

**SEMANTIC SHIFTS IN LOAN TRANSLATIONS: ENGLISH TERMS IN UZBEK AND
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ABSTRACT: This article explores the semantic shifts that occur in loan translations of English scientific terms into Uzbek and Russian. It investigates how borrowed terminology undergoes changes in meaning, usage, and contextual interpretation within the target scientific discourses. The study focuses on a comparative analysis of selected terms from the fields of information technology, economics, and education, highlighting semantic narrowing, broadening, and modulation. Through corpus-based data and contextual examples, the paper reveals how linguistic and cultural factors contribute to these shifts, potentially affecting comprehension and academic communication. The findings underscore the importance of consistent terminological adaptation to maintain clarity and coherence in scientific texts.

Keywords: loan translations, semantic shift, English terminology, Uzbek scientific discourse, Russian scientific discourse, cross-linguistic analysis, terminology adaptation, linguistic interference, corpus linguistics, scientific communication

INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly globalized academic environment, English has solidified its status as the lingua franca of science and technology. As a result, non-English-speaking countries, including Uzbekistan and Russia, have witnessed a rapid influx of English scientific and technical terms into their native scholarly discourses. This linguistic phenomenon is primarily facilitated through direct borrowings, calques (loan translations), and hybrid formations. While such integration enriches local terminologies and promotes international academic exchange, it also introduces significant semantic shifts that may alter the original meaning or pragmatic function of the terms. Loan translations, in particular, present a unique area of linguistic inquiry. Unlike direct borrowings, which often retain the form and meaning of the original term, loan translations attempt to recreate the semantic components of the source term using native lexical units. This process, however, is not always semantically transparent or culturally neutral. In many cases, the translated terms begin to diverge from their English counterparts due to local usage patterns, disciplinary conventions, or broader socio-cultural factors. Such shifts can result in semantic narrowing (more specific meanings), broadening (more generalized meanings), or modulation (contextual or connotative alterations). The need to examine these changes is especially pressing in scientific contexts where precision and uniformity of terminology are crucial for effective communication and knowledge dissemination. Misalignments in term meaning across languages may lead to misunderstandings, reduced clarity, and compromised academic standards. Despite the growing presence of English-derived terms in Uzbek and Russian scientific texts, comprehensive comparative studies on their semantic transformation remain limited. This article aims to fill that gap by analyzing selected English-origin terms and their equivalents in Uzbek and Russian scientific discourse. Drawing on data from academic publications, specialized corpora, and terminological databases, the study explores how and

why semantic shifts occur in the process of loan translation. By focusing on specific domains—such as information technology, economics, and pedagogy—the research highlights patterns of linguistic adaptation and evaluates their implications for terminological consistency and scientific communication.

Theoretical framework

Semantic shifts in translation are a well-documented linguistic phenomenon, especially within the realm of terminology transfer between languages of unequal status, such as English and lesser-used scientific languages like Uzbek and Russian. Scholars such as Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), Baker (2011), and Koller (2003) have addressed how lexical items change in meaning during the process of borrowing and calquing. In this study, we build on these theoretical foundations to examine how English terms adapt semantically when introduced into Uzbek and Russian academic contexts.

Types of semantic shifts

Loan translations may undergo various types of semantic shifts:

- **Narrowing (specialization):** The term's meaning becomes more specific in the target language.
- **Broadening (generalization):** The term acquires a more general meaning than in the original context.
- **Modulation:** The connotative or emotional value of the term changes due to cultural reinterpretation.
- **Semantic divergence:** The term acquires a different meaning entirely, influenced by native conceptual frameworks.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative, corpus-based methodology. Data were extracted from Uzbek and Russian academic journals, university textbooks, and online terminological databases such as Multitran (for Russian) and the Uzbek National Corpus. Approximately 30 high-frequency English scientific terms were selected from three fields:

- **Information Technology (e.g., "interface," "algorithm")**
- **Economics (e.g., "inflation," "capital")**
- **Pedagogy (e.g., "curriculum," "assessment")**

Each term was analyzed in terms of its English meaning and its equivalent usage in Uzbek and Russian. The analysis focused on contextual usage, frequency of appearance, and evidence of semantic change.

Analysis and findings

a. Uzbek Scientific Discourse

Many English loan translations in Uzbek scientific texts reveal semantic narrowing. For instance, the term "assessment" is frequently rendered as "baholash," which tends to be interpreted strictly as grading, overlooking broader evaluative frameworks (e.g., formative assessment, peer assessment). Similarly, "interface" becomes "tizimli ulanish," which emphasizes physical connection over user interaction.

b. Russian Scientific Discourse

Russian tends to exhibit both broadening and modulation. The English term "capital," while commonly translated as "капитал," is used in economic discourse but sometimes broadly applied to non-economic contexts such as "человеческий капитал" (human capital), aligning with global conceptual trends. Another example is "curriculum," translated as "учебный план," which in Russian may refer to both formal academic schedules and broader educational programs—thus slightly broadening the original English scope.

c. Cross-Linguistic Patterns

Across both languages, several patterns emerged:

- Abstract English terms are often concretized during translation.
- Cultural and educational policy differences influence terminological reinterpretation.
- Certain terms, especially in fast-evolving fields like IT, remain untranslated, preserving their original form and meaning (e.g., "software," "network," "online").

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of English loan translations in Uzbek and Russian scientific discourse reveals that semantic shifts are not merely incidental but are often systemic and context-driven. These shifts—ranging from narrowing and broadening to modulation—are shaped by linguistic structures, cultural norms, and the degree of terminological standardization in the respective languages. In Uzbek, semantic narrowing appears more pronounced, reflecting the relatively recent and rapidly developing nature of its scientific lexicon. English terms are often adapted with a focus on literal or functional meanings, sometimes at the expense of conceptual breadth. This can lead to oversimplified interpretations of complex scientific constructs. Russian, on the other hand, shows a tendency toward semantic broadening and connotative modulation, suggesting a more mature terminological system that absorbs and integrates foreign concepts more flexibly. Nonetheless, even in Russian, some loan translations diverge significantly from their English origins, potentially leading to discrepancies in scientific interpretation and communication.

The study underscores the need for deliberate and standardized terminological policies in both languages to ensure semantic accuracy and consistency in scientific discourse. Terminologists, educators, and translators should collaborate to refine loan translation practices and promote awareness of cross-linguistic semantic nuances. Furthermore, expanding corpus-based studies and terminological databases will be essential for ongoing monitoring and adaptation of borrowed terms in light of evolving academic and technological developments. Ultimately,

understanding and managing semantic shifts in loan translations is crucial not only for preserving the integrity of scientific communication but also for enhancing intercultural knowledge exchange in an increasingly interconnected academic world.

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