

**SOME REFLECTIONS ON TERMINOLOGY FORMATION IN THE LANGUAGE  
POLICY OF INDEPENDENT UZBEKISTAN**

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the formation, stages of development, and the role of terminology within the national language system in the context of the language policy implemented during the years of independent Uzbekistan. The study examines the issues of creating new terms, adopting foreign terminology, and nationalizing terms in the process of strengthening the status of the state language. It also considers the legal and regulatory foundations of terminology, mechanisms for regulating terminology, and the problems encountered in practice.

**Keywords:** language policy, terminology, term, nationalization, state language, Uzbek language, terminology policy, digital terminology, lexical development.

After Uzbekistan gained independence, strengthening the social status of the state language and expanding its scientific capacity became one of the key priorities of state policy. In this context, the development of terminology, the standardization of existing terms, and their revision based on the internal resources and linguistic potential of the Uzbek language emerged as important tasks.

The first step toward the nationalization of Uzbek terminology can be associated with the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the State Language,” which identified ensuring the use of the state language in all spheres of society as one of its primary objectives. It is well known that, prior to Uzbekistan’s independence, the development of Uzbek terminology underwent a complex historical process. A significant proportion of the terms used in science, technology, law, and public administration entered the Uzbek language through Russian, which had a substantial impact on the Uzbek terminological system. Since Russian occupied a dominant position in academic and official communication, many terms were borrowed directly without adaptation.

The nationalization of terminology is one of the key factors in expressing and preserving national identity. This process is closely linked to a country's political independence, the strengthening of national consciousness, and the regulation of language on the basis of national language legislation. The continuous adoption of words and terms from foreign languages, particularly the acceleration of this process under conditions of globalization, necessitates the ongoing regulation of vocabulary and terminology within language policy. For this reason, the regulatory framework governing the activities of the Terminology Commission in Uzbekistan has been revised and re-adopted several times to meet new requirements and challenges. For example, in the 1990s, the Terminology Committee was initially established and operated under a dedicated regulatory act[1:221].

After the establishment of the Terminology Committee, efforts were initiated to regulate the scientific and sector-specific terminology of the state language, develop new terms, and systematize the terminology used across various fields. These activities contributed to the formation of an independent terminological system of the Uzbek language in such areas as science, technology, economics, and law. As a result, one of the key objectives of language policy – the nationalization of terminology – acquired an institutional foundation.



It is well known that the development of Uzbek terminology before the independence of Uzbekistan evolved through a complex historical process. The Statute of the Terminology Committee established in 1990 proposed a set of principles for term formation in the Uzbek language. Based on these principles, systematic efforts were launched to nationalize terminology.

The words and terms reviewed by the Terminology Committee were regularly published in the newspapers *O'zbekiston adabiyoti va san'ati* and *Xalq so'zi*. For example, in order to nationalize administrative and office-management terminology, it was proposed to replace the Russian term *справка* with *ma'lumotnoma* (certificate/reference document), *папорт* with *xabarnoma* or *bildirgi* (report/notification), *заявка* with *buyurtmanoma* (application/order form), and *акт* with *dalolatnoma* (official record/report)[2: 65]. These terms gradually became integrated into everyday language through their widespread use and were successfully adopted by the public. As a result, they have remained an active part of the Uzbek lexicon and continue to be widely used today.

“Every language, including its vocabulary, develops through both internal and external resources. However, misconceptions and incorrect approaches often arise in understanding and interpreting these internal and external sources. Some linguists regard only native Uzbek or Turkic words as internal resources. In fact, regardless of their origin, words that have become fully integrated into a language are considered part of that language's own lexical stock. For example, although the words *e'lon* (announcement), *shifokor* (doctor), and *gazeta* (newspaper) were borrowed from Arabic, Persian-Tajik, and Russian respectively, they are now regarded as part of the Uzbek language. At one time, it was proposed to replace these words with the alternatives *bildirish*, *emchi*, and *ro'znoma* on the grounds that they were of foreign origin. However, such proposals were not implemented because they lacked both scientific and practical justification”[3: 10]. Therefore, it can be understood that a term proposed for nationalization should not only be common to the Turkic languages but also be acceptable to the public and capable of being actively used in everyday communication. The nationalization of terminology is not merely a linguistic process; it is also a social process. The formal approval of new terms in official documents does not, by itself, ensure their active use in society. On the contrary, if such terms are not systematically employed in mass media, administrative practices, and service sectors, the recommended equivalents may fail to become integrated into common usage. As a result, foreign terms and loanwords may continue to be used extensively in everyday speech instead of the proposed national alternatives.

