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SEMANTICIZATION OF MEDICAL TERMS RECOMMENDED FOR THE EXPLANATORY DICTIONARY OF THE UZBEK LANGUAGE AND SPECIALIZED TERMINOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the issue of semantization of medical terms in explanatory dictionaries of the Uzbek language and comparatively studies the principles of assigning terms in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language (EDUL)) and special specialized dictionaries. The study covers the lexical-semantic properties of medical terms, paradigmatic relationships, the role of terms in the general and terminological layers, and the criteria for their representation in dictionaries. It also analyzes the issues of classification, definition, and division of medical terms into semantic groups, and the need to differentiate the tasks of an explanatory dictionary and a special dictionary is substantiated. Based on the observations made, the criteria for systematicity, standardization, accuracy, and convenience of semantization of medical terms recommended for EDUL are proposed. The results of the study serve to provide a normative description of medical terms, improve lexicographic practice, and develop terminological culture.

KEYWORDS: Medical term, semantization, explanatory dictionary, EDUL, terminology, glossary, lexical-semantic field, definition, lexicology, terminology.

INTRODUCTION

The comprehensive representation of medical terms constituting a specific terminological system in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language (EDUL), as well as the description of their semantic features, expressive characteristics, and linguistic nature, is important for both linguistics and medicine. Therefore, investigating the lexical-semantic characteristics of medical terms reflected in the EDUL, their classification according to functional features, and their status as native or borrowed units remains a relevant issue for both disciplines.

It is well known that lexical units included in dictionaries constitute parts of particular lexical fields. According to their semantic nature, groups of lexemes form paradigmatic relations. Medical terminology is no exception. For example, arthritis, asthma, arteriosclerosis, hemorrhoids, goiter, and tachycardia belong to the paradigm of “disease names”; arthrologist, bacteriologist, cardiologist, oculist, and traumatologist form the paradigm of “medical specialists”; while arthroscopy and biosynthesis belong to the paradigm of “diagnostic and treatment procedures.” Thus, medical terms can be grouped into specific paradigms based on their semantic content.

Uzbek linguistics has produced numerous studies devoted to the semantic description and investigation of terminology. Scholars such as S. Akobirov, A. Hojiyev, N. Mamatov, R.

Doniyorov, H. Jamolxonov, O. Ramazonov, A. Madvaliyev, A. Husanov, M. Abdiyev, S. Azizov, H. Yodgorov, Z. Mirahmedova, I. Qo‘chqortoyev, A. Nurmonov, H. Ne’matov, R. Rasulov, E. Begmatov, A. Sobirov, and Sh. Iskandarova have examined semantic word formation and lexical-semantic processes in their dissertations and monographs. Studies by S. Ibrohimov focused on occupational terminology, while T. Mirzaqulov and M. Abduvaliyev investigated the morphologic and syntactic aspects of functional-semantic fields. These works analyze words from semantic perspectives and reveal their valency potential through illustrative examples.

The representation of terms in the EDUL and specialized dictionaries differs considerably. Some entries require further clarification. According to terminological norms, terms should generally be represented by nouns or substantivized forms. However, dictionaries also contain terms expressed through other parts of speech.

In the research of G. M. Ismailov, the use of terms across multiple disciplines is interpreted as a result of transterminologization. The scholar argues that sociological factors may also contribute to this process and identifies three stages of terminological development:

1. Formation of terms from common words (e.g., mouth in botany, key in music);
2. Transformation of terms into common lexical units (e.g., telephone, weight);
3. Enrichment of terminology through its own resources (e.g., chechak, gul).

The semantic development of terms is closely connected with semantic transfer mechanisms such as metaphor, metonymy, and functional analogy. For instance, the Uzbek term ko‘richak (“blind intestine”) originally referred to a section of the intestine closed at one end. Today, however, it is often used to denote a disease. In reality, the disease is appendicitis, derived from the inflamed appendix attached to the cecum. Nevertheless, in popular usage the condition is commonly referred to as ko‘richak. This distinction is not sufficiently clarified in the EDUL.

The following entries are presented in the EDUL as common lexical units:

- Qabziyat – constipation; difficulty or delay in bowel movements.
- Tos suyagi – the pelvic bone supporting the spinal column and connected to the femur.
- Tanosil – skin disorders
- Titrama – tremor; shivering.
- Migren – a neurological disorder characterized by severe headache, usually affecting one side of the head.

