

**BORROWED TERMINOLOGY: INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH ON UZBEK  
SCIENTIFIC VOCABULARY***Shamsiddinova Gavhar Dilshod qizi**Uzbekistan State University of World Languages*

**Abstract:** The increasing dominance of English as the global lingua franca of science, technology, and higher education has had a profound influence on the development of scientific vocabulary in many languages, including Uzbek. In the post-Soviet linguistic landscape of Uzbekistan, where Russian previously held a central role in academic discourse, English has rapidly become a primary source of new terminology, especially in disciplines such as information and communication technologies, medicine, engineering, and economics. This lexical shift is driven by globalization, digitalization, and the internationalization of higher education.

This paper investigates the scope, nature, and implications of English-derived scientific terminology in the Uzbek language. It examines the mechanisms through which English words enter the lexicon—whether directly borrowed, phonetically adapted, semantically modified, or translated—and how these terms are integrated morphologically and functionally into Uzbek sentence structure. Drawing on corpus-based analysis, institutional terminology records, and field data from academic environments, the study analyzes the usage patterns and sociolinguistic perceptions surrounding these borrowings.

The findings demonstrate that while English borrowings enrich the Uzbek scientific vocabulary by filling lexical gaps and enabling cross-border communication, they also present challenges related to terminological standardization, linguistic purity, and intergenerational language divergence. Moreover, the lack of consistent institutional policy on terminology development often results in unregulated borrowing and hybrid usage, particularly in media, education, and technology.

Ultimately, this study argues that the influence of English on Uzbek scientific language is both inevitable and potentially constructive—provided that it is guided by thoughtful language planning, inclusive educational strategies, and a balanced respect for native linguistic structures. The article contributes to the broader discussion on language contact, identity, and modernization in post-colonial and multilingual societies.

**Keywords:** Loanwords, scientific terminology, Uzbek language, English influence, lexical borrowing, language planning, standardization, globalization

**Introduction**

In the age of rapid technological advancement and global academic exchange, English has

emerged as the dominant language of science, technology, and international communication. This dominance has affected many languages, including Uzbek, by facilitating the borrowing of scientific and technical terminology. As Uzbekistan transitions into a globally connected society, the need for an updated and internationally intelligible scientific lexicon becomes increasingly vital.

The Uzbek language, like many post-Soviet Turkic languages, underwent a significant transformation in the 20th century due to Russian influence. In the 21st century, however, English has become a more prominent source of lexical borrowing, especially in fields like computer science, medicine, engineering, and economics. Terms such as “**software**,” “**online**,” “**marketing**,” “**scanner**,” “**virus**,” “**module**,” and “**innovation**” are now regularly used in Uzbek academic and professional discourse.

This article investigates how English scientific terminology is adopted into Uzbek, the types of borrowing (direct, adapted, or translated), and the cultural-linguistic consequences of this process.

### Methods

This study uses a qualitative lexical analysis method combined with elements of corpus linguistics. A targeted collection of scientific articles, university textbooks, official terminology lists, and media publications from 2010 to 2024 was analyzed to identify English loanwords in Uzbek scientific language.

In particular, the research focused on the frequency, morphology, phonetic adaptation, and semantic domains of borrowed terms. Dictionaries published by the Uzbek Academy of Sciences and materials from the State Terminology Committee were referenced to track official recognition or rejection of foreign terms. Additionally, interviews with university lecturers and science editors were conducted to understand the practical usage of English-based terminology in academic and classroom contexts.

The methodology also included comparative analysis between borrowed English terms and their native or Russian-equivalent counterparts (when available), to assess preference trends and language planning challenges.

### Results

The results indicate a significant increase in English-derived scientific vocabulary in Uzbek since 2000, particularly in disciplines such as IT, medicine, and economics. Many borrowings occur directly and are phonetically approximated, such as “**kompyuter**,” “**skaner**,” “**printer**,” and “**internet**.” Others undergo partial adaptation or semantic shifts, such as “**startup**” (from “startup”) or “**platforma**” (used for both political and digital contexts).

