Terminologization as a Consistent Pattern in the Development of Russian Extraoccupational Colloquial Lexis in the Aspect of Vietnamese Linguistic Culture

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Abstract. The article is devoted to one of the consistent patterns in the development of Russian extraoccupational colloquial lexis—creating specialized words and expressions on its base. A brief explanation of the term “extraoccupational colloquial lexis” is given, extraoccupational colloquial and terminological lexis are differentiated, the essence of terminologization in the Russian language is described, the preference of the notions from extraoccupational lexis in forming specialized terminology in the aspect of its reception by a representative of Vietnamese culture is rationalized. As a result, the authors define the key problems of studying extraoccupational colloquial lexis: the possibility of expressing special notions with the help of only extraoccupational colloquial lexis; the importance of cyclic world view and the context of social progress in language development, including term formation on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis.

1. Introduction

There have been written numerous works on terminology in the Russian language, but there are few complex researches on term formation on base of Russian extraoccupational colloquial lexis, including those in the aspect of Vietnamese linguistic culture. From 1950–60s to now, there have been published several works, mostly on special terminology formation on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis in Old Russian language or in the languages of Russian national minorities, e.g. “Colloquial vocabulary in the language of Moscow manuscripts of the second half of the XVII century” (V.N. Prokorov, 1953) [1], “Extraoccupational colloquial lexis of Moscovia of XVI-XVII centuries” (O.S. Mzhelskaja, 2003) [2], “Colloquial vocabulary of the Even language” (A.A. Danilova, 1991) [3], “Colloquial vocabulary of the Yukaghir language” (A.A. Danilova, 2004) [4], etc. The researches do not present clear and multidimensional description of colloquial vocabulary terminologization and do not explain the preference in notions of colloquial vocabulary in forming special terminologies.

1.1 Aim and objectives

The aim of the article is finding consistent pattern of Russian language development—creating a special terminology on base of colloquial lexis. In order to reach the aim the authors have to solve several tasks: finding similarities and differences of colloquial and terminological lexis, describing the essence of terminologization in the Russian language, rationalizing the preference of the notions from extraoccupational lexis in forming specialized terminology in the aspect of its reception by a representative of Vietnamese culture.

1.2 Methods and materials

The material of the article is theoretical background and considerations of Russian and Vietnamese scientists on extraoccupational and specialized lexis in linguistics and terminologization on base of
colloquial lexis. The main methods are descriptive, comparative, method of semantic interpretation, reflecting interconvertible phenomenon of lexical units under consideration.

1.3 Novelty

The article defines the possibility of developing modern Russian terminology with the help of the words that exist in the language. The scientific novelty of the article is in the fact that in linguistic and cultural aspect of Russian and Vietnamese languages terms created on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis spread in different terminological systems, come closer to common literary language, because they reflect social and cultural characteristics and world views of the nations through their colloquial bases.

2. Explanation of the term “extraoccupational colloquial lexis”

The theoretical research of extraoccupational lexis began in the works by I.O. Stepanyan, A.M. Peshkovsky, L.P. Yakubinsky and S.I. Abakumov in the beginning of the XXth century, then it was continued in 1950-1980-s in the works by V.V. Vinogradov, N.K. Sokolova, V.N. Prokhorova, M.S. Gurycheva, B.A. Serebrenikov, E.M. Galkina-Fedoruk, A.I. Efimov, A.I. Efimov, A.M. Zemsky, S.E. Kryuchkov, etc. In 1990-2000s there arose a great interest of linguists to the above-mentioned problem. A lot of scientists considered that the term “extraoccupational colloquial lexis” was not clearly defined and, consequently, had several meanings. They also agreed that the role of this lexis was not estimated, because it often referred to slangy words studied out of the literary language. M.V. Panov, for example, outlined that this lexis “is out of the literary language. Really, it is a sort of it, because it does not have any peculiarities” [5]. This way M.V. Panov, though not directly, stated that extraoccupational colloquial lexis was used in such communicative situations as friendly conversation, everyday dialogue between people who in other conditions used neutral and bookish lexis. So, we think that the use of extraoccupational colloquial lexis in bookish style makes the context colloquial and everyday talk, and these lexical units are, if not extraneous, at least unfamiliar.