Although these words function as common vocabulary items, they are also medical terms. In the EDUL they are presented without field labels (e.g., med., law, anat.). Words such as mouth, brain, throat, constipation, pelvic bone, reproductive, and tremor are treated as general lexemes, yet their definitions clearly relate to medicine. Since they simultaneously function as medical terms, they should be marked with the label med..

In A. Qosimov’s Explanatory Dictionary of Medical Terms, lexical units are described differently and in greater detail. The dictionary includes disease names, body organs, treatment methods, medical equipment, diagnostic procedures, and related concepts such as recurrent nerve syndrome, diabetes mellitus, tibia, eyelid tremor symptom, forceps, and sand bath. The inclusion of both native and borrowed terms provides clarification of virtually all medical issues, making the dictionary useful even for non-specialists.

In the EDUL, medical terminology is predominantly represented by nouns, such as tumor, allergen, adenoma, bandage, probe, liver, hepatitis, and reproductive organ. However, some

terms are formed through derivational affixes, including adjectives and abstract nouns: allergic, ammoniacal, antiseptic, infertility, weakness, nervousness, and others.

According to R. Sayfullayeva and B. Mengliyev, a general explanatory dictionary should provide information on grammatical, stylistic, phraseological, etymological, and homonymic features of lexical units. Therefore, the inclusion of numerous speech variants of terms may create difficulties, such as expanding dictionary volume unnecessarily and causing confusion through excessive semantic variation.

Examples from the EDUL include:

- Toxins – poisonous substances produced by microorganisms, animals, or plants.
- Adenoids – enlargement of the nasopharyngeal tonsil.
- Antibodies – substances produced by the body in response to antigens.
- Ammoniacal – containing ammonia.
- Allergic – related to or caused by allergy.
- Allergological – pertaining to allergology.
- Microbes – see microorganisms.
- Microelements – chemical elements present in very small quantities in living organisms.

In our view, such terms should primarily be represented as nouns. Since the explanatory dictionary is intended for a broad readership, a concise terminological description is sufficient. The inclusion of both nominal and adjectival forms is more appropriate for specialized dictionaries, where users require comprehensive information about professional terminology.

A similar issue arises with terms belonging to the same semantic family:

- Microbiologist – a specialist in microbiology.
- Microbiological – related to microbiology.
- Microbiology – the science studying microorganisms, their structure, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, classification, and significance in nature and human life.

These units belong to the same semantic nest and could be represented more economically within the explanatory dictionary. Presenting each derivative as an independent terminological entry reflects the practice of specialized dictionaries rather than general explanatory lexicography. Since the primary purpose of the EDUL is to distinguish common vocabulary from specialized terminology, semantic representation of the core term is often sufficient.

In specialized medical dictionaries, however, the inclusion of morphologically derived forms is justified. For example:

Coagulants (Lat. coagulans – causing coagulation) – blood-clotting agents that accelerate coagulation processes, including thrombin, fibrinogen, vicasol, and others.

Such practice complies with the principles of specialized lexicography because these dictionaries are designed for professionals and researchers who require detailed knowledge of domain-specific terminology.

The conducted analysis demonstrates that the semanticization of medical terms in the EDUL should be based on a clear distinction between the functions of general explanatory dictionaries and specialized terminological dictionaries. Medical terms in the EDUL should: (1) be clearly marked with field labels, (2) be defined through concise but sufficient definitions, and (3) be organized through cross-references and synonymic links. When common words acquire terminological meanings (mouth, brain, throat, constipation, etc.), their medical relevance should be indicated through the label med., thereby improving usability.

Furthermore, the excessive inclusion of derivational variants belonging to a single semantic family, such as the microbiology group, contradicts the principles of conciseness and normativity expected of explanatory dictionaries.

Therefore, the semanticization of medical terms recommended for inclusion in the EDUL should be improved according to the principles of systematicity (paradigm–syntagm–hierarchy), normativity (field labeling), precision (core definitional structure), and usability (cross-referencing). Such improvements would enhance the normative value of the dictionary, facilitate public understanding of medical terminology, and contribute to the development of terminological culture.

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