

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC AND FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LEXICAL UNITS EXPRESSING MILITARY CLOTHING AND RANKS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

Ismailov Abdurashid Isakovich

Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages, Uzbekistan

Abstract: *This article examines lexical units denoting military clothing and military ranks in the Uzbek language from lexical-semantic and functional perspectives. The study analyzes the sources of formation of these lexical units, their thematic classification, hierarchical structure, and functional usage in military discourse. Particular attention is paid to the nominative and terminological features of military uniform names and rank titles, as well as their role in reflecting social status and institutional hierarchy within the military system. The research findings contribute to the systematic study of Uzbek military terminology and provide a linguistic basis for further standardization and codification of sector-specific vocabulary.*

Keywords: *military vocabulary, military terminology, military uniform, military ranks, lexical-semantic analysis, nomination.*

In modern linguistics, the study of specialized vocabulary is considered one of the most relevant scholarly issues in this field. In particular, lexical units related to the military sphere, which occupies an important place in social life, are of great significance as a means of demonstrating the social and functional capacities of language. When discussing military vocabulary, units expressing military clothing and ranks occupy a special place, as they are regarded not only as linguistic units but also as markers reflecting specific social status, discipline, and hierarchical relations.

Although military terminology has been studied in general terms in Uzbek linguistics, there remains a need for a comprehensive study of lexical units expressing military clothing and ranks as a separate object of research. The aim of this article is precisely to reveal, as broadly as possible, the lexical-semantic and functional characteristics of this lexical layer.

Lexical units denoting military clothing are considered an important component of Uzbek military terminology. These lexical units play a significant role in identifying the external appearance of military personnel, the type of service they perform, the position they hold, and their functional duties. From a linguistic point of view, it becomes evident that these units mainly perform a nominative function and possess the characteristic of clearly denoting specific real objects. From a semantic perspective, military clothing vocabulary can be divided into several thematic groups:

1. General names of military clothing
2. Clothing elements and details
3. Distinctive signs and insignia

The first group includes lexical units denoting general types of clothing prescribed for military personnel. For example: *harbiy forma* (military uniform), *hizmat kiyimi* (service uniform), *dala formasi* (field uniform), *marosim formasi* (ceremonial uniform). These lexical units are stylistically neutral and are widely used in the official-administrative style. When speaking about clothing elements and details, this group includes lexemes that name the structural components of military clothing. For example: *bosh kiyim* (headgear), *pilotka* (side cap), *furajka* (peaked cap), *shinel* (greatcoat), *kurtka* (jacket), *kamzul* (tunic), *etik* (boots), *belbog'* (belt). These units mostly express concrete meanings and embody the functional and seasonal characteristics of military clothing.

The group of distinctive signs and insignia includes names that denote symbols indicating the position and service rank of military personnel. For example: *pogon* (shoulder boards), *nishon* (badge), *nashivka* (patch), *kokarda* (cockade), *orden* (order), *medal* (medal). These lexemes possess semiotic features and perform an identification function within the military system. From an etymological perspective, a considerable part of military clothing vocabulary entered the Uzbek language through Russian. However, over time, due to their phonetic and morphological adaptation to the norms of Uzbek, they have secured a firm place in the language as independent terms.

Lexical units expressing military ranks are terms that determine the service status of military personnel, their official rank, and their place within the command system. Such lexemes have a strict hierarchical structure and are of great importance in expressing relationships related to military administration through linguistic means. In the Uzbek language, military ranks are divided into the following hierarchical groups:

1) Enlisted ranks: *askar* (private), *katta askar* (senior private) - represent the initial stage of military service. What is meant by enlisted personnel? Enlisted personnel are military servicemen below officer ranks who usually serve directly in units, carry out orders, are considered combat soldiers, and may lead small groups. Junior enlisted personnel are divided into three main groups: *askarlar* (privates), *serjantlar* (sergeants) and *sratshina* (*starshina*) (in some countries). The private category is considered the lowest level and includes individuals who have just begun military service and do not command anyone. Moreover, they are regarded as the main combat soldiers in the military sphere. They typically perform a wide range of duties, including precisely executing orders, working with weapons and military equipment, engaging in combat, guarding, and standing duty. Senior privates, in turn, are more experienced than ordinary privates and are considered trusted members of the junior enlisted personnel, even though their authority is limited.

Their duties include setting an example for newly enlisted soldiers, leading small groups when necessary, and helping maintain discipline. Personnel belonging to the junior sergeant category are often referred to as junior commanders and may

command groups of 5–10 soldiers. Their responsibilities include leading a group or crew, conducting regular training with soldiers, and maintaining order and discipline among personnel. Sergeants, in turn, are considered military personnel with considerable experience and are mainly engaged in the practical work of directly dealing with soldiers. The duties performed by sergeants include assisting the platoon commander, being involved in personnel training, and supervising soldiers' weapons and equipment.

As for senior sergeants, they are regarded as highly qualified servicemen among junior enlisted personnel. In addition, they are military members who enjoy a high level of trust among personnel. They perform functional duties such as coordinating several small groups, being involved in the training of junior sergeants, and monitoring the execution of the commander's orders. The highest level among junior enlisted personnel is occupied by the rank of starshina. Holders of this rank are considered military servicemen with significant experience and very high responsibility. Starshinas are responsible for maintaining order and discipline within the unit, overseeing equipment and supply matters in the military formation, and serving as the commander's principal assistant.

