

PROBLEMS IN ADAPTING SUBJECT-SPECIFIC FOREIGN LANGUAGE TERMS INTO UZBEK

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Annotation: This article explores the main challenges encountered in adapting subject specific terms from foreign languages primarily English into Uzbek. As modern scientific and technical communication increasingly relies on international terminology, the process of integrating foreign terms into the Uzbek language raises complex issues related to equivalence, semantic shifts, standardization, and sociolinguistic reception. Drawing from examples in medicine, information technology, engineering, and law, the paper discusses strategies for effective localization, terminological development, and policy-driven language planning.

Keywords: terminology adaptation, Uzbek, foreign terms, subject-specific language, translation challenges, standardization, linguistic equivalence.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматриваются основные проблемы, возникающие при адаптации тематических терминов из иностранных языков, в первую очередь из английского, на узбекский. Поскольку современная научно-техническая коммуникация все больше опирается на международную терминологию, процесс интеграции иностранных терминов в узбекский язык поднимает сложные вопросы, связанные с эквивалентностью, семантическими сдвигами, стандартизацией и социолингвистической рецепцией. Опираясь на примеры из области медицины, информационных технологий, инженерии и юриспруденции, в статье рассматриваются стратегии эффективной локализации, разработки терминологии и языкового планирования на основе политики.





Ключевые слова: адаптация терминологии, узбекский язык, иностранные термины, специализированный язык, проблемы перевода, стандартизация, лингвистическая эквивалентность.

Annotatsiya: ushbu maqolada tematik atamalarni chet tillaridan, birinchi navbatda ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga moslashtirishda yuzaga keladigan asosiy muammolar muhokama qilinadi. Zamonaviy ilmiy-texnik aloqa xalqaro terminologiyaga tobora ko'proq tayanar ekan, xorijiy atamalarni o'zbek tiliga integratsiya qilish jarayoni ekvivalentlik, semantik siljishlar, standartlashtirish va sotsiolingvistik qabul qilish bilan bog'liq murakkab savollarni tug'diradi. Tibbiyot, axborot texnologiyalari, muhandislik va huquqshunoslik sohalaridagi misollarga asoslanib, maqolada siyosatga asoslangan samarali lokalizatsiya, terminologiyani ishlab chiqish va tilni rejalashtirish strategiyalari ko'rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: terminologiyani moslashtirish, o'zbek tili, xorijiy atamalar, ixtisoslashtirilgan til, tarjima muammolari, standartlashtirish, lingvistik ekvivalentlik.

The integration of subject-specific terminology from foreign languages into Uzbek is an ongoing process fueled by globalization, technological advancement, and the dominance of English in academia and industry. These terminologies span disciplines such as medicine, law, computing, engineering, and social sciences. However, the adaptation of such terms into Uzbek presents numerous linguistic, structural, and cultural problems.

As Alisher Madvaliyev notes, "*The essence of any scientific term is shaped not only by its form but also by the worldview and epistemology embedded in the source language*" (Madvaliyev, 2017). Therefore, a simple word-for-word translation often fails to convey the conceptual depth of the original.

Main Problems in Adapting Foreign Terms into Uzbek

- Lack of One-to-One Equivalence



Many specialized foreign terms do not have direct equivalents in Uzbek. This is particularly true in rapidly evolving fields like IT or molecular biology. For example:

- *Algorithm* is sometimes translated as “algorithm” (a loanword), but attempts to localize it as “hisoblash qoidasi” lack precision.
- *Cloud computing* has been rendered as “bulutli hisoblash,” which may confuse readers unfamiliar with the metaphorical use of “cloud.”

