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## THE STUDY OF MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY IN LINGUISTICS

Azamova Navruzkhon Zoyirjon qizi  
Kokand State University

Umarova Nargizakhon Rustamovna,  
Prof. Fergana State University  
[navruzaxonazamova@gmail.com](mailto:navruzaxonazamova@gmail.com)

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### Abstract

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the linguistic aspects of medical terminology. The author demonstrates how medical terms have entered literary language, their logical and conceptual foundations, and the interconnections between terms and concepts within various scientific approaches. The study highlights both theoretical and practical aspects of terms from the perspective of modern linguistics. Additionally, the article offers detailed information on types of terms, their roles in social and scientific communication, and their usage in different fields. This work is intended for researchers and students interested in studying terminological systems in linguistics.

### Introduction

Language reflects the objective reality surrounding human beings, the achievements of science and technology, as well as material and spiritual culture. With the emergence of new fields of knowledge, new concepts and designations become necessary to express them. While the general literary language serves as a means of everyday communication, specialized terms are created to ensure effective interaction within professional domains. This process leads to an increase in specialized lexical units and the formation of terminological systems. Consequently, terminological vocabulary becomes an important component of the literary language and is systematically recorded in dictionaries.

Words serving a specific field of professional activity make up the content of a specialized vocabulary. Such a vocabulary is primarily directed toward precise



denotation, and without these terms, specialists cannot communicate effectively with one another. One of the key features of such a specialized vocabulary, in contrast to general vocabulary, is that it serves to convey exact concepts in professional and scientific communication. Therefore, specialized vocabularies not only ensure verbal interaction among representatives of a particular field but also play an important role in scientific research and technological progress. As emphasized by many scholars, including A.V. Superanskaya, I.V. Podolskaya, and N.V. Vasilyeva, general vocabulary provides perception directed from the sound material to signs and later to the denotatum (i.e., the object). However, a specialized vocabulary can only be properly understood by linking it directly to the denotatum. Comprehending specialized vocabulary requires focusing exclusively on the language of the corresponding field, which ensures unobstructed communication. Moreover, unlike general vocabulary, specialized lexicon is understood only by those engaged in the respective domain and does not belong to the common language. Specialized vocabulary functions as a means of communication within distinct, specialized sublanguages.

## **Methods**

In the context of our research, medical vocabulary consists of the terms used in the speech of healthcare professionals and is formed on the basis of terminology selected from specialized medical literature and dictionaries. At the same time, as numerous terminological units increasingly enter the general literary language, the boundary between terminology and the general lexicon becomes considerably less distinct.

For this reason, specialized vocabulary can be divided into three main groups:

- widely used active terms;
- specialized terms employed exclusively by professionals;
- highly specialized terminology.

In the medical lexicon, there are also some words that belong to the terminological system but are not considered specialized terms. For example, the names of diseases such as chickenpox, jaundice, mumps, and mastitis fall into this category. Although these nominations are mainly used in non-professional language, they gradually tend to integrate into the terminological system.



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Medical terms that are widely known to the general public are usually regarded as terms that function in the common language as well, with their meanings easily understood by a broad audience (for example, pneumonia, bronchitis, gastritis, and others). In linguistic literature, such terms are referred to as “consubstantial”, meaning that they can be used not only within a specialized domain but also in general discourse. These terms create certain difficulties when attempting to distinguish terminological vocabulary from the general lexicon, since, in addition to their specialized meanings, they may also be associated with the semantic content of everyday language. This phenomenon becomes particularly pronounced in highly specialized fields such as medicine.

As L.Yu. Buyanova emphasized, the theory of terms and the issues of term formation are becoming very relevant at the beginning of the 21st century. In the context of the “terminological explosion” at the end of the 20th century, the number of new terms created in various scientific fields has increased significantly, especially compared to non-specialized language units. This, in turn, requires increasing the degree of specialization of the language and ensuring clear and effective communication among specialists.

It has been noted that more than 90% of the new words that have appeared in modern vocabulary belong to specialized dictionaries. This once again confirms the importance of specialized dictionaries and terminological systems. For this reason, issues related to specialized dictionaries and terminological systems have become the subject of research for many linguists, including V.V. Vinogradov, G.O. Vinokur, A.A. Reformatskiy, V.A. Tatarinov, D.S. Lotte, V.M. Leichik, V.P. Danilenko, T.L. Kandelaki, L.L. Kutina, T.P. Melnikov, M.A. Makarchenko, and O.D. Mitrofanov. They developed the main principles for analyzing and understanding terminology.