In their work *Language and Culture*, M. Mirtojiev and N. Mahmudov provide a scientific justification for the effective use of the internal resources of the language, particularly dialects, in the process of terminology nationalization. The authors explain this process as follows: “The term *ikra* (fish roe/caviar) is used in the Khorezm dialect as *ulvildiriq*; *perekhod* (crossing/passage) is expressed as *to'l* in the Kashkadarya dialect and as *o'tkal* in the Mankent dialect; the term *otdikh* (rest) is used as *hordiq* in the Fergana dialect; and *avans* (advance payment) is expressed as *bo'nak* in the Andijan dialect.” This demonstrates that Uzbek dialects possess a rich lexical reserve that can serve as an important source for developing and nationalizing terminology. Many concepts expressed through borrowed terms already have native equivalents preserved in regional dialects, which can be adapted and incorporated into the standard language[2: 67]. These examples demonstrate that the Uzbek language, as a multi-dialectal linguistic system, possesses rich internal lexical resources. They indicate that many concepts expressed through borrowed terms may already have native equivalents preserved in regional dialects, which can serve as valuable sources for the development and nationalization of terminology.



Selecting lexical units preserved in regional dialects and incorporating them into the standard language in accordance with terminological needs can reduce dependence on foreign borrowings in the process of terminology nationalization. In *Language and Culture*, the authors also note that the nationalization of foreign terms involves certain challenges and explain possible approaches as follows:

“If a term is newly borrowed and does not belong to an existing terminological family, the solution is relatively simple. For example, *doza* may be replaced by *o‘lcham* (measure), *limit* by *cheklanma* (restriction), *revansh* by *o‘n* (revenge/rematch), and *silos* by *ko‘k achitma* (fermented green fodder). However, there are terms that serve as root elements for other terms or form part of compound terminological units. In such cases, it is necessary to take the entire terminological family into account when selecting or creating an Uzbek equivalent. For instance, the Uzbek term *muzqaymoq* was adopted in place of the Russian term *morozhenoye* (ice cream). It must be acknowledged that this is an exceptionally successful and elegant example of term creation.”

This view highlights that terminology nationalization requires not only linguistic creativity but also a systematic consideration of the semantic and derivational relationships among terms. The successful creation of terms such as *muzqaymoq* demonstrates that well-designed native equivalents can gain widespread acceptance and become a natural part of the language.”[2: 67] Therefore, the integration of dialectal units into the standard language is closely connected with their active use in social communication. In other words, when a particular lexical unit becomes widely used and begins to satisfy communicative needs by facilitating mutual understanding among speakers, it gradually becomes standardized and is incorporated into the literary language. The lexical items *hordiq* (rest) and *bo‘nak* (advance payment), cited in *Language and Culture*, have today become part of the standard Uzbek language and are included in the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language*. This situation confirms the socially grounded nature of language development, demonstrating that linguistic norms are shaped not only through formal normative decisions but also through actual language use and communicative practice.

R.Doniyorov explains that, despite the intensified efforts to nationalize terminology during the years of independence, the internal resources of the Uzbek language were not always utilized appropriately: “Creating terms on the basis of the native language’s own resources is one of the fundamental principles of terminology development. However, for a period of two or three years, this principle was largely disregarded. For example, *samolyot* (airplane) was replaced with *tayyora*, while *aeroport* and *aerodrom* were replaced with *tayyoragoh*. Consequently, the term *tayyorachi* also emerged. As a result, we abandoned our own established term *uchuvchi* (pilot). Similarly, the originally Uzbek term *bo‘lim* (department) was replaced by *shu‘ba*. Some newly proposed terms likewise fail to meet the necessary requirements. For instance, the lexeme *o‘yingoh*, which is currently used in the press, originally has a broad meaning. It may refer to any place where games, performances, or entertainment activities take place, such as a theatre, circus, cinema, children’s playground, wrestling arena, and so on. Therefore, *o‘yingoh* is a generic term. However, it has now been assigned a much narrower meaning, being used exclusively to denote a stadium.” This observation illustrates that the nationalization of terminology should not merely involve replacing foreign terms with native alternatives. Proposed equivalents must also satisfy semantic, functional, and communicative requirements. Otherwise, they may create ambiguity, distort existing meanings, or displace well-established native terms that are already fully integrated into the language.”[5: 22]

