

Military Terminology in the Uzbek Language: Historical Roots, Development and Modern Status

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Abstract

This article examines the historical evolution, origin, stages of development, and the process by which military terms from other languages have entered the Uzbek language, as well as the state of military terminology in Uzbek throughout various periods.

Key terms: History, Soviet era, characteristics, modern appearance, adaptation, influence of Persian and Arabic languages, flexibility.

Military terminology is an integral part of every language, and the Uzbek language is no exception. Military terminology reflects the history of society, its relations with neighboring nations, and cultural and political changes. This article discusses the origin, development, and distinctive features of military terms in the Uzbek language.

Historical Roots:

Since Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language group, its military terminology has been inherited from ancient Turkic peoples. The military terms in the Uzbek language have deep historical roots. In the Middle Ages, various peoples living in the territory of Uzbekistan, including Turks, Mongols, Arabs, and Persians, created their own military systems and terminology. Particularly during the era of Amir Timur, the military culture and terminology of the Uzbek people developed, and many new concepts were introduced. The military terms used in that era helped shape many modern terms. For example, the term "Qo'shin" (army) comes from Persian and was widely used in the military structures of many countries and states. The term "Bosh qo'mondon" (supreme commander) was used alongside "sarkarda" (commander or generals) during the Timurid period. Additionally, terms like "qalqon" (shield), "suvori" (cavalry), and "zirh" (armored fortress) were used as early as the era of nomadic tribes.

Furthermore, the military terminology in Uzbek has been greatly influenced by Persian and Arabic languages. This influence is mainly related to historical contacts and cultural changes. For instance, the term "lashkar" (army) comes from Persian, and the term "jang" (war) originates from Arabic.

Influence of the Russian Empire and the USSR:

The integration of Central Asia into the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union led to the incorporation of many military terms from the Russian language into the Uzbek language. As a result, many Uzbek words merged with Russian military terms, forming new concepts. For example, terms like "tank," "army," and "division" entered the modern military vocabulary. Words such as

“pulemyot” (machine gun), “granata” (grenade), and “pogon” (epaulet) are specifically loanwords from Russian.

During that period, military terms in the Uzbek language were often used alongside Russian terms, which had a significant influence on the development of Uzbek military terminology. In particular, military terms in the Uzbek language had to be flexible, not only for international study but also for international practice and communication.

At the same time, during the Soviet era, Uzbek equivalents for Russian military terms were also created. For example, words like “o‘quvchi” (cadet) and “qo‘mondon” (commander) were introduced and began to be widely used.

Independence and Modern Status:

After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, special attention was given to national culture and language, including military terminology. Today, Uzbek military terms are developing in harmony with Turkic roots, Soviet heritage, and modern international borrowings. Modern military terms are often translated from English, Russian, and other languages into Uzbek or used in flexible forms. For example:

- “Komandir” — the Russian word “командир” is widely used in Uzbek and refers to a military leader.

- “Sarkarda” — refers to the chief military leader or commander, originating from Old Turkic.

- “Diviziya” (division) and “Brigada” (brigade) are terms borrowed from Russian.

Currently, there is a strong focus on adapting international terms into the Uzbek language. For instance, words like “dron” (drone) and “kiberhujum” (cyberattack) are rapidly becoming common. At the same time, efforts are being made to develop national terminology, which contributes to strengthening our national identity.

Additionally, special courses and textbooks on military terminology are being developed in educational institutions in Uzbekistan, helping with the further modernization of the military sector. Expanding the lexicon of military terms in the Uzbek language, harmonizing old and new terms, and understanding and applying modern military technologies are of significant importance.

Distinctive Features of Uzbek Military Terminology:

1. Multilayeredness: Uzbek military terminology consists of a blend of various cultural influences, including ancient Turkic, Persian, Arabic, and modern international influences.

2. Conciseness and expressiveness: Words like “jangchi” (fighter) and “hujum” (attack) have clear and impactful meanings.

3. Focus on nationality: Reviving and using ancient terms like “qo‘sh” (army) serves to develop national traditions.

Conclusion:

Military terms in the Uzbek language are an important part of our history and culture. They are evolving in a way that maintains a balance between tradition and modernity in a changing world. This makes Uzbek military terminology relevant not only on a national level but also on an international scale. Today, these terms play an essential role in military operations, education, and international relations. Furthermore, processes of enriching and modernizing military language continue.

Studying military terminology contributes significantly to the development of the Uzbek language, as well as to understanding national culture and history.

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