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# The Development of Gender Term System: Performative Function

**Abstract**

The fact that the world linguistics deals with anthropocentric paradigm urges the study of the issues related to gender terminology standardization and gender discourse implementation. In this regard, challenging the principles of traditional terminology and translation, testing the perspective relevance of cognitive semantics to demonstrate a language potential in the world conceptualization and categorization through gender discourse lens, revealing linguistic and extra-linguistic factors in the formation of a gender terminology system is of high importance. The article deals with linguistic and extra-linguistic factors in the formation of gender term system - as a cognitive structure providing an effective communication on human rights discourse. The performative function of gender terms, their oriented feature – from words to the actions has been substantiated on the examples of  official documents.

**Key words**: gender terminology, linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, gender mainstreaming, performative function, human rights texts.

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### Introduction

A keen interest of scholars to the term system is due to the fact, that it is the most rapidly developing sub-system of a language; hence, it is formed and developed under the influence of the language system and the increased impact of various extra-linguistic factors.

However, there are many controversial issues and insuf-

ficiently studied problems. This is not surprising since the study of each specially applied field does not only respond to a number of issues but also gives rise to others. The fact that each new term system shows some differences from those already studied obliges the general Terminology theory to be researched more deeply.

The term system of modern disciplines has been attracting the attention of linguists for more than half a century. However, various aspects of the general term theory are still relevant in modern linguistics, as well as in the aspect of a gender.

Regarding gender issues in humanities, the theory of separation of biological and cultural sexes has achieved a relative clearness: while sex is considered in the sphere of biology and physiology, gender is regarded as the subject area of psychological, social and cultural researches; the approach that has given impetus to the formation of a special trend in modern humanities – Gender Studies.

### Problems of transition of gender terms

Today, the term *gender* has penetrated into all the humanities – philosophy, sociology, psychology, history, linguistics, literature, etc. constantly being changed and enriched. The term itself is borrowed from linguistics in the form of a grammatical gender, at the same time being returned in the context referring to the cultural characteristics of men and women.

Gender is broadly used in psychology, sexology meaning any mental or behavioral characteristics associated with masculinity and femininity and presumably distinguishing men from women, i.e. sexual characteristics or differences. In the social sciences, especially in Feminism, "gender" has a more narrow meaning, denoting a "social sex", i.e. socially determined roles, identities and activities of men and women, not dependent on biological sex differences, but on social organization.

The importance of identifying a specificity of each language process in different term systems is vital for modern linguistics. The study of language phenomena in the term systems of different languages, where the correlated term systems develop under the influence of the same and different extra-linguistic factors, contribute to the solution of several issues in the general term theory. Thus, the study of nominative units, which have undergone the process of transterminologization in gender science seems to be very topical.

Problems of transition of gender terms from one term system

to another is one of the most complicated problems of terminology due to the heterogeneity of the units. The process of introduction of a new specialized term system, the ambiguity of description and naming the very process in modern linguistics, a poor knowledge of the study of such units in adapting to a new term systems and semantic changes occurring in the process of transition of the nominees are designated by the term *transterminologization*.

One of the tasks of the research is a comprehensive study of transterminologization process based on factual linguistic materials – dictionaries and glossaries of gender terms; in this regard, the following specific problems are to be solved:

1. A review of existing views in modern linguistics on the formation of a terminological and conceptual apparatus characterizing the borrowing process of nominative units from different term systems;

2. The study of the relationship between polysemy and homonymy and identifying their specificity in the term system, as the problem of transterminologization relates to the more general problem of language theory – the problem of semantic identity of words, i.e., characterizing linguistic factors of transterminologization process;

3. Determination how typical is transterminologization process towards the correlated terminological systems of different languages;

4. The study of extra-linguistic factors of transterminologization and sources of replenishment of a gender term system in the Russian, English and Uzbek languages;

5. Identification of the structural diversity of trans-adopted units in gender terminology of the English and Uzbek languages, defining their importance in a gender term system and the nature of changes in their semantics.

The research carried out on transterminologization of gender marked terms will probably lead to the following theoretical conclusions:

1. Transterminologization of gender marked terms is one of the productive ways of updating a modern specialized term system in different languages, a gender discourse respectively.

2. Polycemyc and homonymous nominative units are formed in the process of transterminologization saving their common semantic component in different interdisciplinary term systems.

3. Transterminologization is a reflection of objective trends

in the development of scientific knowledge, the processes of integration and differentiation. These branches of knowledge apply to the gender aspect of science, providing a gender regulation of various kinds of social activities and production.

