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## TERM: DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT AND ITS ESSENTIAL FEATURES

**Sadullaev Denis Bakhtiyorovich**

English Chair Bukhara State Medical Institute, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

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**Abstract.** *The place of terms in the lexical system of the language and the relationship between the term and the common word are determined in the given article. The linguistic features of the terminological vocabulary are revealed.*

**Keywords.** *term, language, definition, terminology*

**Introduction.** The terms and terminology are key concepts in science; the term provides accuracy, clarity and understanding of scientific thought. However, despite the most important place of these concepts in the system of scientific knowledge and a large number of studies, there is still no consensus on a number of fundamental issues of terminology: for example, there is no generally accepted definition of the term, discussions are underway about the requirements for the term, its grammatical expression, the issue of the place of terminology in the composition of the language has not been resolved, etc.

In this work, we will consider the existing opinions about the place of the term in the composition of the language, define its most important features and, based on this, we will try to give a definition of this concept.

Terminology is part of a special vocabulary, which includes words and phrases that name objects and concepts of various spheres of a person's professional activity and are not commonly used. A comprehensive study of special vocabulary as the main component of a language for special purposes begins in the 20th century. Terminology as the most important part of special vocabulary has been actively studied since the beginning of the 20th century. It becomes obvious that this is a special area of vocabulary, a system organized according to its own laws and requiring its own methods and techniques of study.

### Material and methods

Despite the large number of studies devoted to terms (see the works of G.O. Vinokur, A.A. Reformatsky, D.S. Lotte, B.N. Golovin, V.M. Leichik, V. P. Danilenko, O. V. Zagorovskaya, T. L. Kandelaki, A. A. Superanskaya, S. V. Grineva, L. A. Kapanadze, A. S. Gerda, S. D. Shelova and many others), one of the main problems of comprehending and studying the term as a linguistic category in modern Russian linguistics is its definition. During the study of the peculiarities of the term and terminology, a significant number of definitions of the concept of "term" have been accumulated. AV Superanskaya explains the existence of various interpretations of the term "term" primarily by the fact that "... among representatives of different disciplines it is associated with their own special concepts and ideas, has an unequal amount of content and is defined in their own way" [14, p. ... eleven].

However, in all logical definitions of the term, its connection with the concept is put forward in the first place [10]. Wed: "Terms are special words, limited by their special purpose; words striving to be unambiguous as an exact expression of concepts and the naming of things "[13, p. 110];

"A term is a word (or phrase), the linguistic sign of which is correlated (connected) with the corresponding concept in the system of concepts of the given field of science and technology" [8, p. 35]; "Term is a word or phrase of a special (scientific, technical, etc.) language, created (adopted, borrowed, etc.) for the exact expression of special concepts and designation of special subjects" [1, from. 474]; "A term is a word (or word-combination), which is the unity of a sound sign and a corresponding (related) concept in the system of concepts of a given field of science and technology" [11, p. 19–20].

Thus, on the basis of the above, the ability of a term to designate a certain scientific concept, we consider it to be the most important feature: "for a term, a named concept is at the same time a named object, that is, the relationship "name-concept" dominates. Behind the term there is always an object of thought, but not a thought in general, but a special thought, limited by a certain field "[14, p. 34].

Numerous controversies are also caused by the problem of determining the place of terminology in the composition of the language. There are two main points of view on this issue: supporters of the normative approach (D.S. Lotte, L.A. Kapanadze, N.Z. Kotelova, E.N. Tolikina, A.V. Kosov, etc.) from the composition of the national language, come to the conclusion about the artificiality of the term as a special unit and consider the terminology as a system of artificially created signs, the term is subject to such requirements as fixed content (certainty), accuracy, unambiguity, lack of synonyms, multiple - bone and others, other scientists are supporters of the descriptive approach (N.P. Kuzkin, A.I. Moiseev, R.A. Budagov, R. Yu. Kobrin, V.P. Danilenko, B.N. Golovin and others) - they recognize the terminology as an integral part of the vocabulary of the literary language, they essentially refuse to limit the term to any formal requirements, emphasizing the need to study the real processes of the functioning of terminology. According to GO Vinokur, "terms are not special words, but only words in a special function ... Any word can act as a term, no matter how trivial it is" [2, p. five]. As V.P. Danilenko notes, "Terminology is regarded as a subsystem of the general literary language, that is, the terminology is within the general literary language, but as an independent "sector". This "administrative-territorial" position of terminology determines, on the one hand, the obligatory nature of general trends in the development of a general literary language, on the other hand, a certain freedom, independence in the development of terminology and even the possibility of its influence on the development of a general literary language. language "[4, p. eleven].

## Results and Discussion

Currently, the descriptive approach is the most recognized theory in special studies. However, the disadvantages inherent in this theory (for example, the lack of a generally accepted definition of the term), controversial and undeveloped aspects (the normative nature of terminology, its specificity in relation to a common language) gave rise to other theories. This is, for example, the concept of "linguistic substratum" proposed by V. M. Leichik, according to which the term is "a complex three-layer formation, including a) natural language substrate - a material (sound or graphic) component of the structure of the term, as well as the ideal (semantic) component of this structure, determined by the belonging of the term to the lexical system of one or another natural language; b) a logical superstratum, that is, meaningful features that allow the term to denote a general - an abstract or specific concept in a system of concepts; c) terminological essence, that is, meaningful and functional features that allow the term to perform the functions of an element of a theory describing a certain special area of human knowledge or activity "[10, p. 7]. Also, among alternative theories, one can name the point of view of A.V. Superanskaya and her followers: taking a position in understanding the essence of the term, in some respects similar to the point

of view of supporters of the descriptive approach (for example, recognizing the essential polysemy, synonyms and antonyms, multi component terms, the severity of terms in different parts of speech, etc.), she believes that “terminology forms an autonomous section of the vocabulary of the national language, which has little in common with the literary language, ... an independent zone with by their laws, sometimes not consistent with the norms of the literary language”, and the meaning of an individual term is revealed only in the system of concepts [14, p. 17-18].

