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Lexical Stratification Of Agricultural Terminology In The Uzbek Language: Native And Borrowed Layers

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the lexical composition of agricultural terminology in the Uzbek language, specifically focusing on the native and borrowed layers. The study identifies the main sources of borrowed terms, including Russian, Arabic, and Persian, and contrasts them with native Uzbek terms that have emerged from traditional practices and folk experience. The article highlights the necessity of enriching and standardizing agricultural vocabulary to reflect both historical heritage and contemporary linguistic needs. By analyzing select examples, the research contributes to the understanding of how lexical stratification shapes the development of specialized terminology in Uzbek.

Keywords:

Uzbek language, agricultural terminology, lexical stratification, native words, borrowed terms, language development

Introduction. As one of the oldest fields of human activity, agriculture has played a significant role in the historical and linguistic development of the Uzbek people. With the advancement of agricultural science and the expansion of international cooperation, the vocabulary used in this domain has also evolved. The formation and systematization of agricultural terminology reflect not only scientific progress but also deep cultural and historical layers. In the Uzbek language, agricultural terms are characterized by their lexical stratification into native and borrowed categories, which reveals the dynamics of linguistic change and the influence of external factors over time.

Theoretical Foundations of Lexical Stratification. Lexical stratification in a language involves the classification of vocabulary according to its origin, development, and functional use. This stratification becomes particularly evident in specialized domains such as agriculture, where

interaction between native linguistic resources and borrowed influences has been especially active. The theoretical basis of the study relies on the works of linguists who emphasize the significance of understanding the origins of terms in ensuring terminological clarity and effectiveness.

In the context of Uzbek agricultural terminology, native terms are those formed within the language through derivational or compound processes, often rooted in daily life, traditional practices, or indigenous knowledge. Borrowed terms, on the other hand, have entered the language through prolonged contact with other cultures and languages, particularly during historical periods of political or scientific influence.

Native Agricultural Terms in Uzbek. Native Uzbek terms often reflect centuries-old agricultural practices and are derived from the lived experience of farming communities. For instance, words such as *yer* (land), *ekmoq* (to sow), *hosil* (harvest), *urug'* (seed), and *dehqon*

(farmer) are deeply embedded in the Uzbek linguistic and cultural context. These terms are widely understood, emotionally resonant, and frequently used in both spoken and written language.

Such terms are typically formed through affixation, reduplication, or compounding, showcasing the morphological richness of the Uzbek language. For example:

- *Sug'orish* (irrigation) – derived from *suv* (water) with the affix *-g'orish*
- *O'rmonzor* (wooded area) – compound of *o'rmon* (forest) + *zor* (abundant)

These native words often align closely with the phonetic and grammatical rules of Uzbek, enhancing linguistic consistency and ease of comprehension.

Borrowed Agricultural Terms. Borrowed terminology in Uzbek agriculture mainly comes from Russian, Arabic, and Persian, reflecting historical interactions, especially during the Soviet era and earlier Islamic cultural exchanges. These borrowed terms have been integrated into Uzbek with varying degrees of phonetic, morphological, and semantic adaptation.

Examples include:

- *Traktor* (tractor) – from Russian
- *Agrokimyo* (agrochemistry) – a hybrid compound, combining Greek and Russian roots
- *Irriqatsiya* (irrigation) – from Latin via Russian
- *Melioratsiya* (land reclamation) – from Latin via Russian
- *Fermer* (farmer) – from French via Russian

While these borrowed terms are useful for expressing new concepts introduced through scientific advancement, they may sometimes pose challenges for comprehension among rural populations unfamiliar with non-native vocabulary.

The Interaction of Native and Borrowed Layers

In the current stage of terminological development, the coexistence of native and borrowed terms creates both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, borrowed terms fill lexical gaps, especially when native

equivalents are lacking. On the other hand, the overuse or inappropriate borrowing of foreign words can lead to redundancy, confusion, and dilution of linguistic identity.

For example, both *dehqon* (native) and *fermer* (borrowed) refer to individuals engaged in agriculture, but they may carry different connotations in terms of scale, legal status, or modernity. Similarly, the coexistence of *sug'orish* (native) and *irriqatsiya* (borrowed) demonstrates how linguistic stratification reflects both traditional and modern dimensions of agricultural knowledge.

Recommendations for Terminological Improvement

To enhance the efficiency and clarity of agricultural communication, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Encourage the use of native terms wherever possible, especially in educational and media materials aimed at rural communities.
- Standardize borrowed terms by adapting them to Uzbek phonological and morphological norms.
- Support terminological unification projects that involve both linguists and agricultural experts.
- Promote public awareness of the richness of native agricultural vocabulary to preserve cultural heritage.

Conclusion. The lexical stratification of Uzbek agricultural terminology into native and borrowed layers reveals the linguistic, historical, and cultural dynamics that have shaped the development of this vital sector. A balanced approach to preserving native vocabulary while judiciously integrating borrowed terms can enhance communication, foster national identity, and support agricultural progress. The ongoing study and refinement of terminology in this field are essential for the development of a linguistically robust and culturally resonant Uzbek agricultural discourse.

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