

MORPHOLOGICAL AND LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF MILITARY TERMS IN ENGLISH, UZBEK, AND RUSSIAN

Abstract. This article investigates the morphological structures and lexical-semantic characteristics of military terminology in English, Uzbek, and Russian. The comparative analysis highlights the influence of linguistic typology, historical development, and socio-cultural factors on term formation and semantic categorization. The study reveals that while English military terminology demonstrates productive compounding and borrowing, Uzbek terms exhibit agglutinative derivation and Russian terms display a high degree of affixation and semantic polysemy. The findings contribute to contrastive linguistics and military lexicography by clarifying cross-linguistic mechanisms of term creation and meaning development.

Keywords: morphology, lexical semantics, military terminology, English, Uzbek, Russian, word-formation, typology.

Аннотация. В данной статье исследуются морфологические структуры и лексико-семантические характеристики военной терминологии в английском, узбекском и русском языках. Сравнительный анализ выявляет влияние лингвистической типологии, исторического развития и социокультурных факторов на терминообразование и семантическую категоризацию. Исследование показывает, что, в то время как английская военная терминология демонстрирует продуктивное словосложение и заимствования, узбекские термины демонстрируют агглютинативную деривацию, а русские термины – высокую степень аффиксации и семантической полисемии. Полученные результаты вносят вклад в контрастивную лингвистику и военную лексикографию, проясняя межъязыковые механизмы создания и развития значений терминов.

Ключевые слова: морфология, лексическая семантика, военная терминология, английский, узбекский, русский языки, словообразование, типология.

Introduction. The study of military terminology is a crucial field within applied linguistics and translation studies, as the precision of such terms often determines the effectiveness of communication in defense, strategy, and international cooperation. Each language system forms and categorizes military vocabulary according to its grammatical and cultural norms.

This article aims to identify and analyze the morphological and lexical-semantic features of military terms in three typologically distinct languages: English (analytic), Uzbek (agglutinative), and Russian (synthetic). Through comparative analysis, we uncover the structural and semantic strategies used to conceptualize military notions, ranging from weaponry and tactics to command and hierarchy.

Morphological Characteristics of Military Terms. English Military Terminology. English military terminology is characterized by a complex and flexible morphological system that primarily relies on **compounding**, **affixation**, and **lexical borrowing**. These processes collectively reflect the analytical nature of the English language and its historical openness to external linguistic influence. The dynamic interplay of native and borrowed elements contributes to the richness, precision, and international comprehensibility of English military vocabulary.

The most productive mechanism of word formation in English military discourse is **compounding**, which allows the integration of two or more lexical units into a single semantically unified term. Compounds such as *battlefield*, *warship*, *airstrike*, and *command post* illustrate this structural process, in which the first element typically serves a modifying role, while the second denotes the head or core concept. Such combinations result in highly informative terms that encapsulate complex military operations, locations, or equipment within concise lexical forms. The transparency and compactness of compounds make them

particularly suited to the communicative demands of military contexts, where brevity and clarity are essential.

Affixation also plays a significant role in the development of English military terminology. Both **prefixation** and **suffixation** contribute to semantic diversification and hierarchical specification. Prefixes such as *pre-* and *anti-* serve to express temporal or oppositional relationships, as in *pre-emptive strike* and *anti-tank missile*, denoting strategic sequencing and counteraction, respectively. Suffixation processes produce nouns and abstract concepts that denote roles, status, or institutional features: *soldier-ship* (the quality or state of being a soldier), *leadership* (the act or position of leading), and *combatant* (one who engages in battle). The high productivity of affixation in English allows for the continuous expansion of the military lexicon in response to technological and tactical innovations.

Uzbek Military Terminology. Uzbek, as an **agglutinative language**, demonstrates a highly productive and transparent system of word formation that relies primarily on **derivational suffixes** and **semantic extension** of native lexical roots. This morphological structure enables a systematic and precise formation of military terminology, where affixation plays a crucial role in denoting rank, function, specialization, and relational meaning within the armed forces.

The **productive use of derivational suffixes** such as *-chi*, *-lik*, and *-kor* allows for the creation of a wide range of professional and functional terms. For instance, *jangchi* (“fighter”), *hujumchi* (“attacker”), and *himoyachi* (“protector”) illustrate the suffix *-chi* as an agentive morpheme, designating individuals engaged in specific military activities. Similarly, *mudofaa* (“defense”) and *himoya* (“protection”) represent nominal derivatives with abstract meanings, denoting strategic or institutional concepts rather than individual actors. This morphological regularity contributes to both clarity and productivity in terminology formation.

Compound terms such as *jang maydoni* (“battlefield”) and *havo hujumi* (“air attack”) exhibit high **structural transparency** and **semantic predictability**, characteristic of agglutinative typology. Each component retains an identifiable

meaning, and their combination results in a clearly interpretable term. This compositional structure reflects the cognitive tendency in Uzbek to conceptualize military notions through concrete, image-based expressions that link physical space (*maydon* – “field”) and action (*hujum* – “attack”). As a result, compound constructions in Uzbek military vocabulary tend to be semantically motivated and accessible to speakers, promoting lexical stability.

The **lexical-semantic system** of Uzbek military terminology also displays evidence of **semantic extension** of native roots. Words that originally referred to general concepts such as *jang* (“fight”) or *himoya* (“protection”) have broadened their meanings in military contexts, coming to represent technical and institutionalized notions. This process shows the dynamic interplay between linguistic creativity and socio-historical necessity in the evolution of military discourse.

Russian Military Terminology

Russian military terminology exhibits a complex system of word formation characterized by both **prefixal-suffixal derivation** and **semantic derivation**, reflecting the morphological richness of the Russian language. The productivity of these processes illustrates the dynamic nature of Slavic word-building traditions, which allow for the creation of nuanced and hierarchical terms within the military lexicon.

One of the most distinctive features is the extensive use of **prefixation**, which conveys spatial, temporal, and logical relationships within the military domain. For example, the term *подполковник* (“lieutenant colonel”) includes the prefix *под-* indicating subordination or rank below another officer (*полковник* – “colonel”). Similarly, *контратака* (“counterattack”) employs the prefix *контр-* of foreign origin to denote opposition or reversal of action. Prefixation in Russian military terminology thus performs not only a grammatical but also a semantic function, marking tactical direction, hierarchy, and opposition.

Conclusion. Military terminology in English, Uzbek, and Russian embodies both linguistic and cultural dimensions. English tends toward analytical precision

and international standardization; Uzbek reflects agglutinative creativity and historical layering; Russian combines structural flexibility with a sense of institutional authority. Understanding the morphological and semantic systems of these languages not only enhances translation accuracy but also deepens cross-cultural comprehension of military discourse. Further research could focus on corpus-based analysis of neologisms, multilingual terminography, and pragmatic functions of military vocabulary in media and diplomacy.

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