

THE USE OF MEDICAL TERMS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE**Muhayyo Xolmatova Abdugopporovna**

Teacher, Department of Language Teaching in Medicine, Andijan Branch of Kokand University

Abstract

This thesis examines the use of medical vocabulary in the Uzbek language and its significance in linguistic, educational, and professional contexts. Medical terminology is an essential part of healthcare communication because it serves not only specialists, but also patients, translators, students, and the wider public. In Uzbek, the medical lexicon has developed under the influence of several linguistic sources, including Latin, Greek, Russian, English, and native lexical units. As a result, medical terminology in Uzbek demonstrates both richness and variation, which creates opportunities for development as well as problems of synonymy, inconsistency, and adaptation. The study shows that the use of medical terms in Uzbek is closely related to the strengthening of Uzbek as the state language and to the broader need for clear scientific communication. Special attention is given to the role of medical dictionaries, translation practice, and terminology teaching in medical education. The analysis indicates that students and specialists often face phonetic, semantic, and methodological difficulties when working with medical vocabulary, especially because many terms circulate in several parallel forms. The thesis concludes that medical terminology in Uzbek should be developed through standardization, careful translation, and modern lexicographic support. This would improve both professional communication and public understanding of medical information.

Keywords

medical terminology, Uzbek language, medical vocabulary, language standardization, translation, lexicography, medical education, scientific communication, terminology variation, state language policy

Introduction

The use of medical terms in the Uzbek language has become an increasingly important issue at the intersection of linguistics, medicine, and education. This is because medical vocabulary is not only a professional instrument for physicians and pharmacists, but also a means of communication between healthcare workers and the wider population. In modern healthcare, the accuracy of a term directly affects how diseases, symptoms, treatment methods, and preventive recommendations are understood. Therefore, the correct and consistent use of medical terminology in Uzbek is not simply a linguistic matter; it is also connected with the quality of medical communication and public understanding of health-related information [1, 2]. The relevance of this topic has grown in recent years due to the broader strengthening of Uzbek as the state language. The Law “On the State Language” states that in spheres where the state language functions officially, the existing scientific norms and standards of Uzbek literary language must be observed, and the state must ensure the enrichment and development of Uzbek, including through the introduction of generally recognized scientific and technical terms [1]. This principle is especially significant for medicine, because the medical field constantly produces new concepts, diagnoses, procedures, and pharmaceutical names that require either accurate translation or proper adaptation into Uzbek [1, 3].

Another important aspect is that medical terminology in Uzbek has developed under the influence of several linguistic sources. A considerable part of medical vocabulary is historically connected with Latin and Greek roots, while many terms entered Uzbek through Russian and, more recently, through English-language scientific communication [3, 4]. As a result, Uzbek medical language today includes native lexical units, adapted international terms, and parallel variants that may coexist in scientific texts, textbooks, dictionaries, and everyday communication. This creates both richness and difficulty: on the one hand, terminology becomes more expressive and flexible; on the other hand, synonymy, variation, and inconsistency may complicate professional and educational use [3, 5]. The problem becomes even more visible in medical education. Research on teaching medical terminology in Uzbekistan shows that many students face phonetic, orthographic, semantic, and methodological difficulties when learning terminology, especially because a large part of medical vocabulary is related to Latin terminology and international nomenclature [6, 7]. If such terms are not explained, standardized, or appropriately adapted into Uzbek, they may remain unclear not only for students, but also for patients who encounter them in health education materials or doctor-patient communication. For this reason, the issue of how medical words are used in Uzbek should be viewed from both a scientific and a practical perspective [6].

In addition, recent linguistic studies devoted to Uzbek medical lexicon emphasize that medical dictionaries, terminological glossaries, and translation practice play a major role in regulating the use of specialized vocabulary [3, 5]. The development of Uzbek medical terminology is therefore closely connected with lexicography, standardization, and translation. This is especially relevant in a period when medicine is becoming more globalized, while the need to present scientific knowledge in a clear national language remains strong. A term should be scientifically precise, but at the same time understandable and functionally suitable in Uzbek speech and writing [3, 4]. Thus, this thesis focuses on the use of medical vocabulary in the Uzbek language and its linguistic as well as practical significance. The topic is important because medical terms are actively used not only in professional literature, but also in textbooks, the media, patient instructions, and public health communication. Studying how such terms function in Uzbek makes it possible to identify problems of adaptation, translation, semantic variation, and standardization, and to propose more effective ways of using them in medical discourse [2, 3, 5].

Main Part

The use of medical terms in the Uzbek language should be examined not only as a linguistic phenomenon, but also as a practical issue directly connected with healthcare, education, and public communication. In medicine, a term is not simply a word; it is a unit of precise meaning. When a medical term is used inaccurately, inconsistently, or in several parallel forms, it may create misunderstanding in textbooks, professional dialogue, translation, and even patient instructions. For this reason, the issue of how medical vocabulary functions in Uzbek deserves special attention [1, 2].

