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THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE CONCEPTS OF TERM AND TERMINOLOGY

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Abstract: This article explores the theoretical foundations of the concepts of "term" and "terminology." A term is a precise word or phrase used in a specific field, distinct from everyday language due to its clarity and unambiguity. For example, the word "core" may refer to different concepts in physics and biology, which is why terms in science must be clearly defined within their context. Terminology is a system of such terms and is also regarded as a lexical system and a branch of linguistics. The key features of terminology are accuracy, stability, and neutrality. In scientific and technological fields, terminology plays a crucial role in ensuring precise communication. The study presents the classification of terms, methods of term formation, and the importance of standardization for effective scientific discourse. The work is primarily based on the theories of Cabré, Sager, Wüster, and ISO standards, showing that terminology serves as both a conceptual and communicative tool in science. These three scholars approached terminology differently and developed their own methodologies: Eugen Wüster – founder of the classical approach, viewed terminology as a tool for standardization and technical communication. Ingrid Cabré – advocate of the communicative approach, emphasized the role of context and pragmatics**.** Juan C. Sager – representative of the cognitive and practical approach, focused on how people conceptualize through terms, especially in translation and informatics.
Key words: Term, Terminology, Accuracy, Stability, Neutrality, Classification, Term Formation, Standardization, Context, Communication, Terminological Approaches, ISO Standards.

INTRODUCTION. Terminology, as we know, theory, methods and applications addresses language specialists, terminologists, and all those who take an interest in socio-political and technical aspects of Terminology, as discussed by Cabré, M. T. (1999) [1.45]. . The book covers its subject comprehensively and deals among other things with concepts (the relation between linguistics, cognitive science, communication studies, documentation and computer science); Methodology, especially with regard to specialised language and dictionaries; the social-political challenges of the modern technological society and some solutions from a Terminological point of view; Terminology as a standard in multilingual communication and guardian of cultures. It is particularly suited as a course book. Language is a vivid mirror that reflects the material and spiritual life of every nation. It is, closely connected with human activity and social development. Therefore, any change or event occurring in society is first reflected in language. In the course of historical and socio-economic processes, the vocabulary of a language gradually expands and becomes richer. This enrichment takes place through the emergence of new words and terms that express new concepts arising from the development of society. The majority of these new words are terms. The progress of science and technology gives rise to new terms, while the terms themselves provide a foundation for scientific and technical advancement. Thus, any field of science or industry that is not systematically studied from a terminological perspective cannot develop fully.

METHODS. This study employs a descriptive–analytical method to investigate the essence, functions, and development of terminology as a distinct linguistic phenomenon. The research methodology includes:

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Textual analysis – Scientific and technical texts, linguistic dictionaries, and specialized literature were analyzed in order to identify the structural, semantic, and functional characteristics of terms.
Comparative method – Uzbek, Russian, and English sources were compared to trace the historical development of terms, their usage in different disciplines, and their degree of standardization.
Historical method – The emergence of terminology as an independent science was studied through the works of E. Wüster, H. Felber, and other pioneers of the field [3]. The study also traced the introduction and spread of the terms atama, termin, and istiloh in Uzbek linguistic tradition.
Functional-semantic method – Terms were examined as functional lexical units that acquire precision and unambiguity within a specific domain. Their relation to general vocabulary, as well as features such as synonymy, homonymy, and polysemy, were studied a specific domain.
Descriptive-statistical method – Frequency and distribution of certain terms in specialized Uzbek and English dictionaries were analyzed to identify patterns in terminology usage.

These methodological steps make it possible to reveal the role of terminology in linguistic systems and its contribution to the progress of science and technology.

LITERATURE REVIEW. The discipline of terminology has been the subject of growing scholarly attention since the early 20th century. E. Wüster (1931) is recognized as the founder of modern terminology, establishing the Vienna School and laying the foundation for systematic terminology studies[2] . His ideas were further developed by H. Felber, who authored the first international textbook *Terminology Manual*, emphasizing the need for standardization in multilingual communication [3].

