

## SEMANTIC SYSTEMATICITY IN THE INTERPRETATION OF LINGUISTIC TERMS

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**Abstract:** *This study analyzes the issue of semantic systematicity in the interpretation of linguistic terms, as well as the main problems related to the explanation of linguistic terminology. The research contributes to the development of linguistic terminology and terminography, as well as to the creation of terminological corpora and terminological databases. The results of the study are important for the standardization of linguistic terminology and the development of scientific lexicography.*

**Key words:** *terminology, term, linguistics, explanatory dictionary, specialized dictionary, systematicity, semantics.*

### **Introduction**

Research conducted in the field of terminology, which has become one of the major scientific trends in recent years, is gaining significant importance in Uzbek linguistics. At the present stage of linguistic development, particular attention is being paid to the precision and consistency of terms used to express scientific concepts and phenomena. Like the terminology of other disciplines, linguistic terms constitute an integral part of scientific communication and serve as the primary means of naming the units of language and their formal as well as semantic features. According to O. Vinokur, a term is always precise and unambiguous. The system of terminology is consciously formed, since terms do not emerge spontaneously; rather, they are created due to social necessity and the practical need for them. Therefore, the accurate interpretation of terms, the clear delineation of their scientific scope, and their standardized usage represent essential factors in the development of modern linguistics. Linguistic terms are generally disseminated to the broader academic community through explanatory dictionaries, specialized terminological dictionaries, encyclopedias, and educational literature. In such sources, the precise presentation of a term's sphere of usage, meaning, and semantic boundaries contributes to the effectiveness of scientific communication.

In linguistics, the field of terminology and the terminological system occupy a special place, since every scientific concept is expressed through a specific term, and scientific thinking is shaped through these terms. Terminology functions not only as a means of nomination, but also as an important instrument for the classification, systematization, and transmission of scientific knowledge. For this reason, the issue of systematicity in the interpretation of linguistic terms emerges as one of the pressing scholarly problems. This article provides a scientific analysis of the issue of systematicity in the interpretation of linguistic terminology.

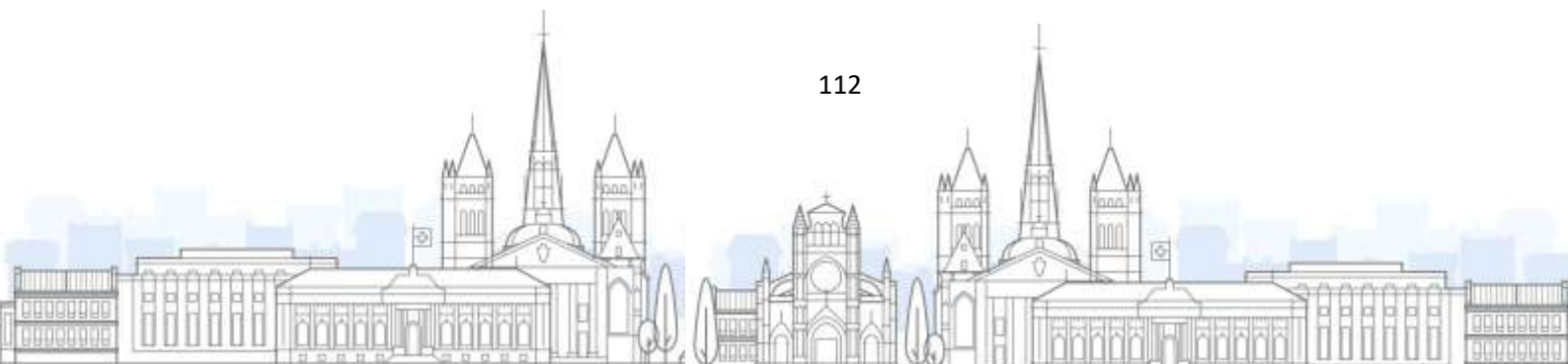
### **Research Methodology**

Three major dictionaries containing explanations of linguistic terminology published to date may be distinguished. The first of these was published in 1985 by A. Hojiyev and includes approximately 1,500 terms[1]. The second dictionary, also compiled by A. Hojiyev, was published in 2002 under the title “Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms” and contains around 1,700 linguistic terms[2]. In addition, an explanatory dictionary of linguistic terminology used in school textbooks, academic lyceums, and vocational college textbooks was also compiled[3]. This dictionary, prepared by N. Mahkamov and I. Ermatov, includes approximately 1,500 linguistic terms. The present article examines the issues of semantic systematicity in the explanations of linguistic terms presented in these dictionaries. During the research process, descriptive and comparative analysis methods were widely employed.