There is a large number of literature on terminology, and this issue is extensively studied by various scientific fields. Each discipline, such as linguistics, logic, philosophy, semiotics, and informatics, plays an important role in creating its own system of terms. Within each field, the specific aspects of terms are determined and help in understanding the differences between them. At this point, we analyze the concept of “term” specifically from the perspective of linguistics



Thus, A. Besekirska, in her work “International Lexicon in Russian Medical Terminology,” emphasizes that there are two different approaches to terminology: some researchers classify it as evidence of the general literary language (B.N. Golovin, A. Kobrinko, and others), while others view it as the basis created for special purposes (T.L. Kandelaki, V.M. Leychik, A.V. Superanskaya, and others). The differences between these approaches are of significant importance in the deeper study of the concept of a specialized lexicon.

In recent years, linguists have emphasized that terminology constitutes an essential component of the literary language and forms an independent functional branch within its lexical system. At the same time, terminology serves as a primary means of efficient information exchange among specialists in scientific fields. Owing to its precise purpose and functions, it ensures clarity and effectiveness in the dissemination of knowledge and communication among professionals.

In this regard, various approaches exist in linguistics for defining the term termin. Some researchers attempt to formulate a precise logical definition, while others strive to describe its semantic content. Another group of scholars defines the term by contrasting it with other lexical units, whereas certain researchers aim to offer a definition that corresponds to practical usage. These diverse approaches highlight significant aspects of the scientific analysis and practical application of terms, thereby enabling a deeper understanding of their complex nature.

Definitions provided by leading researchers play a crucial role in the scientific analysis of terms. For instance, scholars such as A.A. Reformatsky, D.S. Lotte, V.I. Tatarinov, and V.M. Leichik emphasize that a term pertains to a specific field of knowledge or type of activity. Their definitions indicate that terms are correctly understood only within their relevant context and may vary according to the purposes of communication within their scientific system.

The relationship between a term and the concept it represents has always been a subject of particular interest in scientific linguistics. Several theoretical foundations exist for explaining this relationship, and the issue is of significant importance not only in linguistics but also across other scientific disciplines. Approximately 200 years ago, I. Kant wrote: “For knowledge to become science, it must be structured in concepts.” Interpreted from a modern perspective, this



implies that in various scientific fields, there is a continuous need to create new knowledge and concepts as well as to make new discoveries. This process necessitates the creation of specialized terms to accurately express scientific knowledge. Consequently, as scientific development progresses, the link between concepts and terms becomes increasingly reinforced. Each scientific innovation, new field of study, or technical solution requires specialized terms, which, in turn, ensures clarity and efficiency in scientific communication.

To analyze the relationship between a term and a concept more deeply, it is first necessary to determine the scientific and logical essence of the concept. From a logical perspective, a concept is a “set of inseparable judgments,” that is, a system of assertions about the specific characteristics of the object under study. These assertions reflect the general and most important features of the object, revealing its essence. Thus, a concept includes precise and general ideas that describe the essential and important characteristics of an object. This, in turn, creates the necessity in the scientific knowledge process to shape concepts and develop corresponding terms.

V.M. Leychik defines a term as “a lexical unit of a certain language that expresses the general–specific or abstract concept of a particular specialized knowledge or field of activity, for specific purposes.” This definition further reinforces the important role of terms in scientific and professional fields. A term serves to clearly express concepts related to each scientific discipline or professional area. In this way, it ensures the effectiveness of scientific communication and facilitates the exchange of information among specialists.

At this point, we analyze V.M. Leichik's point of view. According to him, the formula 'the term has a definition' is incorrect. The main reason for advancing this idea is that there are many concepts in various specialized fields, not all of which are clearly defined as special terms or are difficult to express with linguistic means. Therefore, definitions that indicate that a term is a word requiring a specific definition as the name of a special concept are more accurate. This approach emphasizes that a term belongs only to its specific scientific and professional fields and clearly shows that it denotes a particular concept name.