The authors of this article give several definitions to the term “extraoccupational colloquial lexis”. As G.V. Sudakov pointed out, extraoccupational colloquial lexis “is belonging to the whole community, i.e. each person, but not professionally limited group” [6], reflects the most actual for the speakers of a certain language object world, which satisfies everyday needs of people. D.E. Rosental, in turn, quite reasonably considered extraoccupational colloquial lexis to be the most important language group to reach communicative aims and outlines that it is mainly common lexis reflecting people’s way of life, customs, traditions, partly—colloquial everyday speech [7]. According to V.S. Bezrukova’s encyclopedic pedagogic dictionary “The bases of spiritual culture”, extraoccupational colloquial lexis is “common colloquial lexis which has its specifics depending on the region” [8], i.e. the dialect of people living in a certain place. We can suppose that during the development of intercultural communication there appear everyday words which reflect specific cultural features of every nation. In E.G. Azimov and A.N. Schukin’s “Modern dictionary of methodical terms and notions”, extraoccupational colloquial lexis is understood as “a big part of colloquial lexis” [9]. A.N. Schukin and E.G. Azimov, unlike with other authors, considered that this lexical group was one of the groups of lexis of literary language along with neutral and bookish lexis.

3. The difference between extraoccupational and specialized lexis

Studying extraoccupational lexis in modern Russian language shows that special terminology, which actively has developed in recent years, is often formed on base of extraoccupational colloquial words. It goes without saying that the consistency of this pattern comes from the similarity of everyday and terminological lexical units. Extraoccupational colloquial lexis, as well as specialized lexis, usually fulfils nominative function. Both lexical groups are adequate to the expressed notion and usually have one meaning. Moreover, specialized lexis relates to a certain terminological group, as well as extraoccupational colloquial lexis refers to a certain group of words.
At the same time, there are some differences between extraoccupational colloquial lexis and specialized one. A term word stays a term only if it stands in the group of similar terms and this way can refer to special terminology. Unlike it, extraoccupational colloquial word is more independent and can be used without other similar words. Besides this, terminological lexis is used in the sphere of professional communication, so this lexical group comprises the language of all professional spheres [10]. These words are used by a certain group of people of a certain profession; meanwhile, extraoccupational colloquial words are used by all people in their everyday life. It is known that extraoccupational colloquial words are created in everyday communicative situations which are created by different relations, so only those who give this nomination, understand it. A terminological word is represented by a researcher, a specialist or a small group of people who are connected to it in professional spheres.

Unlike the nomination of extraoccupational colloquial words where lexical and semantic characteristics are chosen and acquired from speech phenomena arising in social reality, terminological lexis fixates all the nominations only in a certain special sphere. Keeping the external form of the word, a term is quite limited by the word in its intentional (i.e. inner meaning). Unlike extraoccupational colloquial words, which are perceived by through their external form, terminological lexis draws attention to the meaning of the terms, and their morphological features can be shown unclearly (i.e. they are not stable and should be more exact). This is the main difference of extraoccupational colloquial words from terminological ones. In extraoccupational colloquial words, the connections between a pronounced sound, meaning, objectivized through the sound, and nominated objects are always visualized on the whole, but, on the contrary, special terminology does not have this unity. The notion, expressed by a term, is perceived as a special category, opposed to a general one. Moreover, an everyday meaning of the word (i.e. objective and notional meaning, the meaning, generalizing the object) has a meaning, which consists of main and secondary parts of meaning. The terminological meaning of a word (notional and specifying meaning is the meaning of a higher level) contains characteristics and essential traits of objects and phenomena. For example, an everyday meaning of a word differs from terminological one, because its contents are generalized, reflect its basic understanding, do not have an exact scientific concept. The difference of the meanings is at the level of generalization, reflection of the object and phenomenon, and also in the sphere of functional style in compliance with a certain meaning (particularly, in colloquial or scientific and professional style). Besides, the semantic development of extraoccupational colloquial lexis is a natural regularity. For example, the word *strelyat* meaning ‘to shoot’ in the course of the historical development of the Russian language reflects the action of shooting from a bow into the target. After the invention of fire weapon, the word meant focusing on a certain aim with the help of powerful means of hitting the target (rifle bullets, cannon balls, bullets, etc.). It is the natural development of the semantics of extraoccupational colloquial words. In terminological lexis, semantics is originally defined by a term-word as an artificial structural unit.

