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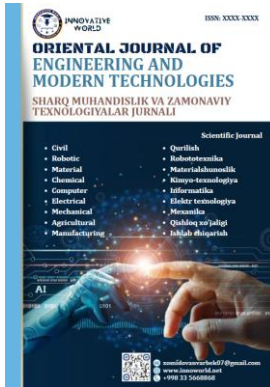


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MILITARY TERMINOLOGY IN LINGUISTICS: FEATURES, FUNCTIONS, AND CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract. This article investigates the linguistic features and cultural functions of military terminology, emphasizing its role in both professional and civilian discourse. Military terms, often originating in times of conflict, have expanded into everyday language, reflecting broader sociocultural and political realities. The paper analyzes their semantic characteristics, metaphorical usage, and cross-linguistic variations, with particular attention to English, Russian, and Uzbek.

Keywords: military terminology, linguistics, metaphor, cross-cultural communication, semantics, sociolinguistics, professional vocabulary, discourse analysis

Military terminology is one of the most dynamic subsystems of professional vocabulary. It reflects not only the specific needs of armed forces but also wider social, political, and cultural processes. Terms such as “operation”, “strategy”, or “frontline” are now used beyond their original military meaning, frequently appearing in business, politics, and media discourse. This study aims to explore the structure, semantics, and pragmatic functions of military terms, highlighting their role as linguistic tools that shape understanding of conflict, power, and authority.

From a linguistic perspective, terminology is a system of specialized lexical units used within a given field of knowledge. Military terminology can be classified into several groups: tactical (e.g., “flank”, “ambush”), strategic (“offensive”, “defense”), technological (“drone”, “radar”), and metaphorical (“cold war”, “battlefield of ideas”). Scholars such as Lotte (1961) and Kudashev (2008) have noted that military terms often undergo processes of metaphorization and semantic broadening when transferred into civilian domains. Furthermore, sociolinguistics emphasizes the role of military terms in constructing authority, discipline, and group identity.

This paper employs a comparative linguistic approach, analyzing military terms across English, Russian, and Uzbek languages. The corpus includes terminological dictionaries, military manuals, and examples from mass media discourse. Attention is paid to semantic shifts, pragmatic usage, and cross-cultural similarities and differences. Discourse analysis is applied to investigate how military terms function in both professional and civilian contexts.

4. Findings and Practical Examples

The analysis reveals several key tendencies:

1. «Direct Military Use» – Terms like “infantry”, “artillery”, and “airstrike” remain specific to military operations and are crucial for precision and clarity.

2. «Civilian Metaphorization» – Phrases such as “economic warfare”, “battle for market share”, or “frontline workers” during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrate metaphorical transfer of military vocabulary into civilian life.

3. «Cross-Linguistic Borrowings» – Many English terms (e.g., “radar”, “drone”) are directly borrowed into Russian and Uzbek, reflecting technological globalization.

4. «Hybrid Constructions» – In Uzbek and Russian media, code-switching often produces hybrid expressions, such as “strategiya bo'yicha offensive” or “операция success bilan tugadi”.

5. «Youth and Media Usage» – Military slang frequently appears in youth subcultures, computer games, and online forums, for example, “to camp”, “noob attack”, or “capture the base”, which blend professional terminology with popular culture.

The study confirms that military terminology is a highly dynamic subsystem with a dual role: providing accuracy in military operations and serving as a source of metaphors and stylistic devices in civilian communication. The expansion of military terms into everyday discourse reflects the militarization of public consciousness, where concepts of conflict, defense, and strategy are normalized. At the same time, cross-cultural comparison shows both universality (shared technological terms) and specificity (culture-bound idioms and metaphors). The integration of military terms into non-military contexts demonstrates the adaptability of language and its responsiveness to societal change.

Conclusion

Military terminology represents a vital intersection of language, culture, and power. Its influence extends beyond professional boundaries into everyday communication, where it shapes perception and frames discourse. Understanding the linguistic nature of military terms is crucial for interpreting media, politics, and cross-cultural communication. Future studies should expand to include cognitive and pragmatic dimensions, as well as the impact of digital communication on the spread of military vocabulary.

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