

Improving the Representation of Linguistic Terms in Uzbek Explanatory Dictionaries: Principles and a Structural Model

SALOMOVA GULSHODA ALIKHANOVNA
Karshi State University, Karshi, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the presentation of linguistic terms in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries and examines the existing problems in this area. In particular, issues such as the inconsistent interpretation of terms across different dictionaries and the incomplete adherence to the principles of accuracy and conciseness are discussed on a scientific basis. The study identifies the theoretical and principled foundations for defining terms and proposes their presentation based on a unified structural model. This model includes components such as the term name, domain label, concise and precise definition, linguistic category, and, where necessary, examples and additional explanations. The proposed approach contributes to ensuring consistency and uniformity in the interpretation of terminological units.

Keywords: Linguistics, term, explanatory dictionary, terminology, definition, principle, model, systematicity

INTRODUCTION

Language primarily develops on the basis of its internal resources. At the same time, the borrowing and assimilation of words from other languages as a result of economic and cultural contacts is a phenomenon characteristic of all languages. These processes are especially evident in the lexical system and terminology of a language. According to V. P. Danilenko, the

reflection of any process occurring in society is first manifested in terminology or realized through the transformational changes of specific terms [9]. Currently, the field of terminology has gained special importance in global linguistics, where linguistic terms occupy a significant position. However, the lack of a unified approach to the interpretation of linguistic terms, particularly their inconsistent representation in *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* and in specialized linguistic dictionaries, remains one of the pressing issues in this area. Practical analyses show that the same term is interpreted differently in various dictionaries, and the scope and content of definitions often vary, failing to fully meet the principles of accuracy and conciseness. As a result, ambiguities arise in the use of terminological units, and the effectiveness of scientific communication decreases.

In Uzbek linguistics, the expansion of the terminological system and the introduction of new scientific concepts place increasingly complex demands on explanatory dictionaries. Nevertheless, the absence of unified methodological criteria for presenting terms and their inconsistent and non-systematic representation can be observed in existing dictionaries. In particular, the linguistic category, functional characteristics, and usage scope of terms are often not sufficiently clarified. In modern linguistics, the issues of standardization and unification of terminology are among the priority directions. In this process, explanatory dictionaries serve as an important source that defines the normative interpretation of terms. Therefore, there is a need to develop a scientifically grounded approach that ensures accuracy, conciseness, and systematicity in the explanation of terms.

The aim of this study is to identify the scientific and principled foundations for improving the presentation of linguistic terms in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries and to develop a structural model that facilitates their effective representation. The study is based on key principles of term interpretation, such as accuracy, conciseness, systematicity, and consistency, and substantiates the possibilities of standardizing the interpretation of terminological units through the proposed model.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is aimed at improving the practice of presenting linguistic terms in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries and is carried out on the basis of an integrated approach combining descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods. This approach made it possible to systematically describe the current state of terminological representation, identify existing shortcomings, and develop ways to address them. The empirical material of the study is based on the 2023 edition of the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* (6 volumes) [1], as well as specialized dictionaries of linguistic terminology, including A. Hojiyev's *Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* (2002) [2] and N. Mahkamov & I. Ermatov's *Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* (2013) [3].

In the study, the lexicographic analysis method was used to examine the forms of term representation in dictionaries, the structural organization of definitions, and their semantic accuracy. Through the terminological analysis method, the semantic structure of terms, their correspondence to scientific concepts, and their position within the terminological system were identified. Using the comparative method, definitions of identical terms in different dictionaries were compared, and their degree of standardization was assessed. The system-structural approach served to determine the hierarchical relationships among terms and their place within the conceptual system. The proposed methodological approach contributes to the standardization of linguistic terminology in Uzbek lexicography and to the optimization of its representation in dictionaries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In recent years, both globally and in our country, attention to linguistics has significantly increased. A number of studies aimed at ensuring the development of the Uzbek language have been conducted by linguists. For instance, several scientific works on general and specific issues of Uzbek terminology have been

carried out by S. Ibrohimov, O. Usmonov, S. Akobirov, R. Doniyorov, N. Qosimov, A. Hojiyev, N. Mahmudov, Sh. Ko'chimov, H. Dadaboyev, I. Yuldashev, H. Jamolxonov, A. Madvaliyev, and N. Mahkamov [8]. As a result, a considerable number of studies contributing to the development of various linguistic fields have emerged. In particular, significant research related to terminology, especially linguistic terminology, has been conducted.