The Vietnam linguist Nguyen Thien Giap noted that “terminological lexis is a specific part of the language. It comprises set words and phrases which are exact nominations of notions and objects from the professional spheres of human life” [11]. Nevertheless, there is an opposite point of view on this lexical group. According to G.O. Vinokur, special terminology is not a specific lexical group, but fulfills a specific function [12]. The scientist considers that extraoccupational colloquial lexis relates to a generally-known object, meanwhile special lexis relates to a specific object which is familiar only to a limited group of scientists, so there is no other difference between the two lexical groups [13].

4. The essence of terminologization in the Russian language

Despite many Russian and foreign articles on terminology, the linguistic aspect of studying terminological lexis still has unstudied spheres, and this draws interest to the problem of describing the essence of terminologization. First of all, we need the definition of terminology. Terminology in a broader sense is understood as “a part of language vocabulary comprising a specific human activity”
Terminology of a certain sphere is defined as the system of terms of the science or a branch of production related to the system of notions of the corresponding knowledge sphere.

The article considers terminologization as a way of transferring lexical units from non-terminological sphere to a special one. First of all, we have to point out the difference between “way” and “method” in term formation. Way of term formation is understood as the framework comprising method, meanwhile method is a part of this framework (lexical and semantic method, syntactic method, etc.). Way is an approach or a direction in term production. In other words, Russian terminology contains general systems of terms and subsystems, or term systems of a certain professional sphere which are formed by different methods. We can say that method is a step which specifies the attribute of the way of term formation, and it is also an element of the way. Method relates to linguistic means, used for creating such terms as a simple term, complex term, derived term, contracted term, etc. Terminology in the Russian language, as well as in other languages, is formed in three ways: 1) terminologization on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis; 2) terminologization on base of imitating foreign terms; 3) borrowing from foreign terms (usually international terms). These processes of term formation created three terminological groups with different morphological and semantic characteristics in Russian terminological system: 1) native Russian terms; 2) imitative terms; 3) international borrowed terms.

According to the analysis of Russian terms in course of the project “The review of foreign languages learned by Vietnamese students” (2001–2005), among the three above-mentioned ways of term formation, the terms in most professional fields (social and humanitarian sciences, natural sciences, science and technology, etc.) are most often formed by terminologization of extraoccupational colloquial lexis. Statistics showed that among 4252 commercial terms, terms formed on the base of non-specialized words account for 46,73% (1987/4252); among 23985 information technology terms, terms formed on the base of non-specialized words account for 11,45% (2746/23985) [15]. Despite of the fact that the number of terms formed by terminologization in natural sciences is less than in humanitarian sciences, these terms make a big part—68,74% lexical units chosen with the help of continuous sampling method from specialized vocabularies of the Russian language (16487/23985) [16]. In social and humanitarian sciences, most terms are formed by terminologization of non-specialized words. For instance, among 334 social-political words in marriage and family code such words account for 85,81% (284/334) [15]. The above-mentioned facts lead us to the conclusion that specialized lexical units formed by terminologization are commonly used in natural, humanitarian and social sciences. Terminologization on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis is an important source of terms for the Russian language. This shows great possibilities of the Russian language in the aspect of creating special terminology on base of already existing in the Russian language words by using everyday lexical units. This terminologization made Russian terminology more varied and richer.

Terminologization is understood as the process of transferring everyday words from non-special sphere to terminological one [17; 18], in other words, it shows how a non-special word acquires terminological characteristics. V.M. Leichik considered that terminology based on extraoccupational colloquial lexis was the result of the process of “implicating a lexical unit of a natural language in the system of terms” [19]. V.M. Leichik and S.D. Shelov wrote that terminologization consisted of two processes: 1) lexical units of a non-special sphere of a natural language were used in the function of terms in a specialized language; 2) these units got characteristics of terms [20]. So terminologization of extraoccupational colloquial lexis is one of the main directions of forming terminological system of the Russian language. It is really the most economical and comfortable way of enriching Russian vocabulary in order to fulfil the functions and develop scientific terminology.