The process of terminology nationalization should not be viewed solely as a linguistic issue; rather, it is a complex phenomenon shaped by social, historical, and political factors. On the one hand, it is necessary to utilize the internal resources of the language and preserve its national character. On the other hand, there is a need to maintain integration with the global scientific



community. Therefore, when creating and selecting terms, consideration should be given not only to their national character but also to their practical applicability, comprehensibility, and scientific precision. In Uzbekistan, the regulatory framework governing the activities of the Terminology Commission was revised several times, with new editions and requirements being adopted in response to evolving language policy objectives. During the period of its operation, the Terminology Commission developed numerous Uzbek-language equivalents that enriched the national terminological system, many of which continue to be actively used today. Through its activities, the Commission played an important role in shaping and standardizing Uzbek terminology in various fields. However, this institution was dissolved in the 2000s, bringing an end to its direct role in coordinating terminology policy and development[1: 221]. The dissolution of the Terminology Committee weakened the centralized coordination of terminology development, the scientific evaluation of newly proposed terms, and the systematic introduction of such terms into practical usage. As a result, the rapid expansion of internet communication and information technologies significantly accelerated the influx of foreign terms into the Uzbek language. For example, in the fields of the internet and digital technologies, terms such as server, login, online, platform, interface, chat, blogger, streaming, content, target, and startup became widely used. Due to the absence of a sufficiently developed system of terminological monitoring, the practical adoption and usage of newly proposed terms were not regularly assessed. Consequently, a gap emerged between language planning and actual language practice, creating inconsistencies between officially recommended terminology and the vocabulary used in everyday communication and professional discourse.

The weakening of a scientifically grounded, systematic, and centralized language policy in the field of terminology has had a negative impact on the development of the state language. In particular, the absence of a unified approach to the creation of new terms, their scientific evaluation, and their consistent implementation in нормативе legal documents, official administrative practices, and broader communicative environments has contributed to the growth of terminological inconsistencies. As a result, parallel usage of different terms for the same concept has become more common, reducing terminological uniformity and creating challenges for effective communication across academic, professional, and public domains. This situation highlights the importance of coordinated terminology management as an essential component of language policy and language development.

This situation demonstrated the necessity of implementing a consistent language policy aimed at promoting the development of the state language through continuous monitoring, scientific coordination, and systematic planning. Consequently, in subsequent stages, the need emerged to re-establish the Terminology Commission and to strengthen language policies directed at expanding the scientific and official use of the state language. These developments reflected a growing recognition that effective terminology management requires not only the creation of new terms but also institutional support, regular evaluation, and coordinated implementation mechanisms. Such measures were considered essential for ensuring the sustainable development of Uzbek terminology and enhancing the role of the state language in academic, professional, and public spheres.

The re-establishment of the Terminology Commission in 2019, pursuant to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “On Measures for Organizing the Activities of the Terminology Commission,” marked the beginning of a new institutional stage in the centralized management of terminology policy in Uzbekistan. This resolution reaffirmed terminology regulation as one of the priority areas of state language policy and sought to address the terminological inconsistencies that had emerged during the preceding period. The reactivation of the Commission provided an institutional framework for coordinating terminology development,



evaluating newly proposed terms, and promoting greater consistency in the use of terminology across different sectors. It also reflected the government's commitment to strengthening the role of the state language and ensuring a more systematic approach to terminology planning and standardization.

In 2024, in order to fundamentally improve the regulation of terminology, the Resolution "On Further Improving the Activities of the Terminology Commission" was adopted. Under this resolution, the Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature and Folklore of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan was designated as the Commission's working body.

