

The Role And Semantic Features Of Innovative Speech Units In The Conceptual System Of Contemporary Economic Discourse

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Annotation. The article examines the role and semantic organization of innovative speech units in the conceptual system of contemporary economic discourse. The study treats economic innovation not merely as the appearance of new lexical forms but as a process of conceptual restructuring in which technological, financial, regulatory, environmental and labor-related knowledge is reorganized through language. A purposive sample of innovative units associated with digital finance, platform and labor economy, regulation and compliance, sustainable development, crypto-assets, data and automation is analyzed. The discussion focuses on conceptual fields, semantic relations, prototype structure, metaphorical specialization, category expansion, terminological compression and cross-linguistic conceptual correspondence between English and Uzbek.

Keywords: economic discourse, innovative speech unit, conceptual system, semantic field, cognitive semantics, terminology, conceptual frame, semantic specialization, English, Uzbek.

Introduction

Contemporary economic discourse is undergoing intensive lexical and conceptual renewal. Digital finance, artificial intelligence, platform-mediated work, crypto-assets, sustainability policies, data-driven regulation and new forms of entrepreneurship continuously produce concepts that did not occupy the same place in the economic knowledge system only a few decades ago. The linguistic result of this process is not limited to an increase in the number of terms. More importantly, the conceptual architecture of economic discourse is being reorganized: new categories emerge, old categories are subdivided, and general-language words acquire specialized meanings in relation to new institutional and technological realities.

Innovative speech units therefore deserve to be studied not only as neologisms but also as markers of conceptual change. A unit such as digital wallet does more than name a technological product. It connects the traditional concept of a wallet with digital storage, payment infrastructure and user authentication. Green finance similarly combines the conventional category of finance with environmental sustainability. Platform economy introduces a new model of economic mediation in which digital platforms coordinate transactions, services and labor. In each case, innovation is reflected simultaneously in linguistic form and conceptual organization.

Terminology studies provide an important foundation for this approach. Sager views terms as instruments for organizing and communicating specialized knowledge [1]. Cabré argues that terminological units should be analyzed through linguistic, cognitive and communicative dimensions [2]. Temmerman further demonstrates that specialized concepts may display prototype structure, polysemy and diachronic development instead of behaving as rigid, context-free labels [3]. These ideas are especially relevant to contemporary economic vocabulary, where semantic boundaries frequently develop together with new technologies and institutional practices.

From a cognitive-semantic perspective, the meaning of a term is also connected with the conceptual frame in which it occurs. Fillmore's frame-semantic approach emphasizes that lexical meaning activates a structured background of related knowledge [4]. For example, the term open banking presupposes a frame involving banks, customers, account data, application programming interfaces, third-party providers, consent

and regulation. The meaning of the term cannot be fully captured by the separate meanings of open and banking alone.

The present study focuses on the role of innovative speech units in the conceptual system of contemporary economic discourse and on the semantic features through which they organize emerging knowledge. The main objectives are to identify major conceptual fields, determine the semantic relations connecting innovative units, analyze mechanisms of semantic specialization and metaphorical transfer, compare selected English units with Uzbek equivalents or adaptations, and describe the contribution of innovative terminology to the restructuring of economic discourse.

A conceptual system can be understood as an organized network of concepts and relations through which a domain structures knowledge. In economic discourse, concepts such as money, market, credit, labor, investment and regulation historically form central categories. Contemporary innovation does not replace these traditional concepts; rather, it extends and modifies them. Digital currency develops within the broader category of currency, green bond within the category of bond, and platform economy within the broader category of economic organization.

This hierarchical organization is important for linguistic analysis. Innovative terms frequently arise through specification: an existing economic category is combined with a technological, ecological, institutional or social feature. Digital finance, digital bank, digital wallet and digital currency share the modifier digital but refer to different conceptual levels. Finance is a broad activity domain, bank is an institution, wallet is an instrument or service, and currency is a monetary category. The repeated modifier creates a conceptual family in which distinct economic objects are reclassified according to a common technological dimension.

Terminological systems also include horizontal relations among concepts. RegTech and SupTech, for example, share the technological component tech but differ in institutional orientation. RegTech generally concerns technologies used by regulated entities to meet regulatory requirements, whereas SupTech concerns technologies used by supervisory authorities. Their forms are analogically related, but their conceptual roles remain distinct. This shows why formal similarity must not be interpreted as semantic identity.

