed by Natalya Sergeevna Agranovskaya. Her research demonstrates that linguistic terminology is not a single homogeneous system but a complex structure reflecting different scientific traditions, schools, theories, and approaches. The article also analyzes Abdulvohidova Nafisa Serobjon qizi’s research Terminology as a Branch of Linguistics, in which the concepts of “term” and “terminology” are examined from different theoretical perspectives. Particular emphasis is placed on A. Madvaliev, N. Mahkamov, Z. Mirahmedova and A. Saidnomanov’s Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements (2020), which is regarded as an important lexicographic source for studying international term elements in Uzbek. The article analyzes prepositive and postpositive term elements, their etymological origins, semantic functions, structural patterns, and word-forming possibilities. The study concludes that international term elements constitute an important layer of modern scientific terminology and that their systematic investigation requires the integration of linguistic, cognitive, terminographic, lexicographic, and interdisciplinary approaches.

Keywords: term, terminology, term element, international term element, terminological system, linguistic terminology, terminology studies, terminography, lexicography, scientific vocabulary, specialized language, semantic structure, word formation, prepositive element, postpositive element, international terminology.

Introduction

Language is one of the principal means through which human beings conceptualize, preserve, transmit, and develop knowledge. Every scientific discipline develops a specialized vocabulary in the course of its formation, and this vocabulary serves to name concepts, objects, processes, properties, relations, and phenomena belonging to a particular field of knowledge. The lexical units that perform this function are generally referred to as terms, while the totality of terms belonging to a particular field constitutes its terminology or terminological system. The rapid development of science, technology, medicine, economics, law, information technology, linguistics, engineering, and other fields has resulted in an unprecedented expansion of specialized vocabulary. Consequently, the study of terms is no longer limited to the identification and description of specialized words. Modern terminology research addresses conceptual systems, semantic relations, term formation, terminological variation, multilingual communication, translation, standardization,

terminology management, terminography, corpus linguistics, and computational processing of specialized language. Abdulvohidova emphasizes that terminology and the term constitute important objects of linguistic investigation and that different definitions and interpretations of these concepts have been proposed by linguists. She also notes the historical significance of Eugen Wüster in the development of modern terminology. The emergence of terminology as an organized scientific field is closely associated with the development of scientific and technical communication. Eugen Wüster is generally recognized as one of the founders of modern terminology theory. His doctoral work of 1930 was particularly significant because it proposed principles for systematizing terminological work and processing terminological data.

However, the contemporary understanding of terminology extends far beyond Wüster's original theoretical framework. Modern approaches have questioned the idea that every concept necessarily corresponds to one and only one term. Socioterminology, sociocognitive terminology, communicative terminology, textual terminology, corpus-based terminology, and knowledge-based approaches have expanded the theoretical boundaries of the discipline. As Humbley observes in his review of Wüster's legacy, later approaches have reassessed General Theory of Terminology from different perspectives, including socioterminology, sociocognitive terminology, communicative terminology, textual terminology, and translation studies. The problem becomes particularly important when examining term elements. A term element is not simply a random part of a word. In many cases, it represents a recurring semantic component that participates in the formation of numerous terms. Such elements are particularly common in international scientific terminology and are frequently derived from Greek and Latin. Examples include bio-, geo-, micro-, macro-, tele-, anti-, hydro-, -logy, -graphy, -meter, and many others. The study of international term elements is especially relevant to Uzbek linguistics because modern Uzbek scientific terminology contains a significant number of international elements. The Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements, published in 2020 by A. Madvaliev, N. Mahkamov, Z. Mirahmedova and A. Saidnomanov, represents an important attempt to systematically describe these elements and demonstrate their word-forming potential. Madvaliev notes that international term elements such as anti-, geo-, macro-, micro-, neo-, poly-, and tele- have been included as separate dictionary entries in newer Uzbek explanatory dictionaries. The relevance of the present research is therefore determined by the need to examine terms and term elements not merely as lexical units but as components of a complex conceptual and linguistic system. The purpose of this article is to investigate the development of term and term-element studies in world linguistics, identify the principal theoretical approaches to terminology, examine the structural and semantic properties of term elements, and analyze the significance of international term elements for the development of modern scientific terminology. The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. to examine the historical formation of terminology as a scientific field;
2. to clarify the concepts of term, terminology, terminological system, and term element;
3. to analyze the major theoretical approaches to terminology;
4. to investigate the structural and semantic characteristics of linguistic terms;
5. to examine the classification of linguistic terminology;
6. to analyze international term elements and their sources;

7. to identify productive models of term-element formation;

8. to examine the lexicographic representation of international term elements in Uzbek;

9. to determine the relationship between international terminology and national languages;

10. to establish prospects for further research into term elements.