One of the main features of Uzbek medical vocabulary is its mixed origin. A large number of terms in medicine are international by nature and historically trace back to Latin and Greek. However, in Uzbek medical discourse, these units have often entered through different channels. Some came through Russian during the Soviet period, while others are now borrowed or adapted through direct contact with English-language science and modern international medicine. As a result, Uzbek medical language includes several layers at once: native Uzbek expressions, adapted Russian-based forms,

international Latin-derived terms, and newer English-influenced variants [3, 4]. This multi-source development has enriched the language, but it has also produced instability in usage, especially when one concept appears in more than one form in academic or practical communication [3]. A particularly important problem is synonymy and lexical variation. In many fields of medicine, one and the same concept may be represented by two or even three competing forms: a fully international term, a partly adapted Uzbek form, and a more explanatory native phrase. Recent linguistic work on English–Uzbek medical corpora emphasizes that synonymic series and lexical variation are common in medical texts, and that these differences become especially visible in translation and contextual use [5]. On the one hand, variation gives the language flexibility. On the other hand, in a scientific field that depends on precision, too much variation can weaken clarity. If textbooks, dictionaries, media texts, and classroom explanations use different terms for the same phenomenon, students and readers may struggle to understand whether they are encountering one concept or several distinct ones [5].

This issue becomes especially serious in medical education. Research devoted to teaching medical terminology in Uzbekistan shows that students experience phonetic, spelling, semantic, and methodological difficulties while learning professional vocabulary, particularly because the core of many medical terms is linked to Latin [6]. Medical students are expected to work simultaneously with Uzbek, Russian, Latin, and sometimes English forms of the same term. This creates an additional cognitive burden. A term may be memorized in one form during anatomy or pharmacology classes, appear in another form in a clinical context, and then be translated differently in Uzbek educational materials. As a result, terminological inconsistency is not only a linguistic inconvenience but also a pedagogical problem [6, 7]. Another important aspect is the role of dictionaries and lexicographic sources. Studies on Uzbek medical terminological dictionaries note that such dictionaries are essential for preserving semantic precision, establishing standard usage, and supporting both scientific and practical communication [3]. In the absence of stable terminological reference tools, specialists and translators may rely on habit, personal preference, or foreign-language copying. This can lead to excessive borrowing or mechanically translated phrases that sound unnatural in Uzbek. At the same time, recent work on Uzbek medical electronic dictionaries shows that digital lexicography opens new possibilities, including faster search, easier updating, and broader accessibility for students, teachers, and practitioners [8]. Therefore, lexicography should be viewed as one of the main instruments for normalizing medical vocabulary in Uzbek.

The problem is not limited to the scientific sphere. Medical vocabulary is increasingly present in public communication: television programs, online health portals, pharmaceutical advertisements, patient leaflets, and social media all use medical terms. In such contexts, terminology should not only be scientifically correct, but also understandable for non-specialists. If an expression is overly foreignized, the patient may fail to understand it. If it is oversimplified, scientific accuracy may be lost. This creates a delicate balance between terminological precision and communicative accessibility. The development of Uzbek as the state language has strengthened the need to express scientific knowledge clearly and systematically in Uzbek, and legal-policy documents directly support the enrichment of the language through recognized scientific and technical terminology [1, 2]. In medicine, this means that terms should be integrated into Uzbek in a way that is both nationally functional and internationally compatible [1]. A further issue concerns translation practice. Medical translation is one of the most sensitive fields because errors may affect diagnosis, treatment, and interpretation of instructions. Research on the translation of medical terminology into Uzbek shows that the main challenges include semantic equivalence, structural adaptation, and preservation of professional meaning [4]. For example,

cardiological and other clinical terms often carry a high level of specialization, and literal translation may distort their scientific content. At the same time, excessive transliteration may preserve form but fail to produce a term that functions naturally in Uzbek discourse. Thus, the translation of medical terminology requires not just bilingual competence, but also terminological discipline and knowledge of medical context [4, 5].

It is also important to note that terminology is not static. Medicine changes rapidly, and every year new procedures, syndromes, technologies, and treatment approaches appear. If Uzbek medical vocabulary is to remain relevant, it must develop continuously rather than only preserve earlier forms. This is why recent policies on strengthening the position of Uzbek and improving national language planning are relevant to the medical sphere as well [2]. New terms should not enter professional use randomly. They should be assessed for semantic accuracy, phonetic suitability, orthographic convenience, and compatibility with existing Uzbek word-formation patterns. Otherwise, the language of medicine may become overloaded with inconsistent hybrids that are difficult to teach and difficult to use in practice [2, 8]. From a linguistic perspective, the use of medical terms in Uzbek may be grouped into several patterns. The first pattern includes directly borrowed or adapted international terms that retain their specialized character. These are often necessary because they ensure compatibility with global medicine. The second pattern includes translated or partly translated forms that are more transparent for Uzbek speakers. The third pattern includes explanatory Uzbek phrases used mainly in educational or public contexts to increase comprehension. Each pattern has its own function, and the problem begins only when the boundaries between them are unclear or when no accepted norm exists. In such cases, different authors may use different forms without explanation, creating unnecessary diversity in professional discourse [3, 5].