O. Akhmanova (1966) defined terminology as a specialized layer of the lexicon[4], while V. G. Gak (1972) argued that terms should not be considered separate lexical units but rather as words functioning in a special capacity [10.68-71]. G. O. Vinokur similarly highlighted the functional essence of terms [8] . These debates reflect different theoretical approaches: substantial (terms as precise and unambiguous units), functional (terms as ordinary words in a special role), derivational (terms as newly created lexical units), and pragmatic (terms as context-dependent tools).

In the Uzbek linguistic tradition, terminology studies were developed by A. Khojiyev, who provided definitions and criteria for term usage in his Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms [12.22-25]. A. Madvaliev (2017) addressed systemic issues in Uzbek terminology [11.28-30], while A. Hojiev (1996) outlined principles for term selection [12.22-25]. Historical sources show that Abdurauf Fitrat introduced the word atama in 1927, though termin remained dominant in scholarly literature until the 1990s.

Western linguistics has also contributed significantly to the field. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) linked terminology to conceptual metaphor and cognitive science, while Kövecses (2002) and Evans & Green (2006) explored terminology from the perspective of cognitive linguistics [5]. Schmitt (2011) demonstrated how conceptualization differs across languages, including English and Uzbek. Standardization issues have been analyzed by Shipman (1992), who emphasized the balance between naturalization and global unification of terms [7].

In summary, the literature shows that terminology studies lie at the intersection of linguistics, cognitive science, communication, and cultural identity. While earlier research focused mainly on systematization and standardization, more recent approaches also explore the cognitive, pragmatic, and sociopolitical aspects of terminology.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS. The word “term” originates from the Latin “terminus”, meaning “boundary” or “limit.” A term is a word or phrase that precisely expresses a concept related to a specific field, and its use is restricted to that field. Terms differ from words of general usage.

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For example: linguistic terms — sentence, subject, noun;
geometric terms — circle, triangle.
physical terms — body, pressure, field;
chemical terms — water, silver, salt, etc.

Terminology is the system of terms in a scientific or technical field. According to Akhmanova (1966), terminology is "a special sector (a specialized layer) of the lexicon, consisting of terms related to a particular branch of production, field of activity, or sphere of science."[4] Because of this specificity, the vocabulary can be consciously systematized, and terms function as a special type of sign, since they did not develop gradually over time but are instead fixed by definitions.

The discipline of terminology as an independent science began to take shape in the 1920s. At first, scholars considered it part of lexicology. However, after the Austrian scholar E. Wüster dedicated his doctoral dissertation in 1931 to lexical units of the technical language, terminology was recognized as an independent field of study [2] .

The first school of terminology was founded by E. Wüster[2], and later his scientific ideas and research were further developed by his student H. Felber, who is the author of the world's first international textbook on terminology – **"Terminology Manual."** [3]

In the Uzbek language, the words "atama" and "termin" are often used in parallel, and in some cases the word "istiloh" is also applied as a synonym. However, these concepts are not identical. The word "atama" was first used by Abdurauf Fitrat in his book **"Nahv"** published in 1927, but it only became widely used in the 1990s [6]. In academic literature, however, the word "termin" has been more commonly employed.

In **"Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms"** by A. Khojiyev, the term is defined as follows: "A term – borrowed from the Latin word 'terminus,' meaning boundary, limit – is a word or phrase used in the field of science, technology, or other domains that precisely conveys a concept, with its scope of use restricted to the respective field. Terms differ from common words by their unambiguity and the absence of expressiveness or emotional coloring." [12.22-25]

According to O. Akhmanova, terminology emerges only when a particular field reaches a high stage of development[4]. In other words, a term is recognized only after a concept has acquired a precise scientific definition. This observation about the relationship between the growth of a discipline and the appearance of its terminology is highly significant. For example, specialized words in chemistry such as laboratory, oxygen, hydrogen entered usage only when the discipline became recognized and studied in depth. One of the main ways to distinguish a term from a non-term is that a non-term cannot be scientifically defined. Thus, as a field progresses, the need for new terms naturally arises.

