

The Stylistic Essence and the Functions of Terminological Words

Guluzro O'rinboyeva

Teacher, Andijan state university, Andijan, Uzbekistan

Annotation. This article discusses specific features of terms in Modern English and Uzbek which studies isomorphic and allomorphic features of terms in compared languages. It investigates characteristics of different terminology, such as, linguistic, medical, physical terminology.

Key words: term, scientific, linguistic terminology, conventional character.

"All scientists are linguists to some extent. They are responsible for devising a consistent terminology, a skeleton language to talk about their subject-matter. Philologists and philosophers of speech are in the peculiar position of having to evolve a special language to talk about language itself."

This quotation makes clear one of the essential characteristics of a term, its highly conventional character. A term is generally very easily coined and easily accepted; and new coinages as easily replace outdated ones. This sensitivity to alteration is mainly due to the necessity of reflecting in language the cognitive process maintained by scholars in analyzing different concepts and phenomena. One of the most characteristic features of a term is its direct relevance to the system or set of terms used in a particular science, discipline or art, to its nomenclature.

When a term is used other mind immediately associates it with a certain nomenclature. A term is directly connected with the concept it denotes. A term, unlike other words, directs the mind to the essential a quality of the thing, phenomenon or action as seen by the scientist in the light of his own conceptualization.¹

"A word is organically one with its meaning; likewise a term is one with a concept. Conceptualization leaves, as it were, language behind, although the words remain as (scientific or philosophical) term. Linguistically the difference is important in that terms are much more easily substitutable by other terms than are words by other words: it is easier to replace, say, the term phonology by phonemics (provided I make it clear what is meant), than to replace everyday words like table and chair by other words."

Their main stylistic function is to create the true-to-life atmosphere. Terms are used to create a historical background of local colouring, elevation, humorous atmosphere of the narration. For example medical terms which appear in Cronin's "The Citadel" are used to create a true to life atmosphere of historical, ward, laboratory. "Good", *Abbey said in a friendly manner. He took up a specimen- it was an aneurism of the ascending aorta-and began to question Andrew.*

In this connection it is interesting to analyze the stylistic effect of the medical terminology used by A. J. Cronin in his novel "The Citadel". The frequent use of medical terms in the novel is explained by its subject-matter—the life of a physician—and also by the fact that the writer himself is a physician and finds it natural to use medical terminology.

So, terms are words denoting notions of some special field of knowledge. Here we'd like to give some more examples in order to explain better: linguistic terminology: phoneme, allomorph, allophone, microlinguistics, vocalism, synchronism, in Uzbek: o'zak, negiz, sinonim, antonim, urg'u, bo'g'in, allomorf, allofon, leksika, and sintagma; physical terminology: amplitude, anode, time wave, electron air, nuclear mass, charge, in Uzbek: amplituda, anod, zaryadlar almashishi, radioaktiv, manba, og'ir ion, gormon, azot, qarshilik, tezlik, kuch, ish, vaqt, bosim; medical terminology: antibiotic, penicillin, endocarditic, injection: in Uzbek: antibiotik, miokardit, parodontoz, pleksit, tetratsiklin, ampitsilin, novokain and music terminology in Uzbek: nota, duet, kvartet, aria and hor.

¹ Galperin I. R. An Essay in Stylistic Analysis. M., Higher School, 1968.

Let's see the following text from a physical magazine and analyze its vocabulary: *Buckling is a well-known stability associated with the loading of thin walled structures. The term "buckling" here is a generic one and incorporates all abrupt changes in the deformation pattern of a shell, occurring in the course of a loading process. In mathematical terms the corresponding phenomenon is called "bifurcation" and it involves the loss of uniqueness in the solution of the (always nonlinear) governing equations for the pertaining boundary value problem describing the deformation of the structure in question.*

In this extract taken from the "Journal of the Mechanic and Physics of Solids" approximately each word used in the text may be considered as a physical or mathematical terms. Thus, the word *buckling* means — узнасага қайрилган, *loading* — кучни тақсимлаш, *bifurcation* — иккиланиш (бифуркация), *uniqueness* — ягоналик, бирлик, *nonlinear* — бетартиб, *equations* — тенглама, *boundary value* — чегара шарт.

Generally terms are used in the language of science but with certain stylistic purpose they may be used in the language of emotive prose. For example, Arch. Cronin employed a lot of medical terms in some of his books. All this is done to make the narration bright, vivid and close to life. We can see the following extract from the novel by A. Cronin "The Citadel":

In this condition he sat in his *surgey* one evening towards the end of April. It was nearly nine o'clock and he was about to close up, when a young woman entered.

She gazed at him uncertainly . . .

She puffed off her gloves. "It's my hands. . ."