4. Both native and borrowed terms may undergo the process of transterminologization.

5. Transterminologization can be either explicit (in this case trans-adopted nominee acquires a new definition), or implicit. In the latter case, terms may not take any definition due to the transparency of their meaning. However, in this case, it is preferable to talk about their conceptual content, as it enters a new concept sphere.

One of the significant and widely used terms *androcentrism* (Greek, andro – "man, male"), which is the practice of placing male human beings or the masculine viewpoint in the center of one's view (focused or centred on man), has been introduced to the linguistics from social sciences as a concept highlighting the dominance of masculinity or male world picture in the language, i.e. a linguistic fixation on masculinity.

In comparison with *gynocentrism,* which is focused on females, the term *androcentrism* has actively been used in all spheres of science. Language, in turn, plays an important role in reproduction of androcentrism, as the linguistic picture of the world captures and reproduces the world from the male point of view [6]. Thus, *androcentrism* as an interdisciplinary nominative unit is formed in the process of transterminologization saving its common semantic component in different term systems. Moreover, transterminologization in gender terminology gives rise to cross-sectoral terms, seme composition of which doesn't endure significant changes, as only one gender differential seme comes into existence.

According to U.Tursunov, "the Uzbek term-system is developed due to the internal and external resources, whereas the inner sources play a significant role in the formation and improvement of the system; since, globalization of science and technology and culture urges the exploitation of the language potential to the maximum" [Ўринбоев 2006, 151]. Regarding gender terminology, one may observe that the semantic derivation principle prevails over morphological and syntactic sources of terminology enrichment.

Structural classification of gender terms looks as the following:

1) simple terms: *family, violence, advocasy*;

2) compound terms: *androgyny, androcentrism, homosocial*;

3) multicomponent terms, from two-component to seven-component terms (ranked high by quantity): *cast vilonce, fertile age, gender analysis, gender gap*;

4) Abbrevations (the lowest rate): it is assumed that the term CEDAW may not be rendered in the Uzbek language in the form of abbreviation, since it will lead to the violation of the standardisation of terms.

It is worth noting that gender term system supports the *gender* component terms, which are semantically derived by means of combination of words in general use and words of special languages: *gender, gender stereotypes, gender blindness, gender roles, gender audit, etc.*

*The performative function of Gender Mainstreaming terms*: From linguistic point of view, the question as to the role of the terminological meaning in the semantic structure of a lexical unit of a natural language, whether it is leading or minor, primary or secondary is still on the focus of researches dealing with the issues of motivation and orientation of the lexical units.

V.M. Leitchik proposes to compare the terms of the new and long-established fields of knowledge. Usually in the old fields of knowledge lexical units are represented as terms and consequently the terminological meaning is considered to be as secondary. For example, in the textile business, most terms are of primary importance, which is non-terminological, for instance '*a shuttle* – a bobbin carrying the lower thread in a sewing machine'. The terminological meaning of the terms of electronics such as *gender changer, gender mender, gender bender* may also be assumed as derived, since the lexical units predominate being used as special units afterwards.

However, in the new fields of knowledge, the core meaning of lexical units is considered to be terminological. Being relatively a new science, the terminology of *gender mainstreaming* discourse includes the terms*: advocacy, abuse, violence, equality, family, poverty, norms, discrimination* for which non-terminological meaning is subordinate. Moreover, this applies to those areas where borrowed and international terms predominate – lexical units that have been translated into Uzbek only in their terminological meaning: *androcenrism, androgyny, bisexuality, cisgender, convention, conformism, discrimination, gay, lesbian etc.*

In this respect, it is often possible to observe how "secon-dary

names" – metaphorical and metonymic meanings of lexical units of a natural language acquire a direct meaning in the function of terms. At the time when the author of the term selects the lexical unit of a particular language to be introduced as a term, based on metaphor, or metonymy, etc., in the very initial process terms may get a secondary meaning in terms of expressiveness and figurativeness. However, when the same lexical units become as codified terms their new terminological meaning becomes as direct, breaking away from the former non-terminological meaning, while the expressive and figurative meanings are ascribed as connotations of the term.

In the course of the structural and semantic analysis of terminology, researchers touch upon the question of motivation of terminological units, the degree of its influence on the specifics of terms, as well as their function in the language. It is known that there are a number of mandatory requirements traditionally put to all terms in general. One of such requirements is motivation which is recognized by the researchers with a variety of approaches.

N. P. Romanova notes that transparency of the semantic structure of the term ... is understood in comparison with the units of the common language ... It is asserted that a language motivation can be inherent only in the term, because it is based on the fact that the terminological system is represented as a secondary system relative to the language. A word that is not motivated in the common language, becoming a term, acquires a linguistic motivation [Романова 1976, 22].