The object of the research is terms and term elements functioning in scientific and specialized languages. The subject of the research is the structural, semantic, functional, word-forming, and lexicographic characteristics of terms and international term elements. The research employs descriptive, comparative, semantic, structural, componential, etymological, terminographic, and contextual methods.

Literature review

The history of terminology is closely connected with the history of scientific knowledge itself. As scientific disciplines became increasingly differentiated, researchers needed linguistic units capable of precisely naming specialized concepts. Whewell is among the early scholars who drew attention to the relationship between terminology and scientific knowledge. His view, cited in later terminology research, connects terminology with a set of words used in a particular scientific or technological field and emphasizes that recording terms also means recording the concepts represented by them. Abdulvohidova cites this understanding when discussing the historical development of terminology. The development of terminology theory became especially prominent in the twentieth century. Eugen Wuster played a central role in establishing terminology as a systematic field of study. His contribution was not restricted to individual terms; he was interested in the relationship between concepts and designations, terminological standardization, multilingual communication, and the efficient exchange of specialized knowledge. Wuster's approach is commonly associated with the General Theory of Terminology (GTT). Its central idea was that terminology should be based primarily on concepts and conceptual systems. Terms are viewed as designations assigned to clearly defined concepts within a particular knowledge system. Wuster's contribution remains fundamental, although contemporary terminology studies have significantly expanded and modified his ideas. John Humbley points out that Wüster is generally credited with founding modern terminology theory, while subsequent approaches have reassessed his principles from socioterminological, sociocognitive, communicative, textual, and translation-oriented perspectives. Thus, the history of terminology can be understood as a movement from a predominantly prescriptive and concept-centered approach toward more dynamic, communicative, cognitive, corpus-based, and user-oriented approaches. Sager's Approach to Terminology Juan C. Sager made an important contribution to the modern understanding of terminology. His A Practical Course in Terminology Processing (1990) became an influential source in terminology studies. Sager defines terminology as both a field of study and an activity concerned with the collection, description, processing, and presentation of terms belonging to specialized areas of use. Abdulvohidova cites Sager's definition and emphasizes the relationship between terminology and lexicography. This approach is important because it demonstrates that terminology has both a theoretical and a practical dimension. The theoretical dimension investigates concepts, terms, terminological systems, and their relations, while the practical dimension involves collecting, describing, organizing, standardizing, translating, and presenting terminological data. Sager's work

also demonstrates that terminology cannot be isolated from communication. Terms are created because specialists need to communicate specialized knowledge efficiently. Consequently, the effectiveness of a term depends not only on its linguistic form but also on the conceptual and communicative environment in which it is used. Cabre and the Interdisciplinary Nature of Terminology Maria Teresa Cabre developed an approach in which terminology is viewed as an interdisciplinary field connecting linguistics, cognitive science, communication studies, documentation, computer science, and knowledge representation. Her work Terminology: Theory, Methods and Applications, published by John Benjamins in 1999, treats terminology from theoretical, methodological, communicative, cognitive, and practical perspectives. The book specifically addresses concepts, specialized language, dictionaries, multilingual communication, terminology management, and the relationship between terminology and other disciplines. Cabre's approach is significant because it rejects an excessively narrow interpretation of terminology as merely a collection of specialized words. Terminology is also a system for representing specialized knowledge. From this perspective, a term can be examined simultaneously as:

- a linguistic unit;

- a designation of a concept;

- a unit of specialized communication;

- an element of a terminological system;

- a lexical item in a specialized text;

- a data unit in terminology databases.

