



EVOLUTION OF APPROACHES IN TERMINOLOGY: FROM TRADITIONAL TO MODERN

Bakhodirova Gulrukh Bakhodirovna

Acting Associate Professor, Doctor of Philology (PhD)

Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute

<https://orcid.org/0009-0004-4898-3859>

e-mail: gulruhbahodirova7777@gmail.com

Abstract

This research investigates the historical and theoretical evolution of terminology science from traditional prescriptive models to modern cognitive, functional, and communicative approaches. By examining the Uzbek linguistic context alongside international developments, the work illuminates the main stages, driving factors, and impacts of technological transformation in terminology. The study applies comparative analysis of classic and contemporary sources, corpus exploration, and expert interviews. Results emphasize the increasing role of interdisciplinarity, digital integration, and sociocognitive paradigms in shaping effective terminological systems. Recommendations are provided for Uzbek and global practice.

Keywords Terminology, evolution, Uzbek linguistics, standardization, cognitive linguistics, IMRaD, interdisciplinarity.

Аннотация

Данное исследование посвящено исторической и теоретической эволюции терминоведения — от традиционных предписывающих моделей к современным когнитивным, функциональным и коммуникативным подходам. Рассматривая узбекский лингвистический контекст в сопоставлении с международными тенденциями, работа раскрывает основные этапы развития, движущие факторы и влияние технологической



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трансформации на терминологические процессы. В исследовании применены сравнительный анализ классических и современных источников, корпусные методы и экспертные интервью. Результаты подчеркивают возрастающую роль междисциплинарности, цифровой интеграции и социокогнитивных парадигм в формировании эффективных терминологических систем. Представлены рекомендации для практического применения в узбекской и мировой терминографической деятельности.

Ключевые слова: терминология, эволюция, узбекское языкознание, стандартизация, когнитивная лингвистика, IMRaD, междисциплинарность.

INTRODUCTION

Terminology, understood as the science of specialized word formation, classification, and conceptual systematization, has passed through a long and multifaceted historical evolution that mirrors broader epistemological, technological, social, and cultural transformations in human knowledge. At its foundation, terminology is not merely the creation of new words, but the construction of structured conceptual frameworks that allow specialists to communicate precisely, efficiently, and unambiguously within their fields. Therefore, terminological development is always tightly linked to the growth of science, technology, professional disciplines, and institutional knowledge production.

Historically, terminological practice was predominantly prescriptive, aiming to establish fixed norms and ensure uniform usage across scientific and technical domains. Standardization and clarity were viewed as essential to supporting industrial and scientific progress, enabling specialists to avoid misinterpretation and achieve communicative efficiency¹. In this phase, terminology was approached as a closed system with a strong emphasis on linguistic purity, systematicity, and regulatory authority.

¹ Dadaboyev H. O‘zbek terminologiyasi. Samarqand: SamDU, 2020. – 112 b. P. 6–13.



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In the context of Uzbekistan, the development of terminology has been shaped by multiple linguistic and cultural layers. The ancient Turkic lexicon provided a foundational conceptual worldview and early scientific categories. During the Soviet period, terminological development was largely influenced by Russian linguistic models, centralized planning, and sectoral standardization practices. Following national independence, terminology gained renewed importance as part of broader cultural, educational, and ideological reforms aimed at strengthening national identity, reviving linguistic heritage, and aligning scientific communication with global knowledge systems².

In recent decades, globalization, digitalization, and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange have led to new dynamics in terminology science. Contemporary approaches—particularly cognitive, functional, and sociocultural frameworks—view terms not as static linguistic units, but as flexible, context-dependent representations of concepts shaped by communicative needs, mental models, and professional practices. This shift has brought greater attention to the role of discourse communities, conceptual networks, and language-user cognition in terminological formation and evolution.

Accordingly, modern terminology in Uzbekistan stands at the intersection of multiple priorities: honoring linguistic heritage, ensuring scientific precision, integrating international knowledge standards, and responding to the communicative demands of the digital and global era. Addressing these challenges requires both theoretical analysis and practical strategies that consider the complexity of today's knowledge production systems.

METHODS

This study employs a multi-method comparative research design integrating qualitative and quantitative strategies to ensure comprehensive analysis and validity of findings. The methodological framework is grounded in principles of descriptive terminology science, cognitive linguistics, and socio-historical analysis.

² O'zbek terminologiyasining shakllanish bosqichlari // *oefen.uz*. – 2023. – 1–4-band. <https://oefen.uz/> (murojaat qilingan sana: 05.11.2025).



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Document analysis was conducted across a broad range of sources, including academic textbooks and terminological dictionaries³, national standardization documents, and recent peer-reviewed research on Uzbek and international terminology systems. This stage enabled the identification of core conceptual definitions and the evolution of terminological norms.

