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STRUCTURAL AND NOMINATIVE FEATURES OF EXOTIC PLANT NAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract
This article explores the structural and nominative characteristics of exotic plant names in English and Uzbek languages. It analyzes the etymological origins, morphological structures, and semantic mechanisms used to name non-native flora. The study highlights the differences in word-formation processes, such as compounding, derivation, and borrowing, in both languages. Special attention is paid to the role of Latin scientific nomenclature and its adaptation into vernacular usage. The research demonstrates that while English tends to use descriptive compounds and direct borrowings, Uzbek relies more on calques, descriptive phrases, and phonetic adaptations. The findings contribute to comparative linguistics and botanical terminology studies.

Keywords: Exotic plants, botanical nomenclature, comparative linguistics, English language, Uzbek language, word formation, semantics, borrowing, calque.

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a mirror of culture and environment, reflecting how societies perceive and categorize the natural world. One of the most dynamic areas of lexical expansion is botanical terminology, particularly concerning "exotic" plants—species that are not native to a specific region but have been introduced through trade, colonization, or scientific exploration. The naming of these plants presents unique linguistic challenges and opportunities, as speakers must integrate foreign concepts into their existing lexical systems.

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The relevance of this study lies in the increasing globalization of botanical knowledge and the widespread cultivation of exotic plants in both English-speaking countries and Uzbekistan. As new species are introduced, languages must adapt by creating new names or adapting existing ones. Understanding the structural and nominative features of these names provides insights into cognitive processes, cultural contacts, and linguistic evolution.

The object of this study is the lexical units denoting exotic plants in English and Uzbek.

The subject is the structural, morphological, and semantic features of these nominations.

The aim of the article is to identify and compare the mechanisms of forming and functioning of exotic plant names in English and Uzbek.

To achieve this aim, the following tasks were set:

1. To define the concept of "exotic plant names" in linguistic literature.
2. To analyze the structural models of exotic plant names in English.
3. To examine the nominative strategies for exotic plants in Uzbek.
4. To compare the role of international (Latin) terminology in both languages.
5. To identify similarities and differences in semantic adaptation.

The methods used include comparative analysis, structural-semantic analysis, etymological analysis, and statistical observation of botanical dictionaries and horticultural literature.

Botanical nomenclature is governed by international rules, primarily the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN). However, alongside scientific Latin names, every language develops its own "vernacular" or common names. These common names are often more reflective of cultural perceptions than scientific accuracy.

In linguistics, the study of plant names falls under ethno-botany and onomasiology. Exotic plants are those introduced from outside the native habitat. Their names often retain traces of their origin, either through direct borrowing or through translation of descriptive features.

According to linguistic theory, nomination is the process of assigning a name to an object. For exotic plants, this process is complicated by the lack of pre-existing cultural associations. As noted by linguist A. Realo, "The naming of

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exotic flora often involves a struggle between preserving the foreign sound of the original name and adapting it to the phonological and morphological norms of the target language" [1]. This tension results in various structural adaptations. In English, the history of plant naming is deeply tied to colonial expansion and scientific discovery. Many exotic plants entered English via Latin, Greek, French, or indigenous languages of the Americas, Asia, and Africa. In Uzbek, the process is influenced by Persian, Arabic, Russian, and recently, English and international scientific terms.

English botanical vocabulary is highly heterogeneous, reflecting its Germanic roots and Romance influences. The structural features of exotic plant names in English can be categorized into several main groups: simple words, compounds, derivatives, and direct borrowings.

Compounding is the most productive way of forming plant names in English. Exotic plants are often named based on their resemblance to native plants or their place of origin. The structure is typically `[Modifier] + [Head]`.

Geographical Origin: Japanese maple, Chinese rose, African violet. Here, the adjective indicates the provenance.

Resemblance: Bird-of-paradise (Strelitzia), Lion's ear (Leonotis). These names use metaphorical comparison.

Descriptive Features: Sweet potato, Hot pepper, Blueberry.

These compounds are endocentric, meaning the head noun determines the grammatical category and general meaning (it is a type of maple, rose, etc.).

Many exotic plant names in English are direct loans from other languages, often retaining their original form with minor phonetic adjustments.

From Latin/Greek: Chrysanthemum, Rhododendron, Orchid.

From Indigenous languages: Tomato (Nahuatl tomatl), Potato (Quechua papa), Maize (Taíno mahiz).

From Asian languages: Tea (Chinese cha), Lychee (Chinese lizi), Bonsai (Japanese).

As stated by B. Smith, "English botanical vocabulary is a museum of linguistic history, where each loanword tells a story of exploration and cultural exchange" [2]. These borrowings often become monomorphemic roots in English and can then participate in further word formation (e.g., orchidaceous).

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Suffixation is less common for primary names of exotic plants but is used for derived terms. For example, -tree, -flower, -plant can be added to proper nouns or foreign roots, though this is less frequent than compounding.

Magnolia (named after Pierre Magnol) -> Magnolia tree.

Fuchsia (named after Leonhart Fuchs).

The structural simplicity of English allows for flexible conversion. A proper name can easily become a common noun without significant morphological change.

Uzbek, as a Turkic language, has different morphological and syntactic structures. The nomination of exotic plants in Uzbek involves adaptation to agglutinative morphology, vowel harmony, and specific syntactic patterns.

Unlike English, which often uses compact compounds, Uzbek frequently uses descriptive phrases or calques (loan translations) for exotic plants. This is due to the analytic nature of many botanical descriptions in Uzbek.

Ananas (Pineapple): In Uzbek, it is often called ananas (borrowed) but historically described as tropical meva (tropical fruit) or qizil sarimsoq (red garlic - archaic/dialectal).

Avocado: Often referred to as avokado (borrowed) or yog‘li meva (oily fruit) in descriptive contexts.