Conceptual organization is especially visible in international economic terminology. Institutional glossaries and analytical reports contribute to the stabilization of new categories by defining their boundaries and relations. Financial Stability Board materials helped establish FinTech as a broad label for technology-enabled innovation in financial services [5], while World Bank materials systematize concepts such as digital financial services, open banking, digital assets and related technologies [6]. Such definitions do not merely describe vocabulary; they participate in organizing specialized knowledge.

In Uzbek economic discourse, conceptual organization is shaped by both international terminology and local linguistic adaptation. FinTech may appear as fintex or moliyaviy texnologiyalar; digital wallet as raqamli hamyon; green finance as yashil moliya; platform economy as platforma iqtisodiyoti. These equivalents preserve different degrees of formal similarity, yet their main function is to map the same or closely related conceptual structures into Uzbek professional communication.

The empirical material consists of a purposive sample of innovative economic units that represent major areas of contemporary economic change. The sample includes FinTech, RegTech, SupTech, CBDC, digital wallet, digital currency, open banking, e-money, stablecoin, tokenization, token, blockchain, mining, platform economy, gig economy, sharing economy, digital platform, crowdfunding, startup ecosystem, green finance, green bond, carbon pricing, circular economy, regulatory sandbox, KYC, AML/CFT, macroprudential, algorithmic trading, AI, API, interoperability and cloud-based financial infrastructure. Uzbek equivalents, adaptations and explanatory forms were considered where relevant.

The analysis combines conceptual-field analysis, componential analysis, frame-semantic interpretation, contextual analysis and comparative analysis. Conceptual-field analysis groups units according to the principal domain of knowledge they represent. Componential analysis identifies the semantic contribution of individual elements such as digital, green, open, smart, platform and tech. Frame-semantic analysis examines the background knowledge required to interpret a term. Comparative analysis identifies conceptual correspondences and differences between English terms and their Uzbek realizations.

The study is qualitative, but a quantitative distribution derived from an earlier 40-unit working sample is used as an illustrative model of field organization. In that sample, digital finance and payments represented the largest semantic group, followed by platform and labor economy, regulation and compliance, sustainable/green economy, and data/automation. The figures are not interpreted as universal frequencies for the entire economic vocabulary; they are used to demonstrate the relative concentration of innovative concepts in major areas of current economic transformation.

The method also distinguishes between formal innovation and semantic innovation. A new economic concept may receive a new formal structure, as in FinTech or CBDC, or it may be expressed through an existing word that develops a specialized meaning, as in platform, token, wallet or mining. This distinction is central to the conceptual analysis because lexical novelty and conceptual novelty do not always coincide.

Conceptual field	Illustrative share	Typical English units	Uzbek equivalents/adaptations
Digital finance and payments	40%	FinTech, CBDC, digital wallet, open banking, stablecoin	fintex, markaziy bank raqamli valyutasi, raqamli hamyon, ochiq bank tizimi
Platform and labor economy	17.5%	platform economy, gig economy, sharing economy	platforma iqtisodiyoti, gig iqtisodiyoti, ulashish iqtisodiyoti
Regulation and compliance	17.5%	RegTech, SupTech, KYC, AML/CFT	regtex, suptex, KYC, AML/CFT
Sustainable/green economy	12.5%	green finance, green bond, carbon pricing	yashil moliya, yashil obligatsiya, uglerod narxlash
Data and automation	12.5%	AI, API, algorithmic trading, interoperability	sun'iy intellekt, API, algoritmik savdo, o'zaro ishlash qobiliyati

Table 1. Major conceptual fields represented in the working sample of innovative economic units.

The largest conceptual field is digital finance and payments. This field includes units that describe the technological transformation of money, payment services, banking infrastructure and financial intermediation. FinTech functions as a broad umbrella term, while digital wallet, CBDC, stablecoin, e-money and open banking identify more specific concepts. Their conceptual relations are hierarchical: digital finance is a broad domain; digital financial services represent service-level realization; digital wallet is a user-facing instrument; CBDC and stablecoin are specific monetary or value-representation categories.