A corpus-based study involved the collection, extraction, and thematic categorization of over 500 terminological units from Uzbek linguistic corpora and specialized databases⁴. Terms were classified according to semantic fields, structural patterns, source origins, and usage domains, allowing the detection of tendencies in lexical borrowing, semantic shift, and neologism formation.

Expert interviews were conducted with leading Uzbek terminologists, university lecturers, and international scholars in terminology and lexicography. Semi-structured interview protocols focused on theoretical perspectives, current challenges, standardization practices, and predictions for future terminological development.

A historical review method was applied to outline the periodization of Uzbek terminological evolution based on significant socio-political, linguistic, and academic milestones⁵. This allowed a systematic understanding of how external influences and ideological factors shaped terminological development across eras.

Paradigm mapping was used to construct comparative models distinguishing traditional prescriptive approaches from contemporary cognitive, sociocultural, and functional frameworks. These comparative tables help visualize methodological shifts and identify key drivers of change.

Finally, a technology audit examined the role of digital tools—terminological databases, automated corpus analysis platforms, and computational lexicography resources—in shaping contemporary terminology work (Cabr e, 2004). This analysis highlights how digital integration enhances terminological accuracy, scalability, and interdisciplinary accessibility.

³ Dadaboyev H. O‘zbek terminologiyasi. Samarqand: SamDU, 2020. – 112 b. P.21.

⁴ Xudoyberganova D. Zamonaviy tilshunoslik terminlarining izohli lug‘ati. Toshkent: Bookmany print, 2024. – 196 b. P.78.

⁵⁵ O‘zbek terminologiyasining shakllanish bosqichlari // *oefen.uz*. – 2023. – 1–4-band. <https://oefen.uz/> (murojaat qilingan sana: 05.11.2025).



RESULTS

The findings of the study demonstrate that Uzbek terminology development has undergone three major historical stages, each shaped by distinct socio-cultural, political, and linguistic factors.

The earliest foundations of Uzbek terminology can be traced to the Ancient Turkic period, where native term formation relied on pragmatic reasoning, semantic analogy, and direct functional necessity. Lexical creativity emerged organically from daily life, craftsmanship, governance, and cultural expression. Rich oral traditions, including epic narratives and folk discourse, functioned as dynamic repositories of terminology, while regional dialects served as continuous sources of lexical innovation and conceptual differentiation. This stage reflects a bottom-up, user-driven evolution of terms rooted deeply in lived experience and cultural worldview.

The Soviet period introduced a centralized and standardized model of terminological development, characterized by heavy influence from the Russian language and scientific classification systems⁶. Terminology became a highly regulated discipline, aligned with state planning and industrial expansion. Sector-specific glossaries, discipline-based nomenclatures, and translation-focused terminographic practices dominated academic and technical communication. While this era contributed significantly to the precision and formal structure of Uzbek terminology, it also reduced linguistic diversity and limited the capacity for indigenous conceptual expression.

The independence period is marked by renewed emphasis on national identity, linguistic revival, and integration into global knowledge systems. New term creation increased substantially, supported by academic committees, national language policy, and comparative lexicography⁷. Importantly, digital dictionaries, online terminological banks, and corpus-based methodologies have expanded accessibility and allowed broader public participation. This stage reflects a shift

⁶ Dadaboyev H. O‘zbek terminologiyasi. Samarqand: SamDU, 2020. – 112 b. P.13.

⁷ Shayxislamov, N. Tilshunoslik: zamonaviy yo‘nalishlar hamda ular xususida tahlil va muammolar [Elektron resurs]. – CyberLeninka, 2022. – B. 12–15. <https://cyberleninka.ru> (murojaat qilingan sana: 06.11.2025).



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toward openness, adaptivity, and interdisciplinary collaboration, positioning terminology as a living and evolving system.

Traditional terminological practice was shaped by prescriptivism, prioritizing clarity, stability, and disciplinary authority⁸. Terminographers manually compiled glossaries and exercised strict control over definitions and usage⁹. Advantages included terminological stability, technical precision, and strong domain organization.

However, limitations involved inflexibility, slow response to new scientific developments, and limited capacity to address interdisciplinary conceptual needs. Contemporary terminology incorporates new theoretical and technological perspectives:

Cognitivism views meaning as a dynamic construct shaped by mental models, context, and discourse¹⁰.

Socioterminology recognizes natural variation, user diversity, and real-world communicative practice¹¹.

Technological integration includes corpus linguistics, database management systems, collaborative dictionary platforms, and automated term extraction tools. Internationalization encourages alignment with ISO standards, multilingual interoperability, and participation in global scholarly networks.

Collectively, these paradigms emphasize flexibility, interdisciplinarity, technological support, and user-centered conceptualization, marking a significant shift from earlier static and prescriptive frameworks.

⁸ Dadaboyev H. O'zbek terminologiyasi. Samarqand: SamDU, 2020. – 112 b. P.6-10.

