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THE MILITARY TERMS IN Z.M. BOBUR'S WORK “BOBURNAMA”

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ABSTRACT

This article explains the lexical meaning of historical military terms used in "Boburnoma" by Shah and poet Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur. Historical military terms are divided into spiritual groups and analyzed based on examples taken from "Boburnoma". Also, the use and meaning of military terms at that time, as well as today's synonymy options are given. Etymological analysis of some military terms given in the work is given. Historical military words in "Boburnoma" are explained based on the etymological analysis available in historical dictionaries. Compatibility with Uzbek military terms used today is analyzed. The lexical meanings of the historical military terms used in Babur's time are given in historical dictionaries, and their alternatives in Uzbek are given. Because the work uses the names of military weapons, military ranks and positions, lexical units representing military tactics, as well as the names of military uniforms. The analysis of such military terms is of great practical importance today. Because studying Babur's works and knowing the etymological analysis of the used historical words helps to understand the content of the work fully. From this point of view, it is emphasized that the lexical meanings of historical military terms used in the works of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur are one of the critical issues that require scientific analysis and every reader needs to know their meanings.

KEYWORDS: limited lexicon, military term, historical words, limited layer, slang, jargon, dialect, term, science, technique, progress, development, vocabulary, specialization.



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INTRODUCTION

The Boburnoma is the critical historical autobiography written by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur and a very valuable source of military terminology, explaining many strategic and tactical principles, armament, and types of weapons in use at that time. Full account of his life is given by Babur, including military campaigns, battles, and governance. This would help in making the narrative further profound, as it indicates the intricacy of military action in the 15th and 16th centuries. The purpose of this article is to explore military terms used in Boburnoma, analyzing their meaning and historic context, and their value for understanding Babur's leadership and military strategies.

The terminology of warfare in Boburnoma is an important part of the historical narrative; it epitomizes his arms, ranks, tactics, and challenges while pursuing his ambition for empire-building. Such terms include words for military tools, strategies, and the structure of armies that were crucial in the communication of military knowledge and the organization of Babur's forces. This paper will try to study the function of all those terms within the text closely and their relevance with respect to Babur's life through an in-depth explanation, how these military terms came to be used over time, and their meaning in present military history and language.

The work utilizes a wide range of linguistic and historical materials, including dictionaries and academic analyses, for a better explanation of some of the terms that were used at the time of Babur. Such an in-depth review of the terms will doubtless greatly enhance linguistic appreciation of the text Boburnoma and its contribution toward understanding Central Asian military history.

Literature review

This literature review connects various scholarly works that provide critical insights into the study of military terminology in the context of Z.M. Bobur's Boburnama and broader linguistic and historical studies. In *The Military Terms in Z.M. Bobur's Work 'Boburnama'*, the use of military language and its significance in understanding Bobur's military strategies and historical context is explored in-depth. The works reviewed here offer foundational resources for this analysis, highlighting how military terminology not only enriches the narrative of Boburnama but also serves as a key to interpreting the historical and cultural practices of Babur's time.

Tursunov, Muxtorov, and Raxmatullaev's *Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili* (1992) examines the evolution of modern Uzbek literary language, providing essential context for understanding the linguistic structure and development in classical texts like Boburnama. Their work sheds light on the shifts in language usage, including the incorporation of military and technical terms, which are critical for understanding Bobur's military language and its translation across time.

Hojiyev's *Tilshunoslik terminlarining izohli lug'ati* (2002) serves as a valuable reference for deciphering the specialized language of Boburnama, particularly the military terms used to describe weaponry, military ranks, and tactics. By explaining linguistic terms in depth, Hojiyev's work assists readers in understanding the technical terminology used by Babur, helping to bridge the gap between historical military discourse and modern interpretations.

Similarly, Nazarova's *Z. M. Bobur asarlari uchun qisqacha lug'at* (1972) provides a concise yet crucial dictionary of terms specific to Babur's works. This resource is especially helpful for understanding the

military and administrative lexicon of Babur's time. The detailed explanations of terms related to warfare in Boburnama enhance the reader's ability to comprehend the historical significance of military actions described in the text.

The Boburnama itself, along with its more recent edition (2008), offers a direct source of analysis for military terms, as it is rich with references to military tactics, strategies, and weaponry used by Babur. The historical, social, and cultural contexts of these terms, when studied alongside modern lexicons and military histories, provide a comprehensive view of how Babur's military experiences shaped his narrative. The Boburnama becomes an essential document for understanding how military terms were applied and their impact on Babur's leadership and empire-building.