Nevertheless, in linguistics – particularly in the field of terminology – there still remain issues and directions that require in-depth analysis. Based on these problems, this study analyzes the current state of presenting linguistic terms in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries and develops scientific proposals aimed at their improvement. To achieve the research objectives, specialized dictionaries of linguistic terminology such as the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* (6 volumes), A. Hojiyev's *Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* (2002), and N. Mahkamov & I. Ermatov's *Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* (2013) were examined through comparative analysis. During the comparative analysis, the forms of term representation in both types of dictionaries, the presence or absence of domain labels, and the semantic accuracy of definitions were analyzed. While A. Hojiyev's *Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* includes approximately 1,500 linguistic terms, the dictionary by I. Ermatov and N. Mahkamov contains explanations for around 1,700 terms in the field of linguistics. In the 2023 edition of the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language*, the number of terms marked with linguistic domain labels is 337, while 61 terms are presented without the "ling." label. However, these terms are found with definitions in specialized dictionaries. The following terms are presented without domain labels in the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language*: bilingualism, proto-language, hyphen, dialectal, dialect, dialectism, dialectology, dialogue, dialogic, etymological, etymology, euphony, phonology, phraseology, geminate, idiom, interlinguistics, context, linguistic, lexeme, lexicology, lexicological, vocabulary, lexicography, metaphor, metonymy, metaphorical, metonymic, synonym, monologue, nahv (syntax), independent word, full stop,

semicolon, speech sounds, intonation, harmony of sounds, prefixes, onomastics, orthoepy, orthoepy, orthography, orthographic, paronyms, paronymy, punctuation, morphology, morphological, semasiology, syntactic, text, terminology, language, linguist, linguistics, punctuation marks, transliteration, toponyms. To further illustrate the results of the analysis, a comparative table of 10 selected terms is presented below:

S. No.	Term	Dictionary 1: <i>Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language (2023)</i>	Dictionary 2: <i>A. Hojiev's Dictionary of Linguistic Terms (2002)</i>	Dictionary 3: <i>I. Ermatov, N. Mahkamov's Dictionary of Linguistic Terms (2013)</i>	Commentary
1.	Bilingualism	The ability to speak two languages; knowledge of two languages; use of two languages; bilinguality. Uzbek-Tajikbilingualism.	Thesame: bilingualism.	Not provided	In Dictionary 1, the term is presented without a domain label and only with an explanation. In Dictionary 2, the definition is simplified. In Dictionary 3, the term is not included. This indicates a lack of consistency and completeness in presenting the term.
2.	Proto-language	An ancient language considered the original source of a group of languages and reconstructable through comparative-historical	A language regarded as the source of origin and development of genetically related languages..	A language that serves as the basis for the origin of related languages. For example, Turkic: the ancient Turkic language is considered the proto-language of all Turkic languages.	The definitions are semantically similar across sources; however, in Dictionary 1 the term lacks a domain label. This indicates insufficient structural and systematic approach in defining the term.
3.	Etymology	A branch of linguistics that studies the origin and source of words.	A branch of linguistics that studies the origin and history of words and morphemes.	A branch of linguistics that studies the origin and history of words and morphemes.	The definitions are nearly identical; however, in Dictionary 1 the term is presented without a domain label, which indicates a lack of systematic approach.
4.	Geminate	A consonant occurring consecutively of the same type; double consonant.	Double consonant.	Not provided	In Dictionary 1, the term is given without a domain label; in Dictionary 2, it is simplified; in Dictionary 3, it is absent. This shows inconsistency and incompleteness.