The resolution assigned several key responsibilities to the working body. These include conducting scientific studies of newly proposed words and terms; carrying out expert evaluations of proposals related to new terminology; publishing expert-reviewed terms for public discussion; considering proposals, opinions, and recommendations received during public consultations at expanded meetings of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature and Folklore with the participation of specialists from relevant fields; submitting recommendations on new words and terms to the Terminology Commission; and implementing measures to disseminate and promote new words and terms approved by the Commission. These provisions established a more systematic and participatory mechanism for terminology management by combining scientific expertise, public consultation, and institutional coordination. As a result, the process of creating, evaluating, approving, and introducing new terms into public usage was placed on a more comprehensive and transparent basis[6]. One of the priority directions of language policy during these years was the nationalization of terminology. In this regard, a range of measures were undertaken to develop Uzbek-language equivalents for foreign terms, regulate terminology usage, and strengthen the role of the state language in various spheres of social and professional communication. The main activities carried out in this area included the following.

Pursuant to Protocol No. 62 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on 30 June 2025, a number of new words and terms intended for official use and formed in accordance with the rules and norms of the Uzbek language were approved. These included, among others, *avans – bo'nak* (advance payment), *avtopilot – avtoboshqaruv* (autopilot), *aysberg – muztog'* (iceberg), *body camera – yonkamera* (body camera), *bryzgovik – loyto'skich* (mudguard), *vnedorozhnik – yo'ltanlamas* (off-road vehicle), *diskussiya – bahs*, *munozara* (discussion), *dostavka – yetkazish* (delivery), *zona – hudud* (zone), *karving – o'ymabezak* (carving), *coworking – ish markazi* (coworking space), *koridor – yo'lak* (corridor), *kotlovan – xandak* (excavation pit), *lider – yo'l boshchi, yetakchi* (leader), *master class – mahorat darsi* (master class), *navigator – yo'llagich* (navigator), *nazhdak – qumqog'oz* (sandpaper), *otvortka – buragich* (screwdriver), *pereplyot – muqovalash* (binding), *svetofor – yo'lchiroq* (traffic light), and *challenge – chorlov* (challenge), among approximately forty approved terms. The fact that some of these terms were selected on the basis of lexical units already existing in common usage increases the likelihood of their natural acceptance by speakers. At the same time, the process demonstrates the consistent and scientifically grounded work being carried out by the Terminology Commission under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its working body, the Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature and Folklore of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Their activities reflect an ongoing effort to strengthen the national terminological system while ensuring that newly proposed terms remain linguistically appropriate, practically applicable, and accessible to the broader public.

In the era of globalization, foreign terms and loanwords are increasingly used in the speech of specialists, middle-aged speakers, and especially younger generations. At present, words such as *dostavka* (delivery), *pereplyot* (binding), and *challenge* are widely used in everyday communication. This situation slows the integration of newly proposed Uzbek equivalents into



common usage. Language is acquired not only through hearing but also through visual exposure. For this reason, the use of Uzbek-language equivalents on signboards, advertising banners, digital platforms, and service-related materials is of considerable importance. For example, advertisements currently promoting pereplyot xizmati (“binding service”) could instead use the Uzbek equivalent muqovalash xizmati. Likewise, the widespread term dostavka could be replaced by yetkazish across social media platforms, business signage, mobile applications, and vehicles providing delivery services. The consistent visual representation of the term yetkazish in these contexts would contribute to its broader recognition and acceptance among language users. Similarly, the term challenge, which is frequently used to label short videos on social media platforms, could be replaced with the Uzbek equivalent chorlov. The systematic use of chorlov in digital communication would increase public familiarity with the term and support its integration into everyday language. These examples demonstrate that the success of terminology nationalization depends not only on the creation and official approval of new terms but also on their continuous visibility and practical use in public communication.

Conclusion, during the years of independence, the nationalization of terminology became one of the priority directions of language policy in Uzbekistan. Significant efforts were made to utilize the internal resources of the Uzbek language, create new national terms, and introduce them into practical use. The findings of this study demonstrate that the successful adoption of terminology depends not only on its scientific validity but also on public acceptance and its active use in everyday communication. Therefore, the effective development of the state language requires terminology policy to be implemented through scientific monitoring, public participation, and the active use of modern communication channels.

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