5. Explanation of the preference of terms from extraoccupational colloquial lexis in forming terminology in the aspect of Vietnamese linguistic culture

Many scientists in Russia and Vietnam have shown the possibility of transforming everyday words
into terms. According to Vietnamese linguists, until the middle of the 19th century, most terms are
defined as follows: there appeared certain limits on using an everyday word, and then this word
became a term. This is a process of terminological specialization of everyday lexical units, the process
of terminologization (intellectualization) of extraoccupational colloquial lexis. E.N. Tolikina,
characterizing Russian industrial lexis of the first half of the 19th century, wrote that one of the main
linguistic features of such terminologization was the great amount of words formed on base of
everyday lexis [21]. Most specialized words are neutral, i.e. they are not expressive, emotional,
dependent of a certain context. What are the reasons of this paradox that terminological units are
created on base of the words which have the opposite stylistic characteristics in everyday
communication? The analysis of the material showed that this phenomenon happens when there is no
non-corresponding nomination of a special denotatum, or when an everyday word indicated the
professional object or phenomenon more obviously. V.D. Devkin pointed out that “terms from
original everyday lexis, which emerged spontaneously, sometimes better meet requirements to the
term, than artificial terms. An ideal term has to be as exact, understandable, monosemantic as
possible” [22]. Discussing direct and close connection of special terminology and everyday language
of a nation, V.V. Vinogradov also pointed out that “every science begins from the results obtained by
the thinking and speech of a nation and in its further development does not lose contact with national
language” [23].

E.N. Tolikina on the material of Russian industrial terminology of the first half of the 19th century
showed that “while industry is based on hand labour, its notions are simple and few and are closely
connected through associations with everyday life” [21]. In fact, in XIX century, in ancient Russia
there developed the industry of handicraft, such as textile and cross-stitch embroidery. Accordingly,
the first journals on embroidery techniques, factories producing embroidery accessories and fabrics of
new colours made this industry widespread. This led to the situation that people involved in one
industry, doing the same work invented a group of special words and expressions used during their
work. These lexical units were used mainly by this group of people and became closer to special
terminology. Such terms were created mainly on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis.

Such conclusions were also made by Vietnamese scientists. Since 1985, in Vietnam in the context
of economic globalization and technological revolution a special attention was paid to the principles
of constructing a terminological system to accelerate scientific and technological development. This
period saw the prosperity of specialized dictionaries, especially those of special terminology of the
leading industries, such as information technology, electronics and telecommunications. “Specialized
terminological dictionaries, apart from the function of reflecting the level of science development,
have the function of term standardisation and unification in the terminological system of a national
language” [24]. According to the materials of Chu Bich Thu, in new scientific and technological
disciplines, such as information technology, the number of dictionaries of terminologized
extraoccupational colloquial lexis grew very quickly. For example, “during 5 years (1994-1999) there
were published 22 dictionaries of this type among 30 published since 1973, when the first dictionary
on information technology was published in Vietnam” [25]. During last 50 years terminology quickly
developed in the aspect of number and it also changed qualitatively because of the terms created on
base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis.

6. Conclusions

In such a way, extraoccupational colloquial lexis, reflecting important notions of everyday life is a
significant base of special terminological system. The phenomenon of creating terms on
extraoccupational colloquial lexis plays an important role in the Russian language. It goes without
saying that terms in the Russian language are regularly created on base of everyday lexis. Studying the
terminologization of Russian extraoccupational colloquial lexis in the aspect of Vietnamese linguistic
culture helps to deeply understand the connection between language and thinking, and also the role of
national mentality and the influence of moral, economical, political, social, emotional aspects in
national life on the development of terminological system on base of extraoccupational colloquial lexis. This shows the potential of Russian language development in scientific spheres. This is the most economical direction of Russian vocabulary enriching with the help of frequently used, easy-to-remember and deeply ethnical materials of the Russian language.

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