The definition provided by I.S. Kvitko encompasses all the essential features of a term. In his book 'Term in Scientific Documentation,' Kvitko describes it as a





closed system and connects it with a specific organized field of knowledge (science, technology). He especially emphasizes that terms enter into systematic relationships and that they express information with high semantic content. However, this definition is based on the concept of an ideal term and may not fully cover all the terms encountered in real scientific and practical activities. This is because, in actual scientific communication, terms are sometimes characterized by ambiguity or multiple meanings. Therefore, when analyzing terminology, its theoretical and practical aspects should be considered separately.

## **Results**

Recent research on terminology shows that its main object is specialized lexical units, that is, terms. The concept of 'term' was mainly formed in the scientific field by the early 20th century. The current state of philological science indicates that terms are important tools not only within the scope of linguistics but also in creating and using specialized lexical units in biology, medicine, economics, law, and many other scientific fields. Each term has a specific meaning and is closely connected with a particular field or activity. In interdisciplinary communication, the importance of terms is invaluable, as they ensure clarity and consistency in scientific language.

Scientific research shows that it is important to clearly define terminological systems and categorize them according to the relevant scientific fields. This not only ensures the accuracy of terms but also facilitates their use in various fields and helps achieve clear and smooth communication in scientific discourse. Terminology researcher A.A. Reformatskiy, when defining a term, considers it "a word (or combination of words) that is formally accepted and legitimized as the name of a concept in science, technology, or art." This definition emphasizes the role of a term as a linguistic unit accepted, validated, and regularly used within a social and scientific system. Additionally, a term denotes special names designated for specific scientific fields, which distinguishes it from the general language system.

V.I. Tatarinov, on the other hand, adheres to the principle that a term should be described not from the perspective of the general language system, but within the scope of terminology. Thus, by a term he understands a "linguistic sign (word or



phrase) related to a specific concept, phenomenon, or object.” According to the linguist's opinion, a term is characteristic only of scientific or technical fields and should be understood within their specific context. At the same time, a term conveys a unique scientific meaning and is used in a narrow scope.

V.V. Vinogradov emphasizes that the main characteristic of a term is its precision, meaning it must have the ability to express the corresponding concept accurately. According to him, a term is the most precise and clear unit of language used in scientific and technical activities. Therefore, each term must correctly and clearly reflect a specific concept. Many terminology researchers confirm the existence of definitions for terms in their studies. Their definitions help determine the role of a term in scientific communication and distinguish it from other language units. One such example is: “A term is a word or phrase of a specific application area that has the name and definition of a scientific or production-technological concept.” This definition shows that a term is not only the name of a scientific concept but also indicates its scope of application, that is, how it is used in a specific scientific or technical field.

According to T. Gobbs, the definition of a term serves two main functions: 1) it eliminates any ambiguity that may arise when using it; 2) it provides a general understanding of a certain thing. Gobbs gave his own precise definition of the term. This means that it is important to clearly delineate the boundaries between a term and a concept, as minimizing ambiguities is crucial in scientific definition.

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

In F.A. Broygauz and I.A. Efron's Encyclopedic Dictionary, a term is defined as follows: “A term is a word that possesses a specific concept and forms part of a particular judgment or assertion... Scientific terms, in turn, pertain to a specific scientific field and are words with a strictly defined meaning.” This definition primarily emphasizes that a term belongs to a specific scientific domain and represents a distinct concept. At the same time, the recognition that terms convey strictly defined and precise concepts is considered one of their essential characteristics.

S.A. Askoldov conceptualizes a notion as a set of ideas and evaluates it as the degree of readiness for mental processing. According to him, a concept inherently



involves generality, since it can be extended through a collection of specific features. This approach aids in a clearer understanding of the relationship between concepts and terms, as a term is a precise lexical unit that embodies a particular concept. Understanding this interconnection ensures the more accurate and precise use of scientific language.

Thus, the study of the relationship between terms and concepts holds significant importance in the development of scientific terminology. Each term reflects a specific concept and facilitates precise communication in scientific, professional, and technical domains. This process plays a key role in assimilating new knowledge and presenting scientific innovations. Grasping the connection between terms and concepts not only supports scientific discourse but also strengthens effective communication and information exchange across various social and economic processes.

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