He looked at her hands, the palms of which were covered by a reddish *dermatitis*, rather like *psoriasis*. But it was not *psoriasis*, the edges were not *serpiginous*. With sudden interest he took up a magnifying glass and peered more closely. Meanwhile she went on talking in her earnest, convincing voice.

"I can't tell you what a disadvantage this is to me in my work. I'd give anything to get rid of it. I've tried every kind of ointment under the sun. But none of them seem to be the slightest use".

"No! They wouldn't". He put down the glass, feeling the thrill of an obscure yet positive *diagnosis*. "This is rather an uncommon *skin condition*. Miss Gramb. It's no good *treating* it *locally*. It's due to a *blood condition* and the only way to get rid of it is by *dieting*."

"No *medicine!*" Her earnestness gave way to doubt. "No one ever told me that before."

"I'm telling you now." He laughed and, taking his pad, drew out a *diet* for her, adding also a list of foods which she must absolutely avoid.

In this extract the author uses the following medical terms as *dermatitis* (skin disease), *psoriasis* (a chronic skin disease) and common literary words which acquire the status of terms in the text: *diagnosis*, *blood condition*, *dieting*.

Besides this in the book we come across a number of other medical terms: *anticoryza vaccine* (vaccine against nasal catarrh), *carpopedal spasm*; (a state when a person loses control of his limbs), *Syndrome* (a group of symptoms that occur together and characterize a disease), *hypochondriac* (a person who is always imagining that he is ill) and others.

Th. Dreiser introduces a lot of *financial terms* in the novel "The Financier": *face value* (nominal value), *deposited as collateral* (placed in this qualification paper as additional security), *bidding* (offers at an auction), *conservative investments* (investments regarded as safe), *rush credit* and *transfer days* (days when there is much work to do in connection with credit operations and transfer of property), *Stock Exchange* (where stocks and bonds are brought and sold), *margin* (money or security deposited with a broker to safeguard him result of falling prices on the stock market) and others.

It is a well-known fact that terms are monosemantic and have not any contextual meaning, In most cases they have only a denotational free meaning. But a term may acquire a figurative or emotionally coloured meaning in case it is taken out of its sphere. When it is used in other styles but scientific it may cease to be a term and becomes an ordinary word.

This happens to the adjective "*atomic*" which lost its property of a term and acquired a metaphorical meaning in the phrases "*atomic age*", "*atomic ski*", "*atomic music*", "*atomic sword*". Compare the above given word combinations with the following word combinations which are used as scientific terms: *atomic energy* (energy obtained as the result of nuclear fission), *atomic bomb* {*bomb* of which the distinctive power comes from the release of atomic energy in the shortest possible time), *atomic reactor* *atomic weight*.

The filling up of difficult and special terms hinders the reader's understanding of the text if he is not a

specialist even when the writer strives to explain them. Moreover, such an accumulation of special terminology often suggests that the author is displaying his erudition. Maxim Gorki said that terms must not be overused. It has been pointed out that those who are learning use far more complicated terms than those who have already learned.

There is an interesting process going on in the development of any language. With the increase of general education and the expansion of technique to satisfy the ever-growing needs and desires of mankind, many words that were once terms have gradually lost their quality as terms and have passed into the common literary or even neutral vocabulary. This process may be called "de-terminization". Such words as 'radio', 'television' and the like have long been in-common use and their terminological character is no longer evident.

Brian Foster in his book "The Changing English Language" writes:

"...science is one of the most powerful influences molding the English language into fresh shapes at the present time. Scientific writing is not highly esteemed for its elegance—one Vecalls the tale of the scientist who alluded to a certain domain of enquiry as a 'virgin field pregnant with possibilities'—but scientific jargon and modes of thought inevitably come to the fore in a society which equates civilization with chromium-plated bath taps. Nor does the process date from yesterday, for we have long been talking of people being 'galvanized' into activity or going 'full steam ahead', but nowadays this tendency to prefer technical imagery is ever-increasing, so that science can truly be said to have 'sparked off a chain-reaction' in the linguistic sphere."

This quotation clearly shows how easily terms and terminological combinations become de-terminized. We hardly-notice sometimes the terminological origin of the words we use.

But such de-terminized words may by the force of a stylistic device become re-established in their terminological function, thus assuming a twofold application, which is the feature required of a stylistic device.

But when terms are used in their normal function as terms in work of belles-lettres, they are or ought to be easily understood from the context so that the desired effect in depicting the situation will be secured.

A term has a stylistic function when it is used to characterize a person through his calling.

It is a well – known fact that terms are monosemantic and have not any contextual meaning. In most cases they have a denotational free meaning. But in some situations a term may have a figurative or emotionally coloured meaning.

Here is an example of a moderate use of special terminology bordering on common literary vocabulary.