In addition to the correlation of the term with the concept, in modern terminology there are a number of other important requirements that the term must meet: unambiguity, accuracy, compliance with the norms of the literary language, brevity, lack of emotionality and expressiveness, motivation, consistency, and etc. The specified conditions represent the requirements for the term, ideally, however, in practice, terms are found that do not correspond to them, but successfully serve the conceptual goals. Thus, the question of the obligatory nature of certain requirements remains at the present time highly controversial.

For example, the requirement of unambiguity is refuted when studying specific terminological systems, where polysemy is a very common phenomenon (see, for example, [6, 12]). Today, the prevailing opinion is that the unambiguity of a term is not a prerequisite, but only a tendency, a state to which any term system tends; in practice, the uniqueness of the term is achieved “Due to the restrictions imposed on it by the conditions of each terminological field” [15, p. 130]. However, it should be noted that in many cases, even within one terminological field, a term may have not one, but several lexical meanings, since the meaning of a term is determined, on the one hand, by the objective content of the corresponding concept, and on the other hand, by a certain subjective beginning, which is introduced by the researcher in order to clarify the boundaries of the content of a special concept denoted by the term [5, p. 58].

The requirement of accuracy is also controversial. In our opinion, the most legitimate is the point of view of scientists who believe that the accuracy of a term is achieved primarily by the accuracy of the use of terms. Obviously, inaccuracy, vagueness of meaning is characteristic of terms in the period of formation or rethinking.

Among the requirements for the term, they also name the compliance of the term with the norms of the literary language, orthoepic, lexical, derivational, grammatical, orthographic. However, it should be noted that any professional language in the course of its functioning can acquire some grammatical, stylistic and other features, which often leads to the emergence of professionalisms in a special sphere of communication. Thus, in our opinion, it is necessary to distinguish between lexical units, which are a professional version of the norm, from words that do not meet the rules of the literary language or go beyond its limits.

The requirement for brevity cannot be considered mandatory either. Moreover, the requirement for brevity may contradict the requirements for accuracy and systemicity [3; five; nine]. As AV Superanskaya rightly points out, “a term is not a common word, and accuracy is more important than brevity in it. In this regard, the verbosity of the term should not be regarded as its disadvantage. If any concept is designated with the help of a phrase consisting of a group of words that agree well with each other, this ensures the consistency of the term, and shows the connection of this concept with others” [14, p. 131].

The requirement of motivation, that is, “semantic transparency, which makes it possible to form an idea of the concept called by the term” [3, p. 34] is also ambiguous. As a rule, as the most important expression of the motivation of a term, it is noted that it is systematic, that is, the possibility of reflecting in the structure of a term the connection of a named concept with other concepts and the place of this concept in a given conceptual system. However, most researchers agree that this criterion does not play a decisive role, since the term still has a definition and occupies a certain place in the system. “In different

languages, the motivation for a word referring to the same subject may be different. For example, the Russian word “linen” is motivated by color (white), eng. linen - raw material (flax), German Wäsche - the main feature (erasable). The associations that served as the primary motivation can persist in the future, they can both change and completely disappear in the process of functioning in speech. So, the Russian expression “colored linen” ... testifies to the complete loss of this word of its original motivation ”[14, p. 89].

Such a criterion for a term as embeddedness means a preference for more widely used terms when compiling terminological recommendations. Another issue causing large-scale discussions in modern linguistics is the question of the grammatical expression of terms. According to a number of researchers (G. O. Vinokur, N. A. Shcheglova, A. A. Reformatsky, O.S. Akhmanova, etc.), the term can only be expressed by a noun or a phrase based on a noun. The position of the underlined nominative character of the term was refuted by many scientists (SD Shelov, IG Kozhevnikova, Yu. B. Zhidkova, VP Danilenko, AV Superanskaya, etc.). Currently, it is believed that terms can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and other parts of speech. The terms expressed by adjectives, adverbs and participles, as a rule, pass into the category of term elements - the constituent parts of a word combination, but this does not exclude their use in the function of terms in the texts of special literature and in professional communication. SD Shelov argues that “in a terminological dictionary focused on the conceptual, semantic system of a given area of knowledge, there is no need to have nominal forms“ at the entrance ”at all costs ... it is enough to define only that form of terminological expression , which requires its definition in this subject area. Therefore, in some terminological dictionaries, the input form of presenting a term is that part of speech that directly occurs in the definitional context ... Thus, the thesis that a term is always either a noun or a substantive phrase can hardly be accepted to establish a linguistic specifics of the term ”[16, p. 18-20].

## Conclusion

Thus, summarizing the above and sharing the point of view of a number of other scientists, we understand a term as a word or phrase correlated with a special concept, phenomenon or object in the system of any field of knowledge. The most important features of terminological linguistic units, we consider, first of all, the correlation with a certain scientific concept, accuracy and consistency. The requirements of unambiguity and brevity, in our opinion, cannot be considered as mandatory for modern terminological units, since many terminological nominations often turn out to be polysemantic and multicomponent.

We consider terminology to be an integral part of the vocabulary of the literary language, independent, but not isolated, which implies the subordination of terminology to general trends in the development of the literary language on the one hand, but also some independence on the other. We see the function of a scientist to a greater extent in the study and description of the state of terminological systems than in their strict artificial regulation; the normative restrictions imposed on terms, in our opinion, rather slow down, restrict the development of terminological systems than help them.

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