

LEXICAL –SEMANTIC FEATURES OF OCCUPATIONAL TERMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: *This article examines the lexical and semantic characteristics of occupational terms in English and Uzbek. It emphasizes how professional terminology reflects not only linguistic structures but also the socio-cultural realities of each nation. By conducting a contrastive analysis, the study identifies both common patterns and distinctive features in the formation and meaning of occupational vocabulary in both languages.*

Keywords: *occupational terms, lexical-semantic features, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics, terminology development*

INTRODUCTION

The lexical richness of a language, particularly the terminology related to occupations, plays an important role in reflecting the social structure and cultural values of a society. Every society has its own way of naming professions and trades, demonstrating the deep connection between language and culture. Studying occupational terms in English and Uzbek is significant not only for linguistics but also for understanding the history of social and cultural development. This article presents a comparative analysis of the formation and lexical-semantic features of occupational terms in English and Uzbek.

Formation of Occupational Terms in English and Uzbek

Occupational terms in both languages has evolved through various distinct historical processes and forms as an essential part of a language's lexical wealth, serving as a mirror of societal structure and cultural development. In Uzbek, many traditional occupations have names originating from ancient Turkic roots, such as *dehqon* (farmer), *usta* (craftsman), and *kulol* (potter) [[3, Alimov, 2009, p. 98]]. Modernization and foreign influence introduced terms like *muhandis* (engineer), *dasturchi* (programmer), and *menedjer* (manager) [[3, Alimov, 2009, p. 102]].

In English, occupational terms often trace back to Old English, Latin, Greek, and French sources. For example, *doctor* derives from Latin *docere* ('to teach'), *teacher* from Old English *tæcan* ('to show'), and *engineer* from Old French *engigneor* ('designer') [[2, Jackson & Amvela, 2007, p. 56]]. According to Bauer, lexical innovation in English has often been driven by technological change, globalization, and social restructuring [[7, Bauer, 2001, p. 112]]. Newer terms like *software developer*, *data analyst*, and *graphic designer* reflect these influences [[5, McArthur, 1992, p. 317]].

Lexical-Semantic Features

In both English and Uzbek ,occupational terms have distinct lexical and semantic features.

Structural Differences:

In English, occupational terms are often based on Latin and French sources and in modern usage ,many are compound expressions:

- Software engineer
- Flight attendant
- Marketing manager

Compounds efficiently express specialization, a feature intensified during the Industrial Revolution [[7, Bauer, 2001, p. 117]].

In Uzbek, occupational names generally remain simple:

- Dehqon (farmer)
- Duradgor (carpenter)
- Tikuvchi (tailor)

Hybrid forms like IT mutaxassisi (IT specialist) are emerging under technological influence [[8, Yusupova, 2017, p. 133]].

Semantic Differences:

While English terms often prioritize the function, Uzbek occupational names integrate cultural connotations. For example, dehqon not only denotes a farmer but also implies traditional values associated with land and landowner who works independently on his own land [[3, Alimov, 2009, p. 105]].

In English, the term artist is broad, including visual artists, performers, and musicians, while in Uzbek, rassom specifically refers to a painter or visual artist[[5, McArthur, 1992, p. 246]].

Polysemy and Semantic Shifts:

English occupational terms often exhibit polysemy. Driver can mean an operator of various mechanical devices , a software driver, or even a 'motivator' [[2, Jackson & Amvela, 2007, p. 117]]. In Uzbek, haydovchi mostly refers only to a vehicle driver [[4, Qilichev, Safarov, Madvaliyev, 1980, p. 189]].

Semantic changes and borrowing processes are accelerated in today's interconnected world, as noted by Wierzbicka [[9, Wierzbicka, 1997, p. 90]].

Conclusion

Occupational terminology in English and Uzbek shows that in both languages, these words reflect the division of labor ,cultural structure and technological advancements. In

English, occupational terms often demonstrates greater lexical complexity through compounding, while in Uzbek, they tend to be simple words along with strong cultural identity in its terms.

Both languages continue to enrich their occupational vocabulary as society and technology evolve. Studying occupational terminology provides a deeper understanding of the intrinsic link between language and society.

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