Mengliev and Xoliyorov's O'zbek tilidan universal qo'llanma (2008) provides an overview of the Uzbek language's lexical diversity, including military terminology. This general guide supports the exploration of military terms by illustrating how such specialized vocabulary fits within the broader language structure. Their insights are particularly helpful in situating military terms within the linguistic traditions of the Uzbek language.

Other works, like Babaxanova's study of the history of Uzbek literary language, provide additional context by examining the historical development of the language itself. This context is important for understanding how the military terms used by Babur in Boburnama have evolved in modern Uzbek and how they reflect the cultural and historical changes in the region.

Narxodjayeva's research on process-related terms in Uzbek complements the study of military terms by emphasizing how language reflects action and change. This is particularly relevant when analyzing the military terms in Boburnama, as the terminology used often describes dynamic events such as battles, sieges, and military strategy, which are central to Babur's narrative.

Gafforov's work on the characteristics of terminology further supports the understanding of military terms by highlighting how specialized terms are adapted and refined within different fields. In the context of Boburnama, these observations can be applied to understand how Babur's military language was not just practical but also shaped by the needs of the narrative and the complexities of military life.

Yuristning nutq madaniyati by Usmonov, Mirhamidov, and Hasanov (2007) explores the legal language of the Uzbek profession, providing another lens for understanding the role of specialized language. While focused on legal language, their work shares a common focus with military terminology in that both rely on precision and clarity, which is also reflected in the military terms of Boburnama.

RESULT

As we know, the lexicon in modern Uzbek literary language is studied within three main groups based on its scope of use. These are:

1. Words specific to dialects (Shiva);
2. Terms (concepts);
3. Argot and jargon.

Restricted lexicon is also used in texts as a means of enhancing artistic value. In this regard, we will discuss terms. A term (concept) is a linguistic unit used in fields such as science and technology, agriculture, art and culture, and the military. The restricted nature of terms does not mean they are incomprehensible to individuals from other fields; rather, it reflects the fact that they are used in a limited scope according to the needs of specialists. This restricted nature of terms is analyzed from the perspective of the specific sector in which they are used.

Academician A. Hojiyev provided the following definition of the term: (from Latin terminus – boundary, limit, border marker). A word or phrase that clearly expresses a concept related to a specific field, such as science, technology, or another domain; a designation. Terms differ from general vocabulary in that they are unambiguous and do not have expressive or emotional connotations [2, p. 104].

According to scholars, a term is usually formed from a general word by the specialization of a certain

meaning. For example, the words *fajiya* (tragedy), *ega* (owner), *ot* (horse), *qo'shimcha* (addition), and *ayirish* (division) are general words, but they have become terms in the field of science [7, p. 65]. In science, the term is derived from the Latin *terminus*, which means "boundary" or "limit" [1, p. 63]. A term differs from a non-term lexeme in that its meaning is clearly defined, limited, and specified. In addition, S. Usmonov, M. Mirhamidov, and S. Hasanov provide a different interpretation of the meanings of "term" and "concept." They argue that the meaning of the word *atama* (concept) is broader than that of the term, as it refers to the name of anything, while a term is a specialized word used in a specific field. In this sense, the concept of "term" is a scientific-linguistic unit that falls under the broader concept of "atama" [11, p. 117].

X. Narxodjayeva lists the following characteristics of a term:

1. A term is a linguistic unit or combination that belongs to the language of production, science, and technology, which serves a specific function in the general language system.
2. A term is a specific name for a concrete object, item, or abstract concept.
3. A specific definition is necessary for a term, through which the meaning of the term can be expressed more precisely, distinguishing one from another, placing a particular concept in a specific classificatory group, and making their distinguishing features clearer [8, p. 11].

World linguistics also discusses terms. For example, D. Lotte, E. Dresen, A. Lesohin, G. Vinokur, and A. Reformatskiy have shared their scientific views on the specific characteristics of terms [10, Internet source]. The issue of treating terms can be further elaborated.

In this sense, military terms can be provided as examples of the definition mentioned above. Military terms are also studied as terms related to specific fields or professions.

The primary distinction of military terms from terms in other fields is their precision in language, meaning that each term serves a specific concept. This is important because we know that some lexical units can be used both as terms in a particular field and in the general speech of the public. Similarly, one term can be used in several fields. Such cases have been justified in science. However, this situation is not observed in military terms, which indicates the complexity of the field in comparison to others.