Cabre's interdisciplinary perspective is especially relevant today because modern terminology increasingly interacts with digital technologies, artificial intelligence, corpus linguistics, machine translation, and knowledge engineering. Natalya Sergeevna Agranovskaya's article The Structure of Linguistic Terminology as an Object of Scientific Linguistic Study is especially relevant to the present research. Agranovskaya defines linguistic terminology as "a set of terms of the science of language" and emphasizes that it reflects different national scientific traditions, linguistic schools, and individual theories. One of the most significant observations in her research is that linguistic terminology cannot be regarded as a completely homogeneous system. Different linguistic traditions may use the same term to refer to different concepts. Agranovskaya therefore discusses the phenomenon of polymorphism of linguistic terms, whereby the same term may have different conceptual interpretations in different scientific traditions. This observation is particularly important for comparative terminology studies. A term cannot always be translated mechanically from one language into another. The researcher must identify the underlying concept, the theoretical school, and the terminological tradition. Agranovskaya also classifies linguistic terms structurally. According to her analysis, terms may be non-derived, derived, compound, or represented by multiword combinations. She provides examples such as word, sign, dictionary, historicism, ambiguity, semantic field, and simple sentence. She also identifies term elements as minimum structural units that can function as morphemes or full lexical units. This idea brings linguistic terminology directly into contact with the study of international term elements.

Results

The word term has a long history, and its interpretation has generated extensive discussion in linguistics. The term is generally understood as a lexical or phraseological unit that denotes a specialized concept within a particular field. However, there is no single definition accepted by all scholars. A. A. Reformatsky regarded terms as special words limited by their specific function and intended to express concepts accurately. Agranovskaya cites his characterization of terms as "unambiguous words devoid of expressiveness." M. M. Glushko emphasizes precise semantic boundaries and the relationship between the term and the classification system within which it functions. G. O. Vinokur, however, proposed a different perspective. He argued that terms are not necessarily special words; rather, ordinary words may function as terms when used in a specialized context. This distinction is theoretically significant. Consider the word root. In everyday language, it refers to the underground part of a plant. In linguistics, however, root is a technical term referring to a fundamental morphological component of a word. Therefore, its terminological status derives not only from its lexical form but from its specialized conceptual function. The same principle applies to numerous terms:

- branch — a part of a tree in general language, but a subdivision of a scientific discipline in specialized language;

- field — a physical area in general language, but a conceptual or semantic domain in linguistics;

- case — an event or instance in ordinary language, but a grammatical category in linguistics;

- voice — the human sound-producing faculty in ordinary language, but a grammatical category in linguistics.Therefore, a lexical unit becomes a term through specialized conceptualization and use.

A term is an individual terminological unit, whereas terminology refers to a system or collection of terms belonging to a field. For example:

- phoneme is a linguistic term;

- morpheme is a linguistic term;

- syntax is a linguistic term;

- phoneme, morpheme, syntax, semantics, morphology, etc. constitute parts of linguistic terminology.

Terminology therefore has a systemic character. A terminological system is not simply a list of unrelated words. Its elements are connected through conceptual relations such as:

- generic–specific relations;

- part–whole relations;

- cause–effect relations;

- process–result relations;

- object–property relations;

- hierarchical relations.

For instance: language → grammar → morphology → morpheme → root → affix

Each level represents a conceptual relationship. Consequently, terminological research must examine not only individual terms but also their relationships within a conceptual system.

Simple terms consist of a single lexical base. Examples include:

- word;

- sign;

- root;

- case;

- sound;

- lexeme;

- morpheme.

Derived terms are formed through affixation or other word-forming mechanisms. Examples:

- historicism;

- archaism;

- neologism;

- polysemy;

- synonymy.

Compound terms are formed from two or more lexical bases. Examples include:

- word formation;

- speech sound;

- semantic structure;

- language system;

- term element.

Multiword terms consist of several lexical components forming a unified specialized concept. Examples:

- semantic field;

- lexical meaning;

- grammatical meaning;

- word-formation meaning;

- simple sentence;

- complex sentence.

Such terms demonstrate that terminological precision does not necessarily require a one-word form. In some cases, a multiword expression provides greater conceptual accuracy.

One of the most important concepts in contemporary terminology is the term element. A term element can be defined as a recurrent structural component of a term that contributes a relatively stable semantic meaning and participates in the formation of other specialized lexical units. For example:

bio- → life, living organisms

geo- → earth

micro- → small, small-scale

macro- → large, large-scale

tele- → distance

anti- → opposition, against

hydro- → water

-logy → science or study

-graphy → writing, recording, description

-meter → measuring instrument or measurement

The term element therefore differs from an ordinary morpheme in that it frequently carries specialized international semantic content and participates systematically in scientific term formation. Agranovskaya notes that a term element can function as a minimum structural unit and may be represented by a morpheme or a full-valued word. This observation is particularly important for international terminology. International term elements represent one of the most productive layers of modern scientific vocabulary. Many international term elements originate from Ancient Greek and Latin. Their international character developed because European scientific languages adopted and adapted classical lexical material for the creation of specialized terminology. Madvaliev's study emphasizes that international term elements actively participate in the creation of scientific and technical terms. The examples specifically mentioned include anti-, geo-, hydro-, macro-, micro-, neo-, poly-, and tele-. The importance of international term elements is determined