5.	Lexeme	In linguistics: an independent meaningful word analyzed as a unit of form and meaning; a unit of lexical meaning in language structure.	Not provided	A unit characteristic of the vocabulary of a language; an element expressing lexical meaning. Compare: word.	In Dictionary 1, the term is given without a domain label. It is absent in Dictionary 2, and the definitions in Dictionaries 1 and 3 differ. This indicates uneven coverage across dictionaries.
6.	Lexicology	A branch of linguistics that studies the vocabulary (lexicon) of a language; the study of words.	Not provided.	A branch of linguistics that studies the vocabulary of a language.	The term is not consistently represented: it is absent in Dictionary 2 and lacks a domain label in Dictionary 1. This suggests insufficient standardization in linguistic terminology.
7.	Metaphor	The use of a word or expression in a figurative meaning based on similarity; figurative expression.	Transferring the name of one object to another based on similarity. Example: "the wing of an airplane."	Transferring the name of one object to another based on similarity. Example: "wing" → airplane wing.	Definitions in Dictionaries 2 and 3 are identical, while Dictionary 1 lacks a domain label. Although similar in meaning, their presentation differs, showing inconsistency in scientific explanation.
8.	Speech	The functioning of language in expressing and exchanging ideas; the process and result of using linguistic means.	The practical realization of language; the process and outcome of using language means.	The practical realization of language; the process and outcome of using language means.	The definitions are identical across sources, indicating a well-established concept. However, in Dictionary 1 the term lacks a domain label, showing insufficient standardization.
9.	Orthoepy	1. Rules of correct pronunciation; correct pronunciation. 2. A branch of linguistics that develops such rules..	A branch of linguistics studying standard literary pronunciation.	A branch of linguistics that studies rules of correct pronunciation.	Definitions are almost identical in meaning and structure; however, Dictionary 1 lacks a domain label, which indicates the absence of a systematic approach.
10.	Terminology	1. A set of terms used in a particular field of science, technology, or profession. 2. A branch of linguistics dealing with the study and standardization of terms.	1. A set of terms related to a particular field. 2. A branch of linguistics studying terms.	1. A set of terms related to a particular field. 2. A branch of linguistics studying terms.	Definitions are structurally and semantically similar across dictionaries; however, Dictionary 1 lacks a domain label, indicating insufficient unified approach in classification..

The results of the comparative analysis indicate that, although there are certain general similarities in the presentation of linguistic terms in the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* and specialized dictionaries, significant differences can be observed in their interpretation, domain labeling, and structural representation. A number of terms are presented in a nearly identical manner across all sources in terms of both content and structure, which demonstrates their relative stabilization within linguistic terminology. However, in some cases, inconsistencies are observed in the use of domain labels, the completeness of definitions, and the forms of presentation. In particular, the fact that certain terms are presented without domain labels in one dictionary, given in a simplified form in another, or entirely absent in some sources indicates that consistency within the terminological system is not sufficiently ensured. This, in turn, suggests that a unified scientific and principled approach to the representation of linguistic terms in Uzbek lexicography has not yet been fully established.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the study, it is proposed to introduce a unified standard for the presentation of linguistic terms in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries, referred to as the “terminological presentation model.” This model is based on the following principles:

1. Each term should be presented in dictionaries in a unified, normative, and stable form.
2. Each term should be provided with an appropriate domain label (e.g., ling.).
3. The definition of a term should be precise, scientifically grounded, and conceptually complete.
4. Where necessary, terms may be supplemented with examples, explanatory notes, as well as synonymic or variant relations.
5. All terms should be presented based on a unified scientific principle, ensuring terminological consistency.

The implementation of this model will contribute to the standardization of Uzbek linguistic terminology, improve the quality of explanatory dictionaries, and ensure consistency and normativity in lexicographic practice. Furthermore, it will expand opportunities for the creation and development of the national language corpus. The recommendations developed on the basis of the study not only support the standardization of linguistic terminology but also serve as a methodological foundation for future lexicographic research.

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SALOMOVA GULSHODA ALIKHANOVNA

PHD CANDIDATE,

FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY,

KARSHI STATE UNIVERSITY,

KARSHI, UZBEKISTAN.

E-MAIL: <SALOMOVAGULSHODA2@GMAIL.COM>