V. G. Gak not only defines the term but also explains its essence and place within a language's vocabulary [10.68-71]. He objected to treating terms as a separate type of lexical unit, instead suggesting that terms should be viewed as a particular function of words already existing in the language. In his view, terms are simply words that serve a special purpose. This idea is very similar to the opinion of G. O. Vinokur, who also emphasized the functional rather than exclusive nature of terms[8].

Modern linguistics presents a wide variety of views on how new terms are created, the obstacles they face in becoming part of everyday usage, and the principles guiding their formation. Today, scholars recognize several approaches to interpreting terms: **substantial, functional, derivational, semantic, and pragmatic.**

- From the **substantial perspective**, a term is a special word or phrase that differs from ordinary vocabulary by being unambiguous, precise, systematic, context-independent, and emotionally neutral.
- The **functional perspective** sees terms not as special words in themselves, but as words that acquire a special role; in theory, any word could take on the function of a term in the right context.

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- The **derivational perspective** emphasizes word-formation, considering terms not only as variants of common words but also as specially created units with distinct characteristics. Supporters of this view argue that new terms appear primarily because of the need to describe new realities.

In short, terms possess distinctive qualities that make them essential tools for expressing concepts within scientific theories and technical disciplines.

Within this theory, importance is understood through the recognition of the emotional features of a technical or scientific object.

Terms function as elements of a terminological system. Such a system follows the structure of the discipline while allowing some flexibility in influence, comprehensibility, and emotional expression. The essential qualities of a term are precision and distinctiveness.

The definition of a term is generally provided within a specific context. It often appears in the form of a copular sentence, where the term is the subject. For example: a chain is a linear sequence of linguistic elements or categories (Kleines Wörterbuch sprachwissenschaftlicher Termini, 130). In such cases, the copula may be omitted because the lemma and definition are separated in print for technical reasons.

The meaning of a term may evolve independently. When new hypotheses are tested or disproved, they influence terminological systems and their elements. Consequently, terms may be subject to homonymy, polysemy, or synonymy, even though these features contradict the fundamental requirement for precision in terminology.

Terms generally tend toward stylistic neutrality.Scientific and technical terminology differs from that of the humanities and philosophy, although similarities exist. These differences arise from denotations, which are not always empirically observable. In the humanities, many terms function as homonyms because they acquire multiple definitions within their systems. This is evident in the varying interpretations of concepts like democracy, freedom, or man. By contrast, natural sciences and technology often use internationalisms, trends, and standardization to avoid over-complication of terminology. However, terms themselves carry the notion of standardization, both of science and of facts. Thus, terminology must adapt to existing technical and linguistic conditions. Genuine standardization of terminology, in turn, contributes to language development. Standardization may also involve naturalization, yet it must contend with already naturalized terms that have become too rigid (T. Shipman, 1992).From these arguments, it follows that not every word can qualify as a term. To function as one, words must satisfy certain requirements. Terms are not meant to be polysemous or emotionally charged. With the advancement of science and technology, new fields naturally emerge, along with new words. Over time, these words acquire specialized functions in speech, forming new groups of terms. Some may enter common usage, while others remain confined to specific areas (for example, Internet language).

While synonymy in terminological systems is often criticized for being inconsistent and contradictory to their primary functions, some scholars highlight its positive role. For instance, V. Tatarinov notes: “In technical language, synonymy (variant doubling) is less typical of terminology; however, it serves as an active linguistic tool for shaping new perspectives on a subject of thought. By employing multiple nominative linguistic means, the variability of mental structures is achieved; therefore, synonymy is a sign of a developing science. The higher the level of scientific progress, the more synonymous the specialist’s thinking becomes.” [9]

CONCLUSION. In our view, this can be explained as follows: if the question arises about the appropriateness of synonyms or homonyms in a terminological system, there is no such doubt when it comes to antonymy. Yet, the terminological use of lexemes may also produce an effect similar to enantiosemy - that is, the emergence of antonymic meanings within a single word.

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