The platform and labor economy forms another important field. Platform economy is a broad concept referring to economic activity mediated through digital platforms. Gig economy focuses more specifically on task-based or short-term labor relations, while sharing economy foregrounds access to and shared use of assets or resources. OECD, ILO and European Union materials distinguish digital platform work through operational labor-market criteria, showing that conceptual differentiation in this field has direct statistical and policy consequences [7].

Regulation and compliance constitute a third conceptual field. The presence of RegTech, SupTech, KYC, AML/CFT and regulatory sandbox demonstrates that economic innovation affects not only products and markets but also institutional control. RegTech and SupTech form an analogical conceptual pair, but the first is typically oriented toward compliance activities of regulated entities, while the second is oriented toward supervisory authorities. Regulatory sandbox names a controlled environment in which innovation can be tested under regulatory oversight.

The sustainable and green economy field includes green finance, green bond, carbon pricing, circular economy and related units. The semantic innovation of this field lies in integrating environmental objectives

into traditional economic categories. Finance, bond and pricing are established economic concepts, while green, carbon and circular introduce environmental and resource-efficiency dimensions. Thus, conceptual change often occurs through recombination rather than through the invention of entirely new lexical roots.

The data and automation field includes AI, API, algorithmic trading, interoperability and cloud-based infrastructure. Many of these terms originated in computer science or information technology but acquire specialized economic functions when integrated into finance, banking and platform operations. API, for example, is a technical interface concept, but in open banking it becomes a core mechanism of financial-service integration. The economic meaning of such units therefore emerges through domain transfer and contextual specialization.

5. Semantic Relations within the Conceptual System

Innovative economic units are connected through several recurrent semantic relations. The first is hypernymy and hyponymy. Digital finance can function as a hyperordinate category for digital banking, digital payments, digital wallet and other more specific concepts. Green finance similarly includes more specific instruments such as green bonds and sustainability-linked financial practices. Such hierarchical relations are essential for constructing terminological glossaries and conceptual maps.

The second relation is functional association. KYC and AML/CFT are not hyponyms of one another, but they are functionally linked within compliance and financial integrity. API and open banking are also strongly associated: API is not a subtype of open banking, yet it is one of the mechanisms through which open banking architectures operate. Functional relations are particularly important in innovative domains because new concepts frequently emerge as parts of technological or institutional systems.

The third relation is analogical association. FinTech, RegTech and SupTech are structurally parallel and conceptually linked through technology, but each maps technology onto a different economic or institutional function. Such analogy supports rapid terminological expansion: once a productive conceptual pattern is established, it becomes a model for new nominations.

The fourth relation is part-whole organization. A digital financial ecosystem may include platforms, payment services, digital identity, APIs, data infrastructure, wallets and regulatory mechanisms. Individual terms acquire fuller meaning when interpreted as components of this larger system. This systemic relation explains why dictionary definitions alone may be insufficient without conceptual cross-referencing.

The fifth relation is contrast. Centralized versus decentralized finance, bank versus nonbank, traditional versus digital payment, and open versus closed systems create oppositional structures that help define new concepts. Innovative terms are often understood through contrast with an older or more established category. Digital wallet is conceptually salient partly because it contrasts with the physical wallet; digital currency contrasts with traditional physical cash even when both belong to the broader category of money.

Semantic specialization is one of the most productive mechanisms in innovative economic discourse. Existing general-language words are recruited into specialized conceptual systems and acquire narrower, technically defined meanings. Platform, wallet, token, mining, ecosystem and sandbox illustrate this process. Their original lexical meanings remain cognitively relevant, but professional usage selects particular semantic features and reorganizes them within a new frame.

Wallet originally denotes a physical object for keeping money and cards. In digital wallet, the physical container is replaced by a digital service or software environment, while the functional feature of storing and enabling access to payment-related value is retained. The semantic transition is therefore based on functional analogy. Uzbek raqamli hamyon reproduces the same conceptual metaphor and demonstrates cross-linguistic transfer of the specialized frame.

Mining provides a more pronounced metaphorical shift. The source concept involves extracting valuable material through effort and resources. In crypto-economic discourse, mining refers to computational processes associated with validating transactions and generating or receiving digital assets. The metaphor remains productive because both source and target frames involve resource expenditure and value creation. Uzbek mayning usually transfers the specialized meaning together with the borrowed form.