2) Officer corps - the principal personnel layer in the armed forces system that performs the functions of command, planning, training, and conducting combat operations. In military theory, an officer is regarded as a professional subject of command. An officer is a serviceman with specialized military education who performs a number of functional duties in accordance with the powers established by the state. They are military personnel responsible for commanding personnel, planning combat and service activities in the military sphere, and making decisions. In academic literature, officers are defined as a "functional unit of military command." Structurally, officers are divided into three levels: kichik ofitserlar (junior officers): (tactical level), kichik leytenant (junior lieutenant), leytenant (lieutenant), katta leytenant (senior lieutenant) and kapitan (captain). Junior officers constitute the tactical command level of the military sphere. They command platoons, companies, and small units during military operations and combat. They are considered responsible for ensuring the direct execution of given orders.

Mid-level officers (operational–tactical level) include military personnel holding the ranks of mayor (major), podpolkovnik (lieutenant colonel), and polkovnik (colonel). From a scholarly perspective, the mid-level officer corps is engaged in operational planning and coordination. Moreover, they elevate tactical decisions made in the military sphere to the operational level.

3) Senior officers (generals) represent the operational–strategic level and include military personnel such as general mayor (major general), general leytenant (lieutenant general), general polkovnik (colonel general), and armiya generali (general of the army). They occupy leading positions in ensuring national security and implementing the state's defense policy. In addition, they are responsible for carrying

out functions such as command and control, planning, organizational activities, military education and training, as well as accountability and responsibility.

The officer corps is the intellectual foundation of the Armed Forces, the core of command, and the decisive factor in ensuring combat capability. Lexical units expressing military clothing and ranks are mainly used in the official-administrative style and in military discourse. Their sphere of usage is limited, as they are primarily found in orders, regulations, service documents, and military texts. Functionally, these lexemes ensure precision and strictness, maintain the normative character of military speech, and reflect discipline and hierarchy. At the same time, the vocabulary of military clothing and ranks is closely connected with national culture and history and also appears as a linguistic expression of military traditions.

Military clothing and ranks embody not only linguistic but also social and cultural features. Through them, social status in society, service hierarchy, and the structure of the state are reflected. In this sense, this lexical layer is also valuable material for linguocultural analysis.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study have shown that lexical units expressing military clothing and ranks constitute an independent and systematic layer of Uzbek military terminology.

They possess nominative, hierarchical, and functional characteristics and serve to express the social, cultural, and administrative aspects of the military system through language.

An in-depth study of this lexical layer contributes to the scientific systematization of Uzbek military terminology.

Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates that these lexical units reflect not only the structural organization of the armed forces but also the broader sociocultural values embedded within the language.

Their semantic structure reveals the close interconnection between language and institutional practices, highlighting how linguistic means are used to codify authority, discipline, and professional roles.

From a functional perspective, the precise and standardized nature of this vocabulary ensures clarity in communication, which is essential in military contexts where accuracy and unambiguity are critical.

In addition, the study of military clothing and rank terminology provides valuable insights into historical language development, borrowing processes, and adaptation mechanisms within Uzbek. This lexical layer therefore represents an important resource for further comparative, lexicographic, and linguocultural research.

Future studies may focus on diachronic changes, cross-linguistic comparisons, and the role of military discourse in shaping professional communication norms, thereby expanding our understanding of the interaction between language, society, and institutional structures.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Akhmedov, O.S. Linguistic Analysis and Translation Problems of Tax and Customs Terms in English and Uzbek. Doctoral Dissertation in Philology (DS). Tashkent, 2016. – p 23.
2. Imamiddinova, N.A. A Study of Contemporary Chinese Military Terminology. PhD Abstract in Philology. Tashkent, 2023. – 11 p.
3. Isaeva, E.D. Features of Japanese Military Terminology. Bulletin of Irkutsk State Linguistic University. Irkutsk, 2009. №4, pp. 29–34.
4. Leichik, V.M. Terminology Studies: Subject, Methods, Structure. Moscow: Librokom, 2009. – 256 p.
5. Military Encyclopedia in 8 volumes. Moscow: Voenizdat, 2004.
6. Le, A.V. Structural-Semantic Features of Contemporary Russian Military Terminology. Candidate of Philological Sciences Dissertation Abstract. Moscow, 2021. – 9 p.
7. Leichik, V.M. Subject, Methods, and Structure of Terminology Studies. Doctor of Philology Dissertation Abstract. Moscow, 1989. – 16 p.
8. Leichik, V.M. Nomenclature as an Intermediate Link Between Terms and Proper Names. Problems of Terminology and Linguistic Statistics. Voronezh, 1974. pp. 56–61.
9. Lukyanchuk, Yu.O. Methods of Classification of Military Terms. Scientific Notes of the National University. Kiev, 2017. №66, pp. 65–67.
10. Mirzoev, Z. Sports Terms in Tajik and English Languages. Candidate of Philology Dissertation. Dushanbe, 2005. – 210 p.