At this point, when discussing military terms, it is also appropriate to consider their historical development. Since the people exist, their past and future also exist. The military field, too, has its own history and future. Therefore, we find it necessary to express thoughts about the usage of military terms and their lexical development in historical works. This is particularly relevant because in the development of our independent republic, the role of the military is significant. In this field, ongoing research and advancements are being made. Examples of this include R. I. Abdullayev's *Военно-энциклопедический словарь* (Tashkent, 2018), D. A. Po'latov's *Havo hujumidan mudofa radio-texnika qo'shinlariga oid asosiy harbiy atamalarning izohli lug'ati* (Tashkent, 2015), and Sh. Z. Dolimov's *Harbiy atamalarning qisqacha izohli lug'ati* (Tashkent, 2007). These dictionaries serve as examples of the development of military terminology.

It is essential for the youth of our independent republic to understand the lexical meanings of military terms used in the field. In particular, it is necessary for them to fully comprehend the explanations of military terms used in literary works. In this context, the practical significance of the work done on the interpretation of military terms is significant. It is especially important for specialists, writers, poets, and translators, as it is considered a necessary need. Such dictionaries are of great practical importance in the creation of works related to the military field.

However, historical military terms used in classical literary works have not been fully analyzed. Therefore, studying, analyzing, and preparing an etymological or explanatory dictionary of military terms used in classical literary works and presenting them to the public is one of the important tasks. Scientific research and investigations in this area are necessary. Only then will we all have the opportunity to equally understand the historical military terms used in classical literary works.

In this article, we will discuss the life and activities of Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur, the king and poet who ruled over a vast territory, including Afghanistan and India, and established the "Great Empire" in

India. We will focus on his responsibilities as a monarch, his military activities, the political strategies he employed in foreign lands, and his contributions to the flourishing of his state, as well as his life filled with struggles and conflicts. Furthermore, we will examine the military terms used in his work *Boburnoma*, which narrates his entire life, and explore the current state of their study.

As we know from sources, Babur's reign was quite complex. He left his homeland and journeyed to India, where he fought to preserve and develop the "Great Empire" he had founded, a struggle he ultimately succeeded in. As a result, besides Turkish words, his works also contain Arabic, Persian-Tajik, Hindi, and Mongolian terms. This mix of linguistic influences can also be observed in the military terms used in the text. It is useful to study these military terms by categorizing them into meaningful groups. In the text, terms related to military weaponry, military titles and positions, military tactics, and clothing are used. These thematic groups can be further explored for a deeper understanding.

The explanation of the military terms used in *Boburnoma* was partially provided by X. Nazarova in the "Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's Works: A Brief Dictionary," published in 1972. However, some military terms were not included in this dictionary. In this regard, we find it appropriate to study the military terms used in Z.M. Babur's works based on the following categories:

In the work, examples of military weapons include:

- Biyozi, piyozi – the same type of war weapon
- Guruh – a round object shot from a slingshot, cannonball
- Kistan – one of the war instruments
- Koha – one of the ancient war instruments
- Novak – the arrow of a bow
- Paykon – the arrow of a bow with a metal tip
- Sog'daq – the quiver, where arrows are kept
- Tabarzin – a tool resembling a bolt, kept by soldiers for riding horses
- Tarkash – bow, tir // tiyr – arrow, bow arrow
- Tufang, tufak – rifle
- Farangi – a firearm brought from Europe
- Shashpar – a six-edged mace
- To'qmoq, zarbzam – weapons used in place of cannons

These words are used in *Boburnoma* to refer to military weapons and equipment. Here are examples from the text of *Boburnoma*:

In the later years, when they became lazy, they would shoot a biozi or a budana (a type of bird) with a bow and barely write. [5, p. 75]. The term "biozi" // "piyozi" was also used in this form. It was considered a type of weapon used in warfare and was also used in hunting during that time.

The bow group was called "guruh", which refers to a round object shot from a slingshot or cannonball. [5, p. 225]. X. Nazarova's "Brief Dictionary of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur's Works" explains that "guruh" refers to a round object shot from a slingshot, or a cannonball. [4, p. 32]

There would be seven or eight hundred javshan (soldiers) and koha. [5, p. 182]. Koha is a Persian word, and in the Navoi works lexicon, it is noted as one of the ancient war instruments. [3, p. 329].