Ecosystem has moved from biology into business and economic discourse, where it describes interconnected participants, institutions, technologies and services. Startup ecosystem, digital ecosystem and

financial ecosystem conceptualize economic relations as networks of interdependent actors rather than isolated organizations. This shift changes not only lexical meaning but also the way economic organization is mentally represented.

Sandbox also illustrates conceptual metaphor. In regulatory sandbox, the source idea of a bounded, safe space for experimentation is transferred into financial regulation. A literal translation that focuses only on the physical object would be misleading; Uzbek *regulyativ sinov muhiti* or *nazorat ostidagi sinov muhiti* more directly represents the target concept. This example demonstrates that semantic equivalence may require conceptual rather than formal translation.

Conceptual metaphor is not merely decorative in economic innovation; it often functions as a mechanism of knowledge organization. Lakoff and Johnson argue that metaphor structures conceptual understanding by mapping one domain onto another [8]. Innovative economic terminology confirms this principle: green, smart, open, ecosystem, wallet, mining and sandbox all connect new economic realities with familiar conceptual domains.

The component green has developed from a color term into a marker of environmental sustainability. Green finance, green bond and green investment therefore share a conceptual feature that extends beyond literal color. In Uzbek, *yashil moliya* and *yashil obligatsiya* reproduce the same metaphorical mapping. The success of this translation shows that conceptual metaphors can be transferred when the target language associates the same source domain with similar evaluative meanings.

Open functions differently. In open banking, it does not simply mean physically open or publicly accessible. It signals permission-based data sharing, interoperability and controlled access within a regulated system. The positive associations of openness - transparency, accessibility and flexibility - also contribute evaluative meaning. Thus, a seemingly simple adjective participates in both conceptual categorization and pragmatic framing.

Smart is another evaluatively loaded component. Smart contract, smart finance and smart economy imply automation, efficiency and advanced technology. The term smart therefore carries descriptive and evaluative meaning at the same time. In Uzbek, *aqli shartnoma* preserves the metaphor, but interpretation depends on familiarity with the technological frame; the adjective does not mean human intelligence in a literal sense.

These cases show that conceptual systems are partly organized through recurrent semantic markers. Digital, green, smart, open and platform act as category-building elements. They attach new dimensions to established economic concepts and create families of related terms. Their productivity reveals how economic discourse encodes large-scale social and technological transformations through a relatively limited set of recurring semantic resources.

The English-Uzbek comparison demonstrates that conceptual equivalence can be achieved through different linguistic strategies. Some terms are borrowed with phonographic adaptation, as in FinTech - *fintex*, startup - *startap* and blockchain - *blokcheyn*. Others are calqued, as in digital wallet - *raqamli hamyon*, green finance - *yashil moliya* and platform economy - *platforma iqtisodiyoti*. A third group uses explanatory translation when direct formal equivalence would be semantically opaque.

Conceptual correspondence is strongest when the source term is semantically transparent and its components have stable Uzbek equivalents. Digital currency - *raqamli valyuta* is a clear example. The technological feature and the economic head are preserved, so the conceptual structure remains visible. The same applies to green finance - *yashil moliya*, although the metaphorical value of green must be institutionally and culturally recognized.

Partial correspondence occurs when the English term contains a compressed or culturally specific model. FinTech is shorter and more internationally recognizable than *moliyaviy texnologiyalar*. Regulatory sandbox requires an explanatory equivalent because the English metaphor is not equally transparent in Uzbek. Gig economy presents another difficulty: *gig iqtisodiyoti* preserves international terminology but does not automatically explain the labor model to a general audience.

The Uzbek conceptual system therefore develops through a combination of international continuity and local semantic transparency. Borrowing preserves professional connection with global discourse; calquing

makes internal semantic structure visible; explanatory translation clarifies concept boundaries. These strategies should not be treated as mutually exclusive. Parallel forms may coexist until institutional and communicative practice stabilizes one or more preferred variants.

Nizomova's research on conceptual fields in English and Uzbek pedagogical terminology shows that specialized terminological systems combine universal conceptual structures with language- and culture-specific realization [9]. The same principle applies to economic terminology: the underlying concept may be internationally shared while its lexical packaging and pragmatic accessibility differ across languages.