by several factors. First, they provide a common semantic basis for international scientific communication. Second, they facilitate the formation of new terms. Third, they make it possible to recognize conceptual relationships across languages. Fourth, they contribute to the internationalization of scientific vocabulary. For example, the element bio- appears in numerous languages:

- English: biology, biotechnology, biodiversity;

- Russian: биология, биотехнология, биоразнообразие;

- Uzbek: biologiya, biotexnologiya, bioxilma-xillik.

Although the phonetic and orthographic forms may differ, the common international element provides conceptual transparency.

International term elements play a particularly important role in linguistics. Consider:

- morphology;

- phonology;

- semantics;

- onomasiology;

- semasiology;

- sociolinguistics;

- psycholinguistics;

- neurolinguistics;

- ethnolinguistics;

- computational linguistics;

- pragmalinguistics.

These terms demonstrate how international elements contribute to the expansion of linguistic terminology. Agranovskaya's analysis is particularly important here. She identifies linguistic terms referring to minimum units, language processes, semantic relations, signs, and properties of signs. Her examples include phoneme, lexeme, morpheme, word, synonymy, polysemy, and homonymy. The terminology of modern linguistics is therefore an excellent example of an international scientific vocabulary in which Greek and Latin components interact with lexical material from different languages.

A particularly important source for the study of international term elements in Uzbek is the Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements (Xalqaro terminelementlarning izohli-illyustrativ lug‘ati), compiled by A. Madvaliev, N. Mahkamov, Z. Mirahmedova and A. Saidnomanov and published in Tashkent in 2020 by “Donishmand ziyosi.”

The dictionary contains 280 pages and is described by Madvaliev as an important lexicographic experiment in the Uzbek context. The dictionary is significant because it does not merely list complete terms. Its purpose is to reveal the meanings of the individual components of international terms, demonstrate their word-forming possibilities, and explain terms created with their participation. This approach represents an important methodological innovation. Traditional explanatory dictionaries usually treat words as independent lexical units. However, a dictionary of term elements focuses on recurrent structural components that may not function independently in Uzbek but nevertheless carry stable international meanings. The dictionary therefore provides information about:

- the form of the term element;

- its etymological origin;

- its original meaning;

- its contemporary meaning;

- its position within the term;

- its word-forming possibilities;

- terms formed with the element;

- illustrative examples.

According to Madvaliev, the dictionary's entries are arranged alphabetically, and special typographical conventions are used to indicate the position and function of term elements. This is an important achievement for Uzbek terminography. The organization of the Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements demonstrates that term-element lexicography requires specialized principles. According to Madvaliev, term elements are arranged alphabetically, and when an element occurs at the beginning of a term, three dots are placed after it to indicate that another component follows. The dictionary also provides information about the source language, Latin form, original meaning, and current meaning. For example, the entry:

VIBR(O)...is explained as a Latin-derived element associated with vibration and is illustrated through terms such as vibration, vibrograph, and vibroisolation. This model is especially valuable because it demonstrates that a term element cannot be adequately explained merely through translation. Its lexicographic description must include at least three dimensions:

1. etymological dimension — where the element originated;

2. semantic dimension — what meaning it carries;

3. functional dimension — what terms it can form.

Terminology and terminography are closely related but should not be treated as identical. Terminology primarily studies terms, concepts, terminological systems, and principles of specialized naming.Terminography focuses more directly on the collection, organization, description, and presentation of terminological data, particularly in dictionaries and databases.

Sager's approach clearly demonstrates the practical dimension of terminology processing, while Cabre's work connects terminology with specialized dictionaries, documentation, databases, and multilingual communication. The Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements is therefore an important example of terminographic work. It demonstrates how theoretical terminology can be transformed into a practical lexicographic resource.