“Languages with less industrial and scientific development tend to borrow terminology wholesale rather than develop indigenous equivalents.” (Crystal, 2003, p. 114)

Overreliance on Loanwords

Rather than adapting terms semantically, many translators opt to import terms phonetically. While this preserves the form, it often reduces intelligibility for general Uzbek readers. Examples include:

- *Scanner* → “skaner”, *Browser* → “brauzer”, *Neuroscience* → “neyrofan”

“Unassimilated loanwords may inhibit linguistic accessibility and threaten the communicative function of the target language.” (Ferguson, 2006)

Inconsistency in Terminological Usage

Multiple competing translations for the same foreign term often coexist in Uzbek publications, leading to terminological fragmentation. For example:

- *Database* has appeared as “ma'lumotlar ombori”, “bazasi”, and even “dasturiy to'plam”.
- *PhD* is variously rendered as “falsafa doktori”, “doktorantura darajasi”, or left untranslated.



“Lack of terminological standardization undermines the consistency and academic credibility of scientific discourse.” (Newmark, 1988, p. 151)

Cultural and Conceptual Gaps

Certain terms are tightly bound to socio-legal, educational, or institutional systems not present in Uzbek culture, making adaptation problematic.

- *Tenure* (in higher education) lacks a direct Uzbek equivalent due to structural differences in academic employment systems.
- *Common law* systems and their terminologies (e.g., *tort*, *trust*, *habeas corpus*) are often only partially understood or inaccurately localized.

“Terminology carries the ideological and institutional DNA of the source culture.” (Hatim & Mason, 1997, p. 145)

Case Studies from Key Disciplines

- Information Technology
 - *Firewall* → Translated as “dasturiy devor” (literal), but lacks semantic clarity.
 - *Artificial Intelligence* → Rendered as “sun’iy intellekt,” yet many users confuse it with general computer automation.
- Medicine
 - *MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)* → Often left in abbreviation, though technically “magnit-rezonans tomografiya” is used.
 - *Hypertension* → Translated as “qon bosimi oshishi” but lacks the nuance of chronic illness.
- Law and Jurisprudence
 - *Plea bargain* has no clear Uzbek equivalent due to systemic legal differences.



- *Due process* is often mistranslated or misunderstood as a general fairness term.

Solutions and Recommendations

- Establishing a National Terminology Commission

A regulatory body must be tasked with standardizing subject-specific terminology, similar to the efforts of the European Union's IATE (InterActive Terminology for Europe).

“Without institutional oversight, the localization of knowledge will remain arbitrary and inconsistent.” (Temur, 2019)

- Context-Driven Equivalence Strategies

Rather than translating terms literally, translators should prioritize functional and conceptual equivalence based on usage context.

“The goal of translation is not to mirror the original form but to replicate the communicative function.” (Nida & Taber, 1969, p. 13)

- Controlled Use of Loanwords

Loanwords should only be used when:

- The term is internationally standardized.
 - A native equivalent would compromise clarity.
- Otherwise, hybrid or descriptive translations may be preferable.
- Development of Field-Specific Glossaries

Each academic or professional domain should compile and publish bilingual glossaries, updated regularly, to ensure terminological consistency.

- Training Translators in Subject Domains



Linguists without subject expertise may misinterpret core concepts. Bilingual experts within each field should assist in the adaptation and validation process.

Foreign Term	Literal Translation	Recommended Uzbek Term	Notes
Algorithm	Hisoblash qoidasi	Algoritm	Retain international term due to standardization
Peer review	Tengdosh tahlil	Ilmiy taqriz	Culturally adjusted
Legal entity	Yuridik shaxs	Yuridik shaxs	Accurate match
Outsourcing	Tashqi xizmat	Outsorsing	Hybrid translation widely accepted
Curriculum	O'quv dasturi	O'quv reja	Local system adjustment

Adapting foreign subject-specific terminology into Uzbek is a complex process influenced by linguistic structures, cultural gaps, systemic differences, and the state of terminological infrastructure. While borrowing terms is sometimes unavoidable, overreliance on loanwords or inconsistent usage can hinder knowledge dissemination and language development. A collaborative approach involving linguists, domain experts, institutions, and policymakers is crucial to build a consistent, intelligible, and culturally appropriate Uzbek terminological base.

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