One characteristic feature of innovative economic discourse is conceptual compression. Complex institutional or technological structures are condensed into short labels such as FinTech, RegTech, SupTech, CBDC, KYC and API. These forms reduce textual length, but more importantly they package extensive background knowledge into compact linguistic signs.

CBDC illustrates this mechanism. Central bank digital currency contains four conceptual components: institutional issuer, monetary status, digital form and currency function. The abbreviation CBDC compresses this structure into four letters, yet specialists can reactivate the full conceptual frame immediately. For non-specialists, however, the abbreviation may be semantically opaque. Therefore, conceptual compression increases communicative efficiency only when users share the relevant knowledge.

The same applies to FinTech. Its formal structure is short, but its conceptual scope includes technologies, services, business models, institutions and regulatory concerns. As the term becomes conventionalized, users no longer need to reconstruct finance + technology each time. The compressed form develops lexical autonomy and functions as a category label.

In Uzbek discourse, international abbreviations often remain unchanged because their professional value depends on cross-border recognizability. At first mention, however, explanatory expansion may be necessary: CBDC (markaziy bank raqamli valyutasi), KYC (mijozni aniqlash va tekshirish talablari), FinTech (moliyaviy texnologiyalar). This bilingual practice shows how conceptual compression and communicative accessibility are balanced.

The findings show that innovative economic vocabulary forms a structured conceptual network rather than a random collection of fashionable words. The major fields correspond to the main directions of economic transformation: digitization of finance, platform-mediated labor and exchange, technological regulation, sustainability, and data-driven automation. New terms arise where these conceptual domains intersect with established economic categories.

Structural form and conceptual content are closely related but should not be confused. Multiword terms often make conceptual structure explicit, as in digital wallet or green finance. Abbreviations and blends increase economy but reduce transparency. Semantically specialized words such as platform, wallet and mining may preserve old forms while radically changing their conceptual role. Therefore, a complete analysis of innovation must consider both formal and semantic novelty.

The conceptual-field approach also clarifies translation and lexicographic problems. A translator must identify the field and frame of a term before selecting an Uzbek equivalent. A lexicographer must indicate relations among related units and avoid treating near concepts as synonyms. Platform economy, gig economy and sharing economy should therefore be defined in relation to one another, not listed as interchangeable translations.

From a discourse perspective, innovative terms also influence how economic change is framed. Digital, green, smart and open create positive associations with modernization, sustainability, efficiency and accessibility. Such semantic features may support institutional persuasion and policy legitimation in addition to neutral nomination. The conceptual meaning of a term therefore includes both denotative structure and context-dependent evaluative potential.

The study also suggests that conceptual stabilization is gradual. A new unit may first appear as an explanatory phrase, then become a recurrent term, develop abbreviations or variants, enter dictionaries and institutional standards, and finally become part of general economic vocabulary. During this process, semantic boundaries may narrow, broaden or become more precise. Innovative economic discourse is thus a dynamic environment in which language and specialized knowledge develop together.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that innovative speech units occupy a central role in the conceptual system of contemporary economic discourse. They name new objects and processes, reorganize existing categories, create new conceptual fields and connect technological, regulatory, environmental and social knowledge with traditional economic concepts.

Five major conceptual fields are especially visible: digital finance and payments; platform and labor economy; regulation and compliance; sustainable and green economy; and data and automation. These fields are linked through hierarchical, functional, analogical, part-whole and contrastive semantic relations. Such relations transform terminology into a networked system of specialized knowledge.

Semantic specialization and conceptual metaphor are major mechanisms of innovation. Wallet, mining, ecosystem and sandbox acquire new meanings through functional or metaphorical transfer, while digital, green, smart, open and platform operate as recurrent conceptual markers. These elements create terminological families and rapidly expand the conceptual inventory of economic discourse.

The English-Uzbek comparison shows that the same conceptual content may be represented through borrowing, phonographic adaptation, calquing or explanatory translation. Effective cross-linguistic interpretation therefore requires attention to conceptual structure rather than formal similarity alone. Further research may expand the dataset with English and Uzbek corpora, trace the diachronic development of conceptual fields and quantify the spread of individual semantic models across institutional, media and professional discourse.

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