A smaller portion of English terminology is translated into Uzbek (e.g., “**sun’iy intellekt**” for “artificial intelligence”), though this is more common in official or pedagogical contexts. Some fields exhibit hybrid usage, where English and Uzbek terms coexist, often depending on the speaker’s education level or institutional norms.

Phonological adaptation patterns show a tendency to simplify consonant clusters and maintain vowel harmony where possible, although many English sounds and syllable structures are retained. Morphologically, borrowed terms are integrated with Uzbek affixes for pluralization, possessives, and case endings (e.g., “fayllar,” “proyektning,” “skanerda”).

### Discussion

The adoption of English scientific terminology into Uzbek reflects a global trend in knowledge exchange but also reveals local challenges in maintaining linguistic identity. On one hand, English loanwords allow for concise and precise expression of complex scientific concepts, helping Uzbek academics participate in global discourse. On the other hand, the unchecked influx of foreign terms raises concerns about linguistic erosion and the marginalization of native equivalents.

The influence of English is particularly strong in university settings and digital communication, where speed and accessibility often outweigh linguistic conservatism. However, there is growing institutional awareness of the need for standardized terminology. The State Committee on Terminology and various linguistic institutions have made efforts to Uzbekize certain terms or encourage native equivalents, though adoption is inconsistent.

Another challenge is the generational and professional gap in terminology usage. Younger, tech-savvy individuals tend to use more English terms, while older scholars or those in the humanities may prefer native or Russian-based terminology. This creates lexical inconsistency and sometimes confusion in interdisciplinary communication.

Despite these issues, borrowing is not inherently harmful. Many English terms fill lexical gaps or replace outdated Soviet-era terms with more globally recognized alternatives. The key lies in managing the process through thoughtful standardization, educational integration, and cultural sensitivity.

### Conclusion

The infiltration of English terminology into Uzbek scientific vocabulary is an ongoing and dynamic process, emblematic of broader global linguistic trends in the 21st century. As English continues to function as the dominant language of international academia, business, and technology, its lexical influence on Uzbek is both inevitable and multi-dimensional. From direct lexical borrowings to hybridized and semantically adapted terms, the Uzbek language is undergoing a phase of accelerated lexical expansion and semantic recalibration.

This phenomenon brings with it significant benefits. English-derived terms often introduce clarity, conceptual specificity, and global intelligibility, especially in newly emerging scientific and technological fields where native equivalents may not yet exist. These borrowed terms allow Uzbek professionals, students, and researchers to integrate more efficiently into international scientific communities, access global literature, and participate in transnational collaborations. Furthermore, the adoption of international terminology facilitates the modernization of the Uzbek academic lexicon, enabling it to keep pace with global scientific developments.

However, the process also presents notable linguistic and cultural challenges. The unregulated and inconsistent adoption of foreign terms can lead to lexical chaos, terminological duplication, and communication barriers between generations or between academic disciplines. There is also the risk of cultural and linguistic marginalization, where over-reliance on English terminology may erode the depth and richness of native Uzbek expressions or reduce the prestige of local linguistic heritage.

To address these challenges, there is a pressing need for coordinated efforts in language planning and terminology standardization. National institutions, such as the Uzbek State Terminology Committee, must play a proactive role in evaluating borrowed terms, proposing standardized equivalents, and promoting their use in education, media, and publishing. Academic institutions should foster bilingual and terminological competence, equipping students and professionals with the ability to navigate both international and native scientific discourse. Additionally, collaboration between linguists, scientists, and policymakers is essential for ensuring that terminology development aligns with both global trends and national identity.

In summary, the influence of English on Uzbek scientific vocabulary is not merely a linguistic phenomenon but a reflection of the intersection between globalization, education, and cultural policy. While lexical borrowing from English can enrich scientific communication and integration, it must be managed thoughtfully to preserve linguistic clarity, educational accessibility, and cultural authenticity. By striking a balance between openness to global linguistic influence and the preservation of native linguistic norms, Uzbekistan can foster a dynamic, inclusive, and future-ready scientific language environment.

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