

## DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO STUDY THE DEFINITION OF TERMS IN RUSSIAN TERMINOLOGY

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***Abstract:*** *The basis of the emergence of terminology in Russia is the founder of the Russian school of terminology Lotte D.S. and he developed his own approach to the study of terms, which he later called normative. In the first half of the twentieth century in Russia Lotte made a significant contribution to the development of terminology.*<sup>1</sup>

***Key words:*** *Terminology, terms system, normative approach, functional (descriptive) approach, systematic approach*

***Introduction:*** The basis of the emergence of terminology in Russia is the founder of the Russian school of terminology Lotte D.S. and he developed his own approach to the study of terms, which he later called normative. In the first half of the twentieth century in Russia Lotte made a significant contribution to the development of terminology.<sup>2</sup>

***Literature review:*** In the middle of the last century, terminology in Russia was recognized as an independent science, and researchers emphasized the specific characteristics, signs and peculiarities of the term (R.A.Budagov, V.P.Danilenko, B.N.Golovin, V.M.Leichik, L.A.Kapanadze, K.A.Levkovskaya and others). The greatest consequence of these stages in the development of terminology was the convergence of practitioners-terminologists (standardizers, creators of IPS

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<sup>1</sup> Lotte D.S. "How to work on Terminology (in Russian)" - Nauka, Moscow, 1968

<sup>2</sup> Lotte D.S. "How to work on Terminology (in Russian)" - Nauka, Moscow, 1968

terminology software) and terminologists-linguists<sup>3</sup>.

In the second half of the twentieth century the dynamic development of terminology continued. Cognitive issues are increasingly the subject of research, and the practical aspects of this subject are being actively developed. At the beginning of the 21st century, the development of terminology in Russia was primarily the exchange of scientific paradigm and the emergence of cognitive approaches to linguistics in general and terminology in particular.

**Analysis and results:** From today we study existing approaches to the definition of terms and we can classify them as follows.

1. The normative approach

As shown above, Lotte D.S. was the founder of this approach, describing the term as "a word, or accompanying word, that has a special meaning, which expresses and shapes professional understanding, and is used in the process of knowledge and learning of scientific and vocational objects".<sup>4</sup> He has developed a number of requirements for the term: *meaning, clarity, systematicness, motivation, and shortness*.

According to Lotte, proponents of the normative approach (Korshunov S.I.,<sup>5</sup>) have expanded the list of requirements for the term, and noted in their "Short Methodical Guide to the Development and Regulation of Scientific and Technical Terminology".

Thus, the proponents of this approach regard the term as a static element, not a dynamic element of the language, which is why it has been called the "ideal term" in linguistic literature. However, this theory has since been severely criticized. For example, in some works there have been attempts to prove that the term is not always meaningful, that it can express a number of concepts and at the same time enter different systems of terminology, and so on. The term requirements are discussed in detail in the next section.

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<sup>3</sup> Leychik V.M. Terminologiya lingvisticheskaya / V.M. Leychik // Russkiy yazik. Ensiklopediya

<sup>4</sup> Lotte D.S. How to work on Terminology (in Russian) - Nauka, Moscow, 1968, P. 22

<sup>5</sup> Коршунов С.И. Синонимы в технической терминологии, Известия. - Москва, 1952. С - 10

## 2. Functional (descriptive) approach

The founder of this approach is another famous scientist - Vinokur G.O., who claimed that "terms are not separate words, but words of a particular function."<sup>6</sup> At the same time, he explained that the word is a special function that emerges as a term - naming function. Vinokur G.O. opposed his approach to the normative approach: the term, As Lotte argues, is studied not in the field of registration, but in its function and application as a dynamic element of the system which is susceptible to continuous change. As a consequence, all the Lotte-based term requirements lose their relevance: as an element of the language system, the term may change, alter, lose its meaning, have a number of synonyms, antonym, or move to a category of common vocabulary.

## 3. Systematic approach

Proponents of this approach emphasize the fact that the term exists within a regulated system: "When you know the term, you know its place in the system. When you know its place in the system, you know the term."<sup>7</sup> Most modern researchers consider temperament as the basis for the study of the term. For example, some scholars understand the term "word (phrase), which is an integral part of the notion of the sign, and of the relevant concepts in this system of understanding of science and technology."<sup>8</sup>; others see it as "a word or phrase of a special language section designed to accurately represent specific concepts in the system of science and technology."<sup>9</sup> At the same time, they say, "the term taken separately is only what it really is - nothing. It exists only in a system of terms and is associated with certain relations. Tatarinov V.A. also advocates a similar view, suggesting that terms create a closed system."<sup>10</sup> Thus, the systematic assimilation

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<sup>6</sup> Vinokur. G.O. On the phenomena of word formation in Russian technical terminology. Trudy MIFLIV, 1959, C. 3-54

<sup>7</sup> Юшманов Н.В. Элементы международной терминологии, Словарь-справочник. Москва, 1968. С.14

<sup>8</sup> Кулебакин В.С, Климовицкий Я.А. Работы по построению научно - технической терминологии в СССР, Москва, 1970. С.19-20

<sup>9</sup> Городецкий Б.Ю., Раскин В.В. Методы семантического исследования ограниченного подязыка. М. , 1971. С. 47

<sup>10</sup> Татаринов В.А. Теория терминоведения, Москва, 1996

of the term is a prerequisite for its description.

Within the approaches outlined above, certain differences in interpretation of the term can be highlighted. For example, some authors describe the term as having a definition in it: "the word performs a nominative or definitive function, that is, or is a definitive tool, and then it is simply a sign, or it is a logical definition, and it is a scientific term.<sup>11</sup>". The academic term emphasizes that the concept is not as simple as the word, but rather that the concept is defined according to it. Furthermore, in the dictionaries, the term is not interpreted but described, and the meaning of the term is the definition of the concept, the definition of which is defined accordingly. In other words, if there is no definition, the term itself will not exist.

V.M Leychik also supports this view:

1) The same term may have more than one definition of its meaning; in interdisciplinary borrowing, a word from general language or a term from another subject field is borrowed and assigned a new concept.

For example: *"memory" – capacity of the human brain; "memory" – temporary storage capacity of a computer, "mouse" – small rodent; "mouse" – computer/operator interface device.*

2) The expression of the term in the language may not be uniform;

3) There are many concepts in specific areas that do not have definitions which are not expressed by language means.

**Conclusion:** Considering the theoretical difficulties associated with the definition of what is terminology and the general conditions for the existence of technical terms, the conclusion might be drawn that this subject should best be left in the hands of the subject experts of each field of knowledge who have to resolve problems of naming and systematic classification, or alternatively that it should become the responsibility of language planners and organizations charged with standardization or other regulation of language. However, since it is largely for

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11. Виноградов В. В. Из истории русской литературной лексики // Вестник МГУ, 1947. С.12-13

sociolinguistic reasons that a specific autonomous activity of terminology has come into being, it appears necessary to explore the history of this activity and the various areas of knowledge that contribute to the constitution of what is now increasingly being considered an independent discipline.

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