Modern terminology is increasingly connected with information technologies. Terminological databases, electronic dictionaries, machine translation, natural language processing, corpus linguistics, and artificial intelligence require systematic terminological data. Agranovskaya notes that the development of terminology is connected with the automation of information processes, electronic computers, terminological databases, and automated dictionaries. She emphasizes that such resources require standardization and unification of terminological vocabulary. This observation is even more relevant today. Modern artificial intelligence systems process enormous quantities of specialized texts. If terminology is inconsistent, computational systems may encounter difficulties in:

- identifying terms;

- recognizing term variants;

- extracting terminology;

- translating specialized expressions;

- linking terms with concepts;

- constructing knowledge graphs.

Therefore, term-element analysis may become an important component of computational terminology. For example, recognizing micro- as a recurring element can help an automated system identify and classify previously unseen scientific terms.

Discussion

The analysis of theoretical literature demonstrates that terminology has evolved from a relatively prescriptive field toward a multidimensional science. The classical approach represented by Wuster emphasized conceptual precision, standardization, and systematic relations. This approach remains important in technical and international communication. However, the later approaches developed by Sager, Cabre, Temmerman, and others demonstrate that terms function in real communicative environments. They are influenced by users, discourse, cognition, history, culture, professional communities, and technological change.Cabre’s interdisciplinary approach is particularly relevant because terminology today interacts with linguistics, cognitive science, communication, documentation, computer science, and knowledge engineering. Temmerman's sociocognitive approach further demonstrates that synonymy and polysemy can be functional in specialized communication rather than merely undesirable deviations from an ideal terminological system. Agranovskaya's study contributes another important dimension: the structural organization of linguistic terminology itself. She demonstrates that linguistic terminology reflects different scientific schools and that the same term may acquire different meanings in different theoretical

traditions. The Uzbek experience represented by the Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements provides an important practical dimension to this discussion. The dictionary demonstrates that international term elements can and should be studied as independent lexicographic objects. In our opinion, this is one of the most important directions for the future development of Uzbek terminology.

Conclusion

The study of terms and term elements has become one of the significant directions of modern linguistic research. The development of science and technology continuously creates new concepts, and each new concept requires an appropriate linguistic designation. Consequently, terminology develops simultaneously with human knowledge. The historical development of terminology demonstrates that the field has passed through several theoretical stages. Early approaches emphasized the naming of specialized concepts, while Wuster's General Theory of Terminology introduced a systematic conceptual and standardization-oriented model. Later researchers expanded the field by introducing communicative, cognitive, sociocognitive, textual, corpus-based, and interdisciplinary approaches. The research of Sager demonstrated the practical importance of terminology processing, while Cabre's work emphasized the interdisciplinary character of terminology and its connections with linguistics, cognitive science, communication, documentation, and computer science. Temmerman demonstrated the importance of cognitive and sociocultural factors and questioned the rigid treatment of synonymy and polysemy in specialized language. Agranovskaya's research is particularly important for linguistic terminology. Her analysis demonstrates that linguistic terminology represents a complex system reflecting different national traditions, scientific schools, and linguistic theories. She also shows that terms may differ structurally and semantically and that term elements represent minimum structural units of terminology. International term elements constitute one of the most productive components of modern scientific terminology. Their Greek and Latin origins have allowed them to become international linguistic resources. Elements such as bio-, geo-, micro-, macro-, tele-, anti-, hydro-, poly- and many others participate in the formation of thousands of scientific and technical terms. The analysis of the Explanatory and Illustrative Dictionary of International Term Elements demonstrates the importance of describing such elements not merely as parts of words but as independent terminographic units. The dictionary explains their etymological origins, semantic values, structural positions, and word-forming possibilities and provides illustrative examples. Therefore, the study of international term elements should become an independent and systematic direction of Uzbek terminology research. The creation of comprehensive digital and multilingual databases of term elements would significantly contribute to the development of Uzbek scientific terminology, translation studies, lexicography, terminography, and computational linguistics. At the same time, the internationalization of terminology should not result in the disappearance of national linguistic identity. The most appropriate strategy is to establish a balance between international scientific communication and the internal resources of the national language. In conclusion, terminology should be regarded not simply as a collection of specialized words but as a dynamic system connecting language, knowledge, cognition, science, culture, and communication. Term elements, particularly international term elements, constitute an important mechanism through which scientific concepts are systematically named and incorporated into different languages. Their further study will contribute to the development of modern linguistics, lexicography,

terminography, translation studies, corpus linguistics, and artificial intelligence-based language technologies.

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