⁹ Xudoyberganova D. Zamonaviy tilshunoslik terminlarining izohli lug'ati. Toshkent: Bookmany print, 2024. – 196 b. P.80.

¹⁰ Cabre M. T. Terminology: Theory, Methods, and Applications [Elektron resurs]. – Kufunda.net, 2004. – P. 31–95.

¹¹ Xudoyberganova D. Zamonaviy tilshunoslik terminlarining izohli lug'ati. Toshkent: Bookmany print, 2024. – 196 b. P.84.



Tables

Feature	Traditional Approach	Modern Approach
Philosophy	Prescriptive ¹²	Cognitive, empirical ¹³
Collection	Manual, static	Database-driven, corpus-based
Scope	Monodisciplinary, national	Interdisciplinary, global
Technology	Low	High, integrated

DISCUSSION

The evolution of Uzbek terminology reflects broader global tendencies in the shift from rigid standardization to more dynamic, interdisciplinary, and user-centered approaches. In the post-independence context, terminology became not only a linguistic field but also a cultural and identity-building instrument. The drive toward national revival reinforced the importance of linguistic authenticity and the preservation of indigenous conceptual frameworks, particularly in domains related to state ideology, humanities, and cultural discourse. At the same time, alignment with international terminological standards played a crucial role in improving scientific communication, academic integration, and participation in global knowledge exchange¹⁴.

However, this dual process is not without challenges. Modern approaches, especially those rooted in cognitive and sociolinguistic paradigms, encourage flexibility, plurality, and openness to linguistic innovation, yet these strengths can inadvertently lead to fragmentation or conceptual inconsistency if not anchored in coherent frameworks. As Shayxislamov¹⁵ notes, excessive borrowing and uncontrolled lexical expansion may risk diluting core linguistic identity. Therefore, the task of contemporary terminology science is to negotiate

¹² Dadaboyev H. O'zbek terminologiyasi. Samarqand: SamDU, 2020. – 112 b. B.6.

¹³ Cabre M. T. Terminology: Theory, Methods, and Applications – Kufunda.net, 2004. – P. 31.

¹⁴ Dadaboyev H. O'zbek terminologiyasi. Samarqand: SamDU, 2020. – 112 b. B.21.

¹⁵ Shayxislamov, N. Tilshunoslik: zamonaviy yo'nalishlar hamda ular xususida tahlil va muammolar [Elektron resurs]. – CyberLeninka, 2022. – B. 14.<https://cyberleninka.ru> (murojaat qilingan sana: 06.11.2025).



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balance—to enable innovation without compromising clarity or cultural continuity.

The development of digital platforms and corpus technologies has radically transformed terminological practice. Real-time corpus monitoring, collaborative glossaries, and automated term extraction significantly increase efficiency and adaptability. Yet, these same tools introduce new responsibilities: maintaining quality control, verifying conceptual accuracy, and establishing sustainable curatorial models. Terminology no longer relies solely on expert committees; it increasingly functions as a distributed, collective enterprise shaped by educators, researchers, media actors, and online users.

The Uzbek experience presents a distinctive case in global terminography. It demonstrates how terminology can simultaneously preserve historical identity, integrate international scientific systems, and generate novel linguistic solutions. The primary challenge remains achieving equilibrium between tradition and modernization, especially in areas where linguistic protection, academic precision, and professional standardization intersect. Success depends on continuous dialogue among linguists, terminographers, subject specialists, policymakers, and technology developers.

CONCLUSION

The trajectory of terminology science in Uzbekistan, as well as in the global linguistic landscape, demonstrates a clear transition from rigid, centrally regulated structures to flexible, technologically enhanced, and socially responsive paradigms. This shift reflects broader changes in knowledge production, communication practices, and the intellectual priorities of contemporary society. The integration of cognitive and socioterminological perspectives has enabled terminology to be viewed not merely as a system of fixed labels, but as a dynamic conceptual network shaped by context, discourse, and user interaction.

The increasing adoption of digital tools—corpus platforms, terminological databases, automated term extraction systems, and collaborative online glossaries—has enhanced the efficiency, inclusivity, and adaptability of terminological work. These developments deepen scientific discourse, support interdisciplinary exchange, and foster greater alignment with international



standards, thereby strengthening Uzbekistan's participation in the global knowledge space.

At the same time, the ongoing transformation requires strategic oversight. Sustaining conceptual clarity, preserving linguistic identity, and maintaining academic rigor are essential to prevent terminological fragmentation or semantic instability. Therefore, continued research, professional coordination, and multidisciplinary collaboration remain critical factors. Policy decisions in terminology must remain context-aware, culturally sensitive, and informed by both national priorities and global trends.

In this regard, the future of Uzbek terminology depends on the balanced integration of heritage and innovation—preserving linguistic roots while advancing forward-looking, technology-supported, and socially engaged practices. Such an approach ensures that terminology continues to function as a foundation for scientific development, cultural continuity, and effective communication in the modern era.

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