He said, "Shashpar, piyozi, kistan, tabarzin, and boltukim are all present, as if a point will guard the edge, a sword guards the head and foot, like a kasar (sword)." [5, p. 160].

The Musaffo artillery also shot well with the strike from the gul's left hand using the zarbzam placed on the cart. [5, p. 336].

I was shooting from the top of the gate with a novak. [5, p. 147]. Novak is used here in the sense of the arrow of a bow. This indicates that Babur used a novak.

Gold and silver, as well as a bow (tarkash), were given as gifts to Khwaja Mir Sultan, his sons, and the officials led by Khwaja, such as Hafiz Toshkandi and Mulla Farrukh, and other ambassadors. [5, p. 424]. In the text, tarkash is used in the sense of a bow. Therefore, it is emphasized that a bow was included in

the gifts.

He brought the sog'daq (quiver) around his neck and handed over the fort. [5, p. 89]. Sog'daq is used here in the sense of a quiver, a place where arrows are stored. Lexical units expressing military titles and positions (military terms). Such units are frequently used in Babur's works:

Bahodur (the title of heroism) – a title of heroism awarded to someone who surpasses others in battle and performs heroically with a sword.

Badgustvondor – military men.

Burongor / Brongor – soldiers who are positioned on the right flank of the army during battle.

Jangdovul – a guard, a sentinel.

Irovul – the soldier who acts as a scout, going ahead of the army.

Kutvol – the leader of the guards at a fort or city.

Mirsipoh – the commander of soldiers, the head of the army.

Navkar – 1) a servant, an attendant, a special servant of the commander; 2) a young warrior.

R'andoz – a person who controls a weapon that shoots fire.

Sardar – a leader, a commander.

Sarhadnishin – a border guard.

Sipah / Sipoh – 1) a soldier, an army; 2) a servant, bowman, or archer.

Tungator – a night watchman or guard at the palace.

Tufangandoz – riflemen, those who shoot guns.

Tug'chi – a flag bearer, a person who carries the flag of the army.

Examples from the text:

"Muhammad Dost Tag'oyi also took the sword, but the title of heroism was awarded to Sayid Qasim." [5, p. 88].

"A group of twenty thousand badgustvondor (soldiers) were marching towards Hindustan." [5, p. 339].

"After spending a few days in Charbog, the remaining weapons and equipment were perfectly prepared, and we prepared for battle with the front line of brongor (soldiers positioned on the right wing of the army during battle), jvongor (soldiers on the left), g'ul (center), and xirovul (scouts), along with our mounted forces." [5, p. 125].

In this example, the term xirovul is explained, which is not included in the Navoi Works Dictionary or Brief Dictionary of Babur's Works. In the Uzbek version of Boburnoma published by the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in 2008, xirovul is defined as a scout. [6, p. 287].

"No guards, no sentinels, the enemy was lying idle." [5, p. 163]. This example shows that jangdovul means a sentinel or guard, indicating that there were no guards on duty.

"The other tufangandoz (riflemen) were also fighting without respite, showing great skill and shooting well." [5, p. 283]. This shows that the tufangandoz, or riflemen, were continuously engaged in battle.

"Ahmad Yusuf was my companion, and at the gate of Charbog, Dost Saripuliy, following the noble traditions of Kabul, handed over the position of kutvol (the head of the guards at the fort) and was placed in charge at Kabul, entering with an unsheathed sword." [5, p. 262]. This example indicates the title given to Dost Saripuliy. At that time, kutvol referred to the head of the guard at a fort or city, a military position.

"In one province, two kings and one Cherek should not appoint two mirsipohs, but only one, as this will lead to discord and destruction, resulting from fitna (rebellion) and confusion." [5, p. 178]. This example emphasizes that one mirsipoh (commander) should be appointed rather than two. In this context, mirsipoh refers to the commander or leader of the soldiers.

- "And it was ordered in the campaign of Nizomiddin Ali Khalifa against Rum, that the riflemen and ra'dandoz, who were in front of our army, brought wagons for their protection and bound them with chains." [5, p. 454]. Ra'dandoz refers to a person who manages a weapon that shoots fire.

- "In that district, orders were sent to the bowmen and the soldiers of the garrison." [5, p. 366]. In this example, the term tarkashband refers to a bowman, someone who shoots arrows.

- "Some of the soldiers began to flee towards us from the direction of Sipoh." [5, p. 120]. In Babur's works, the terms sipah/sipoh are used to mean a soldier, army, or official. Moreover, the combination of sipohilik and sardorlik is used, indicating military and commandership duties.

