

## **THE PROBLEM OF LEXICAL–SEMANTIC GROUPING IN ISLAMIC TERMINOLOGY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Language development is closely linked to cultural evolution, as reflected in the lexical system of a language. Islamic terminology represents a stable and culturally significant subsystem that reflects religious consciousness and worldview. This article examines the problem of lexical–semantic grouping in Islamic terminology in Uzbek and English. It analyzes the systemic nature of terminology, semantic relations among terms, and the role of thematic classification in structuring terminological systems. Using qualitative linguistic methods, the study demonstrates that lexical–semantic grouping is an effective analytical tool that reveals deep connections between language, cognition, and culture.*

**Keywords:** *terminology, lexical–semantic grouping, Islamic terminology, semantic relations, linguistic system, Uzbek language, English language*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of the cultural, intellectual, and spiritual life of a society. The development of language is inseparably connected with the evolution of the people who use it. In particular, the lexical system of a language vividly reflects national identity, cultural values, and worldview. This is especially evident in specialized domains such as religious terminology. Islamic terminology constitutes an essential part of the cultural and linguistic heritage of many societies, including Uzbek-speaking communities. Due to the relative stability of religious concepts, Islamic terminology changes less rapidly compared to other terminological systems. Nevertheless, it remains a dynamic system that reflects both historical continuity and cultural specificity. Terminology, as a subsystem of language, is inherently structured. Each term represents a specific concept and exists within a network of related terms. These relationships are not random but are governed by semantic, syntactic, and functional connections.

Therefore, studying terminology requires a systematic approach that takes into account these interrelations. This article focuses on the problem of lexical–semantic grouping in Islamic terminology, particularly in Uzbek and English. It aims to explore how terms are organized within semantic groups, how their meanings are interconnected, and how these structures reflect broader cognitive and cultural patterns.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The classification of lexical units has long been one of the central issues in linguistics. Scholars have noted that the complexity of lexical systems arises from the multifunctionality of words and the fluid boundaries between lexical categories. As a result, the problem of lexical classification remains a persistent challenge in linguistic theory.

A.Hojiev emphasizes the distinction between concepts and meanings, arguing that objects and phenomena exist independently of language, while linguistic units serve as representations of these realities. This perspective highlights the importance of analyzing semantic structures rather than equating language directly with reality. A.P. Kritenko identifies five primary types of semantic relations within lexical systems: etymological, thematic, synonymous, antonymous, and homonymous relations. These relationships form the foundation for understanding how lexical units, including terms, are organized and interconnected. V.M. Leychik proposes a multidimensional approach to terminology classification, suggesting that terms can be grouped based on linguistic form, meaning, function, and extralinguistic factors. This approach underscores the complexity of terminological systems and the need for comprehensive analytical frameworks.

Furthermore, typological approaches developed by scholars such as V.I. Kodukhov and A.I. Gersena aim to create natural classifications that reflect objective structures of reality. These approaches emphasize the importance of systematic and meaningful categorization in linguistic analysis.

Overall, previous research demonstrates that lexical–semantic grouping is one of the most effective methods for analyzing both general vocabulary and specialized terminology. It allows researchers to identify patterns, reconstruct semantic networks, and understand the conceptual organization of language.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive methodology based on linguistic analysis. The research focuses on Islamic terminology in Uzbek and English and examines how these terms are organized within lexical–semantic groups.

The following methods are used:

1. **Textual analysis**, involving the examination of terminological units in both languages.

2. **Semantic analysis**, focusing on identifying relationships such as synonymy, antonymy, and thematic connections.

3. **Comparative analysis**, which highlights similarities and differences between Uzbek and English Islamic terminology.

4. **Systemic approach**, which considers terminology as an interconnected system rather than a collection of isolated units.

The primary analytical tool is lexical–semantic grouping, which involves classifying terms based on shared meanings and conceptual relationships. This method is widely recognized as effective because it reflects the internal organization of terminology and reveals the logical connections between concepts.

## **DISCUSSION**

Terminological systems are inherently structured and reflect the conceptual organization of a particular field of knowledge. Islamic terminology, in particular, demonstrates a high degree of stability due to the enduring nature of religious concepts. However, this stability does not imply rigidity; rather, the system evolves gradually in response to cultural and social changes.

Lexical–semantic grouping plays a crucial role in understanding this system. By organizing terms into groups based on shared meanings, researchers can identify patterns and relationships that are not immediately visible. For example, terms related to religious practices, beliefs, and institutions can be grouped into thematic categories, each representing a specific aspect of the Islamic worldview. Semantic relations such as synonymy, antonymy, and homonymy contribute to the internal structure of terminology. Synonymous terms may reflect different linguistic traditions or historical layers, while antonymous pairs often represent fundamental conceptual oppositions. Homonymy, although less common in terminology, can still occur and requires careful analysis.

Another important aspect is the influence of extralinguistic factors on terminological development. Social, cultural, and historical contexts play a significant role in shaping terminology. In the case of Islamic terminology, historical developments, religious practices, and cultural traditions all contribute to the formation and evolution of the terminological system.

Moreover, the relationship between language and reality is not symmetrical. Linguistic systems do not perfectly mirror the external world; instead, they reflect it in a structured and mediated way. This is evident in the fact that a single term may correspond to multiple concepts, or multiple terms may refer to a single concept.

Thus, lexical–semantic grouping not only helps to organize terminology but also provides insights into the cognitive and cultural processes underlying language use.

### **CONCLUSION**

The problem of lexical–semantic grouping in terminology is both complex and significant for linguistic research. This study has shown that terminology is not a random collection of words but a structured system reflecting conceptual, cultural, and cognitive realities. Islamic terminology, due to its stability and cultural importance, provides a valuable case for examining these issues. The application of lexical–semantic grouping reveals the intricate relationships between terms and highlights the importance of semantic analysis in understanding terminological systems.

In conclusion, lexical–semantic grouping is an effective and necessary method for studying terminology. It allows researchers to uncover deeper connections between language, thought, and culture and contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of linguistic systems.

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