### **Results and Discussions**

In the field of terminology, the issue of semantic systematicity in the interpretation of linguistic terms, as well as its universality, continues to attract the attention of lexicologists, linguists, and terminologists. As academician A. Hojiyev notes, “...for the successful resolution of all issues related to terminology, it is of great importance to compile terminological dictionaries that fully cover the terms of each field, especially explanatory terminological dictionaries. In such dictionaries, it is essential to determine how accurately, fully, and precisely each term reflects the essence of the concept, object, or phenomenon it denotes” [2]. In the course of the study, in order to elucidate the semantic systematicity of linguistic terminology, certain linguistic terms – namely “phoneme,” “morpheme,” “lexeme,” and “sentence” – were comparatively analyzed based on materials from various explanatory dictionaries. Although these linguistic units belong to different levels of the language system, they form a unified system through their interrelated semantic and functional connections.

In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**” (A. Hojiyev, 1985, 2002), the term is defined as follows:



**PHONEME** (Greek phonema – “sound”). The smallest unit of the material side of language, a stable set of distinctive phonological features [2].

In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**” (I. Ermatov, N. Mahkamov), it is defined as:

**PHONEME** (Greek phonema – “sound”). The smallest unit of the material side of language. See: sound [3].

From these definitions, it is evident that in both dictionaries the term “phoneme” is interpreted as the smallest phonological unit of language. However, in the first source, the phoneme is described in greater detail as a set of distinctive phonological features, with emphasis placed on its functional and semantic characteristics. In the second dictionary, the term is defined more concisely and is limited to a brief explanation with a reference to the term “sound.” This indicates that the semantic systematicity in the interpretation of the term is expressed more fully in the first source.

In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**” (I. Ermatov, N. Mahkamov), the term is defined as follows:

**LEXEME** (Greek lexikos – expression, speech pattern). A unit characteristic of the lexical stock of a language; a lexical-semantic element of language structure. Cf. word [3].

The analysis of the given definitions of the term “lexeme” shows that this term is not included in the first dictionary, whereas it is included in the second one. This situation leads to inconsistencies across dictionaries.

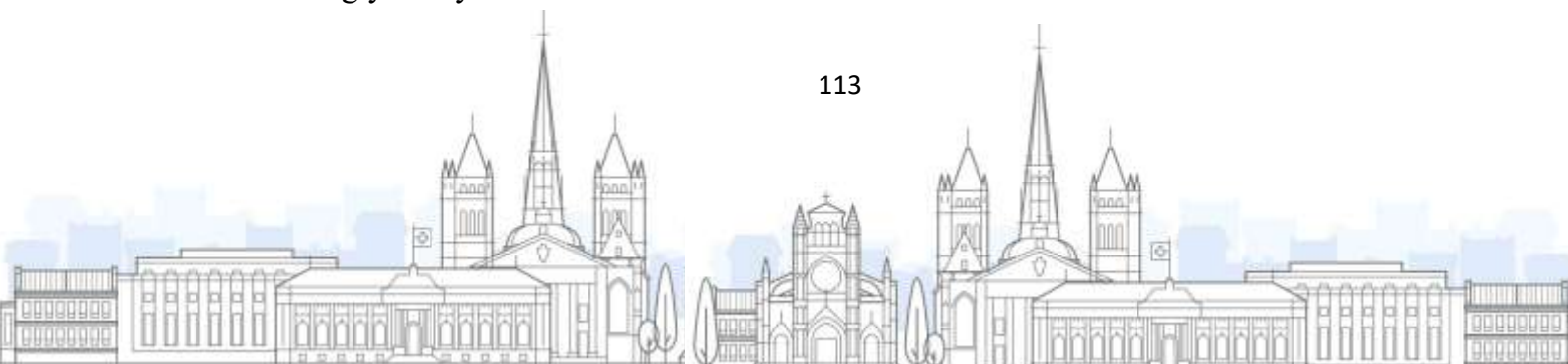
In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**”(A. Hojiyev, 1985, 2002),

**SENTENCE** is defined as follows: 1.A speech unit formed according to the grammatical and intonational rules of language, serving to express a thought. The grammatical basis of a sentence is formed by predicativity — the category of tense, modality, and declarative intonation. Sentences are classified into several types according to their structure, communicative function, and other features. Cf. sentence types. 2.A part of a complex sentence that is equivalent to a predicative unit (e.g., a subordinate clause) [2].