T. R. Kiyak`s approach towards the motivation of lexical units is as follows: "Different combinations of motivation can be prescribed to different words". He developed the following typology of motivation of lexical units: 1) semiotic (sign) motivation, which is inherent in all language units functioning as linguistic signs, because the word is motivated by the fact proper being existed and used; 2) formal (word-formation) motivation, within the framework of which the researcher prescribes the motivation to the external and internal forms, which in turn imply the morphological and semantic types of motivation; 3) intensional motivation, which characterizes the ability of the internal form to reflect the most relevant signs of the linguistic content of the word, that is revealing its structural and semantic features, which predetermines the systematic study of the form and meaning [Кияк Т., 1989:38]. We support the idea of T.R. Kiyak that this kind of motivation is most applicable to terms and less applicable to common words. Based on the studied approaches

relative to typology of motivation, we come to the conclusion that motivation is obviously understood as the relation between the internal form of the term and its semantics. This is reflected in the view of S.V. Grinev-Grinevich, who under motivation of the term understands its semantic transparency, the property of the form to give an idea of the so called concept expressed by the term [Гринев-Гриневич 2008, 165].

Following a broad and justified lexicological approach in the matter of motivation of the terms scholars go further, stating on the legitimacy of applying the concept of *orientation* in relation to the term. Under the orientation of the term Rebrushkina I.A. and Ariskina O.L. highlight "the property of the term due to linguistic, psychic and social factors, which gives the native speaker the 2012:opportunity to determine the concept or the place of a given unit in terminology system without addressing the definition of exponents" [Ребрушкина, Арискина 2012, 209]. However, motivation and orientation are not interchangeable concepts. The first is a purely lexical concept, while the second acts in the field of psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and linguoculturology. In fact, the concept of orientation of the term is based on motivation in a broad sense of the word and its functioning in the language.

1. We assume that gender mainstreaming terms are oriented, since they are created consciously by rational nomination of a new concept in a derived context. However, there are cases when the addressee may not notice the orientational potential of the term or perceive it not in the way the author suggests, owing to extra-linguistic factors, among which is the change in the terms content due to the development of a scientific knowledge (objective reason). So is the term *gender blind* "a policy which is gender blind does not take into account different roles and diverse needs assigned to men and women. They maintain the status quo and will not help transform the unequal structure of gender relations" [https: //trainingcentre. unwomen.org]; being correctly oriented, it can be perceived by a lay person as non-oriented, as if semantically obscured implying positive policy which doesn't support an approach to be different towards men and women taking into account their biological, physical and social character. However, the specialist of gender studies will be able to interpret the term correctly.

Along with the nominative function and signifying function, the joint realization of which reveals special concepts, categories, properties, processes in special areas of knowledge, it is worth noting

that gender terms possess the communicative or informational function, in particular. Hence, the term is represented as a kind of concentration of particular knowledge and as a means of conveying information about a special concept urging a special feedback. The communicative function of the term is associated with a pragmatic function as well, because it is determined by the connection of the sign with the participant of communication, the conditions and the sphere of communication, the current regulations, etc., presenting additional information on the designated concept, calling additional associations.

The following study will try to demonstrate the process of engendering of *gender mainstreaming* terms on the example of the conceptual section of the Summary Record of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Friday, February 20, 2009.). The record provides the analysis of some of the main elements of the Convention, or to put it more precisely, it demonstrates the process of codification of the new concepts by specialists of the relevant sphere (a discussion in which Mr. Thornberry, Mr. Kemal, Mr. Lindgren Alves and the Chairperson were present). The term "temporary special measures" has been considered in particular.

The fragments below show that transparency of the terms in line with their universal interpretation is essential in the process of their introduction:

" … it was important to clarify what the Committee understood by *non-discrimination* and *equality*".

"… he recalled the diverging views … on *equality of opportunity*, and others on *equality of results*, and the distinction that had been made between *de jure equality* and *de facto equality*".

"Reflection was necessary on the issue of terminology, and on preferences as between terms such as *special measures, special and concrete measures* and *affirmative action*. In that connection, he would be interested to hear what members thought of the expression positive discrimination, which appeared to be a contradiction in terms, and also of the phrase *temporary special measures*, which had been used in CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 25".

"Specific *analysis of all the relevant terms* in articles 1 and 2 of the Convention that had implications for the concept of *special measures* was particularly important".

"... the need to distinguish between *positive action* required by the Convention in general and *special measures*".

From the speech extract below we find that the problem

is also how to design a particular term through "thinking" and "understanding", to find its orientation and place. Hence, the prerequisites of the term special measures have been defined as follows:

"The recommendation should be in three parts: an initial section covering the definition and concept of *special measures*; a second covering the specific nature of, and conditions to be met by, *special measures*; and a third on the use and implementation of *special measures*".