- "The later ones were so enchanted by the combination of military leadership and command that they understood no knowledge except for its linguistic expressions and concepts." [5, p. 241].

- In Alisher Navoi's Layli va Majnun epic, the term sipoqi jarror is used. This expression refers to a large, fearless group of warriors.

This shows the frequent use of military titles and positions in Babur's works. These lexical units (military terms) express various military ranks and roles.

3. Lexical units expressing military movements and tactics (military terms). These units include the following:

- Dast burd – To launch a sudden attack, to demonstrate power and strength.

- Galaba, ustunlik – Victory, superiority.

- Dastgir etmoq – To capture, to seize.

- Jidol – War, battle.

- Korzor – War, battle, conflict.

- Kungura – A military fortification, a fortress, a small hole made to fire guns and other weapons during a siege.

- Koklay otmoq – To shoot with feet (i.e., to shoot from the ground).

- Maof tutmoq – To free, to release, to clear.

- Boshatmoq – To empty, to clear.

- Muqovamat – To show resistance.

- Muhosara – A siege, to surround.

- Muhosara qilmoq – To besiege, to surround.

- Orab olmoq – To encircle, to trap.

- Tasallut – To conquer, to take by force, to oppress, to crush.

- To'lg'ama – A tactic of hastily attacking from both sides of the enemy's forces.

- Jald – Fast and quick movement.

- Jarrorliq – Aggression, bravery, warlike behavior, courage.

Examples from the text:

- "The siege was complete." [5, p. 89]. This represents a military tactic of showing resistance against the enemy. The term muhossara is used to indicate surrounding or capturing the enemy.

- "The command was given that Esan Temur Sultan, Tohta Boga Sultan, Bobo Sultan, Oroyishkhon, Shaykh Gran were to stay at the place where the ships passed and protect the ships." [5, p. 442].

- "In Uzbekistan, a great tactic of the army was tolg'ama; no battle could happen without it." [5, p. 145]. Tolg'ama refers to a tactic of attacking the enemy's forces from both sides in an uncontrolled manner.

- "The infidels' troops were attacked by fast and agile jald fighters and jarrorliq warriors." [5, p. 380].

- "I shot at the enemy's fortifications through the small hole in the defense." [5, p. 169].

4. Military uniforms and clothing terms (military terms).

- Javshan – A piece of cloth used as a military uniform, made from patches of cloth.

- Kijim, kechim – Special closed attire worn in battle, used to protect from arrows and swords.

- Jiba – A type of clothing worn in battle that protects from arrows and swords.

- Zihgir – A hard item worn to protect the wrist when shooting arrows.

- Takband – A belt.

- G'oshagir – An item worn on the finger while shooting arrows.

- Dubulga / Duvulga – A headgear worn in battle.

Examples from the text:

- "The next day, we arranged our brongor, jvongor, g'ul, and xirovul, wore our uniforms, equipped ourselves with weapons, and marched with our troops, preparing to confront the enemy." [5, p. 127].

- "Shahsuvar, the warrior, with a dubulga on his head, struck Samad's head with his sword." [5, p. 123]. According to D. Babakhanova, the term dubulga related to military attire is also used in the Shayboniynoma. [8, p. 132].

- "In this city, the jiba worn by Khisravshoh's soldiers was distributed." [5, p. 182]. The term jiba refers to armor worn during battle to protect from arrows and swords. It appeared in two forms in the text: jiba and jiba.

In the works of Alisher Navoi, jiba was a metal armor worn in ancient times during battle. [3, p. 224].

- "The letter, description, arrows, paykon, and zihgir are all attached." [5, p. 68].

- "Today, they stole the golden ring from my takband." [5, p. 157].

- "The Khan gave a g'oshagir to a soldier to protect from arrows." [5, p. 164].

- "There were seven or eight hundred javshan and koha soldiers." [5, p. 182]. X. Nazarova's "Brief Dictionary of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur's Works" defines javshan as a military garment made from patched cloth. [4, p. 42]. In Alisher Navoi's works, javshan and koha are also used to refer to ancient military equipment.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, analyzing military terms used in literary works, especially those in classical texts, helps us fully understand the context and meaning of the writings. Therefore, it is essential to analyze military terms from classical literature and make them accessible to future generations. The analysis of military terms used in historical works is a crucial task for today's scholars.

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