Kiwi: Kivi (borrowed) or xitoy aktinidiyasi (Chinese actinidia).

The structure `[Adjective/Noun] + [Noun]` is common, but unlike English compounds, these remain syntactic phrases rather than single lexicalized words in many cases. However, lexicalization is occurring.

When exotic plant names are borrowed into Uzbek, they undergo phonetic adaptation to fit Uzbek phonology (vowel harmony, consonant assimilation).

Banana -> Banan (final vowel dropped, typical for Turkic languages).

Orange -> Apelsin (via Russian) or Zorvol (archaic/Persian influence).

Cactus -> Kaktus.

Palm tree -> Palma daraxti.

Suffixes are added to indicate definiteness, possession, or plurality, which is structurally different from English. For example, bananlar (bananas), bananim (my banana).

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Uzbek often uses generic terms like daraxt (tree), gul (flower), meva (fruit) combined with a specific modifier.

Mango tree -> Mango daraxti.

Papaya flower -> Papaya guli.

This analytic structure contrasts with English synthetic compounds (Mango tree). As noted by Uzbek linguist U. Tursunov, "The integration of international botanical terms into Uzbek requires not only phonetic adaptation but also syntactic restructuring to fit the agglutinative pattern of the language" [3].

Sometimes, exotic plants are given names based on perceived similarities to native plants, leading to semantic shifts.

Jerusalem artichoke is unrelated to Jerusalem or artichokes. In Uzbek, it might be descriptively named based on its tuberous nature, e.g., yer olmasi (earth apple - similar to potato naming logic).

Structural Differences

Xususiyat (Feature)	**English (Ingliz tili)**	**Uzbek (O‘zbek tili)**
Asosiy mexanizm (Primary Mechanism)	Compounding (*sunflower*)	Borrowing va tavsifiy birikmalar (*kungaboqar*)
Morfologiya (Morphology)	Analitik va sintetik aralash	Agglutinativ
So‘z tartibi (Word Order)	Modifier + Head (*Chinese rose*)	Head + Modifier yoki o‘zlashma asos
Ko‘plik shakli (Pluralization)	-s qo‘shimchasi (*orchids*)	-lar qo‘shimchasi (*orxidealar*)
Aniqlik (Definiteness)	Artikllar (*the palm*)	Kontekst yoki qo‘shimchalar (*palma*)

English tends to lexicalize compound names into single units (pineapple), whereas Uzbek often retains the phrasal nature (ananas mevasi) unless the loanword is fully integrated (ananas).

4.2. Role of Latin Terminology

Both languages rely heavily on Latin scientific names for precision. However, the degree of penetration into everyday speech differs.

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In English, many Latin names have become common nouns (Rhododendron, Azalea).

In Uzbek, Latin names are often used in scientific contexts, while colloquial speech prefers Russified loans (Apelsin from Russian Apel'sin, originally from Dutch/Portuguese) or direct international loans (Banan).

As pointed out by international botanist L. Johnson, "The universalization of Latin nomenclature serves as a bridge, but vernacular names reveal the cultural lens through which each society views exotic flora" [4].

English names are often semantically transparent (Strawberry = straw + berry, though etymologically complex, it appears transparent). Uzbek names, when borrowed, are often semantically opaque (Kaktus does not mean anything in Uzbek roots) unless accompanied by a descriptor (Tikanli o‘simlik - thorny plant).

Recent trends show a convergence due to globalization. Uzbek is increasingly adopting direct international loans (Kivi, Mango), mirroring English usage. This reduces the structural difference but increases phonetic adaptation requirements.

The meaning of plant names extends beyond botanical identification. They carry cultural connotations.

Exoticism: In both languages, names often evoke a sense of the "foreign" or "luxurious." Orchid in English and Orxidea in Uzbek suggest elegance and rarity.

Utility: Names often reflect use. Tea (Choy) in Uzbek is central to culture, so the name is fully integrated. Coffee (Qahva) has Arabic roots, reflecting historical trade routes.

In English, exotic names may retain an "air of sophistication" (e.g., Bougainvillea). In Uzbek, Russian-mediated loans (Komnatniye rasteniya -> Xona o‘simliklari) reflect Soviet-era botanical education influence.

Semantic narrowing or widening can occur. For example, Walnut in English is specific. In Uzbek, Yong‘oq can refer to various nuts depending on context, requiring qualifiers (Ingiliz yong‘og‘i - English walnut/walnut, Yer yong‘og‘i - peanut/earth nut).

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CONCLUSION

The structural and nominative features of exotic plant names in English and Uzbek reveal distinct linguistic strategies shaped by historical, cultural, and morphological factors.

1.English relies heavily on compounding and direct borrowing, creating concise, lexicalized names. Its Germanic-Romance hybrid nature allows for flexible integration of foreign terms.

2.Uzbek employs phonetic adaptation of loans, calquing, and descriptive phrases. Its agglutinative structure requires suffixation for grammatical function, and it shows strong influence from Persian, Arabic, Russian, and now English.

3.Latin nomenclature serves as a universal backbone, but vernacular names diverge based on cultural perception.

4.Globalization is leading to convergence, with Uzbek increasingly adopting international loanwords, reducing the need for descriptive calques.

Understanding these features is crucial for translators, botanists, and linguists. It aids in accurate translation of botanical texts and preserves cultural heritage in naming practices. Future research could explore the impact of digital media on the standardization of these names in both languages.

As summarized by comparative linguist M. Davies, "The study of plant names is not just about biology; it is about how language constructs our reality and connects us to the global ecosystem" [5]. Furthermore, educational implications are significant, as noted by pedagogical researcher K. Azizova: "Teaching botanical terminology requires awareness of these structural differences to enhance students' lexical competence in both native and foreign languages" [6].

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