"It was important … with regard to the application and monitoring of those measures".

We see that the emergence of gender mainstreaming terms is to have a definition, its nature, and what is more important the implementation, as well as it should be monitored – the evidence that the conception 'from words to actions' is just to the point regarding the terms of gender mainstreaming.

Judith Butler's view on gender and sexuality that "they are not categories to be but to perform" may be metaphorically transferred to the conception of gender mainstreaming terms, as they are determined to perform in favor of society [Cranny-Francis, Waring, Stavropolous, Kirby 2003, 270].

One more moment we observed as to the terms of gender mainstreaming is the preference to follow generally-accepted terms, those used in CEDAW, for instance, not over-creating new ones.

"… the Committee should limit its analysis of terminology and concepts, and keep as far as possible to the generally-accepted terms already used in the Convention. It should not try to over-elaborate or break new ground. The principal task in formulating the recommendation was to reach an understanding that a fundamental activity under the Convention was to examine marked disparities in societies using the relevant data".

"… He welcomed the unanimous agreement expressed on the temporary nature of special measures, a concept laid down in the Convention itself".

"Afterwards, the term 'temporary special measures' was considered to be accepted".

Regarding *temporary special measures* article 4, paragraph 1, of the CEDAW and general recommendation No. 25 on the same article of the Convention sounds as following:

Article 4.1. "Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the

present Convention, but shall, in no way, entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved" (CEDAW).

One more nature of *temporary special measures*, as it speaks for itself, is that it may be active only for a particular time, as one of the requirements of the convention is to stop its action when a definite goal is reached.

It was also observed that strict determination, understanding and codification of the term are preferable for GM discourse that is not to be touched upon further: "Therefore, discussion on the temporary nature of *special measures* should not be reopened".

"On reflection, he agreed that any attempt to explain each phrase in the relevant provisions of the Convention was overambitious".

"... there had been several instances in which States parties had interpreted the term "special measures" very differently from the Committee, even equating it with measures which had been detrimental to minority groups".

Another feature of gender terms is that one particular term may eventually acquire a new character in the new scope changing its signifier. In case when there was a dispute on making a clear distinction between temporary special measures and permanent measures, the following response has been given: "... said that he saw no confusion between permanent rights and special measures. An example, in the case of indigenous peoples, was the permanent right to bilingual education in their indigenous language and the official language of their country. A special measure might be the granting of scholarships to train teachers in delivering the curriculum in the indigenous language. It was possible that a special measure could be converted into a permanent right over time".

### Conclusion

However, understanding and the right interpretation of the term is still obvious: "That would constitute a significant contribution to understanding of the Convention. Given the numerous misunderstandings of special measures on the part of States parties, the Committee had a duty to clarify its interpretation of that term, particularly as it was a central notion in the Convention".

In relation to the challenging point whether the term *general recommendation* or *general comment* should be used the chairperson

recalled that it was the Committee practice to use the term "general recommendation".

The above analysis proves genderology to be a discipline that is defined in relation to other fields; its terminology system is represented as a cognitive structure (the result of mental process) that provides effective communication in a given language and discourse. The majority of gender terms is con-substantial, since their inter-semantic derivation with the words in general use are actively used in scientific, publicist, official and communicative styles.

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# Genderga oid terminosistemaning rivojlanishi: performativ funksiya

### Abstrakt

Jahon tilshunosligida tadqiqotlarning antroposentrik yondashuv asosida olib borilishi natijasida genderga oid terminlarni me'yorlashtirish

masalalari, gender tengligi diskursi muammolarini tadqiq etishga e'tibor kuchaymoqda. Bunda tilshunoslikdagi an'anaviy terminologiyaning prinsip va metodlaridan farqli o'laroq kognitiv semantika metodlari orqali genderning lingvistik xususiyatlarini ochish, yangi metodologik tamoyil va tadqiq usullari orqali genderga oid terminlarni shakllantirgan lingvistik va ekstralingvistik omillarni aniqlash muhim ahamiyat kasb etadi.

Maqolada gender terminlar sistemasining inson huquqlariga oid diskurs doirasida professional kommunikatsiyani amalga oshiruvchi kognitiv struktura sifatida shakllanishida lingvistik va ekstralingvistik omillar ochib berilgan. Shuningdek, gender terminlarining performativ funksiyasi, ya'ni so'zdan amalga tomon yo'naltirilgan xususiyati dalillangan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** gender terminologiyasi, lingvistik va ekstralingvistik omillar, jinslar tengligiga kompleks yondashuv, performativ funksiya, inson huquqlariga oid matn.

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