In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**” (I. Ermatov, N. Mahkamov), the term is defined as follows:

**SENTENCE** 1.A speech unit formed according to the grammatical and intonational rules of language, serving to express a complete thought.

2. A combination of words or a single word that has intonational and semantic completeness and is expressed through predicative forms. A sentence expresses a thought. Sentences are classified from different perspectives, and their types are determined accordingly. They are as follows:



3. According to structure, sentences are primarily divided into two types:  
1. simple sentences; 2. complex sentences.

4. According to communicative purpose, sentences are divided into four types:  
1. declarative sentences; 2. interrogative sentences; 3. imperative sentences; 5. optative (wish) sentences.

6. According to the presence of emotional expression, sentences are divided into two types: 1. non-emotional sentences; 2. exclamatory sentences [3].

The comparison of the definitions of the term “sentence” shows that the second dictionary provides a more detailed and classification-based approach, whereas the first dictionary presents a more concise description focusing on its fundamental theoretical features. This indicates that the degree of semantic systematicity, as well as the consistency and completeness of terminological explanations, varies across the sources.

In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**” (A. Hojiyev, 1985, 2002), the term is defined as follows:

**MORPHEME** (Greek morphē – “form”). The smallest meaningful unit of language that cannot be further divided into other meaningful parts. According to its main characteristics, morphemes are divided into two types: 1) lexical morphemes; 2) affixal morphemes [2]. For example, in the word *ishchi* (“worker”), there are two morphemes: *ish* and *-chi*. *Ish* is a lexical morpheme, while *-chi* is an affixal morpheme.

In the “**Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms**” (I. Ermatov, N. Mahkamov), the term is defined as follows:

**MORPHEME** (Greek morphē – “form”). The smallest meaningful unit of language that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. According to its main characteristics, morphemes are divided into two types: 1) lexical morphemes; 2) affixal morphemes. For example, in the word *ishchi*, there are two morphemes: *ish* and *-chi*. *Ish* is a lexical morpheme, while *-chi* is an affixal morpheme [3].

The analysis of the definitions above shows that in both dictionaries the term “morpheme” is consistently and comprehensively interpreted as the smallest meaningful unit of language. In addition, the classification of morphemes into lexical and affixal types demonstrates that the semantic structure of the term is presented in a systematic way. The structural and semantic properties of the morpheme are clearly expressed in both sources, which confirms a high level of scientific consistency and semantic coherence in its definition.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

The results of this study demonstrate that the principle of systematicity holds significant scientific and methodological importance in the explanation of linguistic terminology. During the analysis, the interpretations of the terms “**phoneme**,” “**lexeme**,” “**sentence**,”

and “**morpheme**” in various explanatory dictionaries were compared, and both similarities and certain differences were identified between them. In some dictionaries, the terms are explained as isolated units rather than within an interconnected semantic system. As a result, the paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations between terms are not sufficiently revealed, which makes their full comprehension more difficult. In some cases, theoretical aspects are emphasized, while in others, practical and classificatory approaches are more extensively developed. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. to apply the principle of systematicity as a key criterion in compiling explanatory dictionaries of linguistic terminology;
2. to indicate the semantic and functional relationships of each term with other related terms in its definition;
3. to standardize and ensure consistency of term definitions based on a unified scientific framework;
4. to revise and enrich the meanings of terms in accordance with modern trends in linguistics;
5. to implement a systematic explanatory model in the development of electronic terminological dictionaries and databases.

In conclusion, ensuring semantic systematicity in the explanation of terms strengthens scientific accuracy and consistency and contributes to the coherent formation of the terminological system.

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