"There was a long conversation—a long wait. His father came back to say it was doubtful whether they could make the loan. Eight per cent, then being secured for money, was a small rate of interest, considering its need. For ten per cent Mr. Kuzel might make a call-loan. Frank went back to his employer, whose commercial choler rose at the report." Such terms as 'loan', 'rate of interest', and the phrase 'to secure for money' are widely known financial terms which to the majority of the English and American reading public need no explanation. The terms used here do not bear any special meaning. Moreover, if they are not understood they may to some extent be neglected. It will suffice if the reader has a general idea, vague though it may be, of the actual meaning of the terms used. The main task of the writer in this passage is not to explain the process of business negotiations, but to create the environment of a business atmosphere.

In this example the terms retain their ordinary meaning though their function in the text is not exactly terminological. It is more nearly stylistic, inasmuch as here the terms serve the purpose of characterizing the commercial spirit of the hero of the novel. However, they are not stylistic devices because they fail to meet the main requirement of a stylistic device.

Sometimes terms are used with a satirical function. The following is an example where a term is used as a stylistic device.

"What a fool Rawdon Crawley has been," Clump replied, "to go and marry a governess. There was something about the girl too."

"Green eyes, fair skin, pretty figure, famous frontal development" Squall remarked.

The combination 'frontal' and "development' are terminological in character (used sometimes in anatomy), they belong both to the common literary stock and to a special group of literary vocabulary, to the science of anatomy. But here they lose their common aspect and become purely terminological. But being preceded by the word 'famous' used in the sense indicated by the Shorter Oxford Dictionary as "a strong expression of approval (chiefly colloquial); excellent, capital" the whole expression assumes a specific stylistic function due to the fact that 'frontal development' is used both in its terminological aspect and in its

logical meaning 'the breast of a woman'.

Another example of the same kind—terms becoming stylistic devices:

"I should like" said young Jolyon, "to lecture on it: Property and qualities of a Forsyte. This little animal, disturbed by the ridicule of his own sort, is unaffected in his motions by the laughter of strange creatures (you and I). Hereditarily disposed to myopia, he recognizes only the persons and habitats of his own species, among which he passes an existence of competitive tranquility."

In this excerpt the twofold application of meanings—terminological and stylistic—is achieved by the following means: the verb to 'lecture (on...)' and the title of the subject 'Properties and qualities (of a Forsyte)' direct the mind to the domain of science; they are used in a terminological sense. But when they are followed by a word with nominal meaning (Forsyte) they assume an additional meaning—a stylistic one.

This clash of incongruous notions arrests the mind and forces it to re-evaluate the terminological meaning of the words which aim at supporting the pseudo-biological and medical aspect of the message—this being contained in the words 'sort', 'creature', 'little animal', 'species', 'habitats', 'myopia'. This aspect is also backed up by such literary words and word-combinations as 'tranquility' and 'passes an existence' which are in full accord with the demands of a lecture.

Terms are words denoting various scientific and technical objects, phenomena, processes and others. Terms abound in special texts in the scientific style, in this case their function is merely that of communication. But when terms appear in the belles-lettres style, their function changes.²

Their main stylistic function is to create the true-to-life atmosphere. Terms are used to create a historical background of local colouring, elevation, humorous atmosphere of the narration. For example medical terms which appear in Cronin's *Citadel* are used to create a true to life atmosphere of historical, ward, laboratory.

"Good", Abbey said in a friendly manner. He took up a specimen- it was an aneurism of the ascending aorta-and began to question Andrew.

When used in the direct speech of personages terms become a means of their speech-characteristic. In the belles-lettres style terms can also be used with a parodying function, thus creating humorous.

Terms are mostly and predominantly used in special works dealing with the nations of some branch of science. Therefore it may be said that they belong to the style. They may as well appear in newspaper style, in publicistic and practically in all other existing styles of language. But their function in this case changes. They do not always fulfill their basic function that of bearing exact reference to a given concept. When used in the belles-lettres style, for instance, a term may acquire a stylistic function and consequently become a (sporadically) stylistic device. This happens when a term is used in such a way that two meanings are materialized simultaneously.

References:

1. Akhmanova O. S. *Linguostylistics. Theory and Method*. M., MGU, 1972.
2. Arnold I.V. *The English Word*. M. 1973.
3. Boboxonova L.T. , *Ingliz tili stilistikasi*. Toshkent. O'qituvchi, 1995.
4. Boboev T., *Adabiyotshunoslik asoslari*. O'zbekiston nashriyoti, 2002.
5. Galperin I. R. *An Essay in Stylistic Analysis*. M., Higher School, 1968.
6. Galperin I. R. *Stylistics*. M. Higher school, 1977.

² Rakhimov. S. R. *Lectures on stylistics (For the students of the English faculties of Universities)* Andijan 2010-2011