The role of standardization is therefore central. Standardization does not mean rejecting all borrowings or replacing every international term with an artificial native equivalent. Rather, it means identifying which forms are most appropriate for science, teaching, and public communication. For highly specialized disciplines, international forms may remain preferable. For school-level, public-health, or patient-oriented materials, more transparent Uzbek-based explanations may be necessary. A well-developed terminological system should allow both levels to exist, but in a regulated and functionally clear way [1, 3]. This is why cooperation between linguists, medical teachers, translators, and healthcare professionals is so important. Medical terminology cannot be normalized by philologists alone, because clinical meaning must remain central. The current stage of Uzbek medical terminology therefore reflects both progress and unresolved problems. On the positive side, there is growing scholarly interest in the structure, variation, dictionary description, and teaching of medical terms in Uzbek [3, 5, 6, 8]. On the other hand, challenges remain in standard usage, educational consistency, translation practice, and the balance between scientific accuracy and public comprehensibility. These issues show that the use of medical vocabulary in Uzbek is not a narrow lexical topic, but a broader problem related to professional literacy, language planning, and health communication.

Table 1. Main aspects of the use of medical terms in Uzbek

Aspect	Current situation	Main problem	Practical importance
Sources of terminology	Terms come from Latin, Greek, Russian,	Mixed origin creates inconsistency and	Affects dictionaries, teaching, and

Aspect	Current situation	Main problem	Practical importance
	English, and native Uzbek resources [3, 4]	overlapping forms	translation
Synonymy and variation	Parallel forms often coexist in texts [5]	Readers and students may confuse one concept with another	Weakens clarity in professional and academic communication
Medical education	Students learn terms through several linguistic systems at once [6, 7]	Phonetic, orthographic, semantic, and methodological difficulties	Influences comprehension and professional preparation
Dictionaries and lexicography	Printed and electronic medical dictionaries are developing [3, 8]	Lack of unified reference use in practice	Important for standardization and correct usage
Translation	Medical terms require precise equivalence and contextual adaptation [4]	Literal translation or excessive transliteration may distort meaning	Crucial for textbooks, articles, and patient materials
Public communication	Medical vocabulary is widely used in media and health information [1, 2]	Terms may be too complex or too simplified	Directly affects public understanding of health information
Language policy	Uzbek is being strengthened as the state language [1, 2]	Scientific terminology must be enriched in a controlled way	Supports national scientific communication

In summary, the use of medical words in Uzbek reflects the broader development of the language in modern scientific life. It is influenced by international medicine, national language policy, education, lexicography, and translation. The key task is not simply to increase the number of terms used in Uzbek, but to ensure that they are used accurately, consistently, and appropriately according to context. If medical terminology in Uzbek is standardized carefully and taught effectively, it can serve both professional communication and public health more successfully [1–8].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the use of medical vocabulary in the Uzbek language is not only a linguistic issue but also an important practical matter related to medical education, professional communication, translation, and public health literacy. The reviewed materials show that Uzbek medical terminology has developed through a combination of native lexical resources and borrowings from Latin, Greek, Russian, and English, which has enriched the language but also created problems of variation, synonymy, and inconsistency. These difficulties become especially visible in textbooks, translation practice, and the teaching of medical subjects. The analysis also indicates that the correct use of medical terms in Uzbek requires standardization, lexicographic support, and careful adaptation of international concepts into the national language. Medical dictionaries, especially electronic ones, play

a major role in this process because they help regulate usage, preserve semantic precision, and make terminology more accessible to students and specialists. At the same time, terminology should remain understandable in patient-oriented and public-health communication, where excessive complexity may reduce comprehension. Thus, the effective use of medical words in Uzbek depends on cooperation between linguists, translators, medical teachers, and healthcare professionals. Only through such a coordinated approach can medical terminology in Uzbek become both scientifically accurate and communicatively functional. This makes the topic highly relevant for the further development of Uzbek scientific language and for improving the quality of medical communication in society.

References

1. O‘zbekiston Respublikasining “Davlat tili haqida”gi Qonuni. LEX.UZ.
2. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining PF-5850-son Farmoni, “O‘zbek tilining davlat tili sifatidagi nufuzi va mavqeyini tubdan oshirish chora-tadbirlari to‘g‘risida”. LEX.UZ.
3. Muxamatova, D. X. “O‘zbek tilidagi tibbiy terminologik lug‘atlar tavsifi.” CyberLeninka.
4. Amonova, M. V. “The Main Issues of Translating Medical Terminology: Rendition of Cardiological Lexicon.” CyberLeninka.
5. Asatullayev, R. B., & Suleymanova, N. M. “Tibbiy matnlar korpusida sinonimiya va variativlikning qiyosiy ko‘rinishlari (ingliz–o‘zbek misolida).” CyberLeninka.
6. “Tibbiy terminlarni o‘qitishda yuzaga keladigan lingvistik qiyinchiliklar.” TnMU jurnali.
7. Tibbiy terminologiyani o‘qitish bo‘yicha ilmiy-metodik materiallar, TnMU konferensiya/jurnal materiallari.
8. “O‘zbek tili tibbiy elektron lug‘atlari amaliy leksikografik rivojlanishining yangi bosqichi sifatida.” CyberLeninka.