LEXICAL-SEMANTIC AND ETYMOLOGICAL FEATURES OF PLANET NAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Khusenoova Mehriniso Uktamovna
Teacher of English literary studies and translation,
Bukhara State University,
m.u.xusenova@buxdu.uz

Abstract

Planet names are an important part of astronomical terminology and scientific vocabulary. The research employs comparative, descriptive, lexical-semantic, and etymological methods to analyze the origin, meaning, structure, and linguistic adaptation of planetary names in both languages. The findings reveal that most English planet names derive from Roman and Greek mythology and entered English through Latin, whereas the Uzbek equivalents have mainly been borrowed through international scientific terminology and adapted to the phonological and orthographic norms of the Uzbek language.

Keywords: *planet names, astronomical terminology, lexical semantics, etymology, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics, scientific terminology.*

Introduction

Astronomical terminology represents one of the oldest and most universal branches of scientific vocabulary. Since ancient civilizations observed the night sky and identified celestial objects, the names of planets have become an integral part of human language and culture. These names not only designate astronomical objects but also reflect historical beliefs, mythological traditions, and linguistic evolution. Consequently, planet names constitute a unique lexical group that combines scientific precision with cultural symbolism.

English and Uzbek share the internationally accepted names of the eight planets; however, their lexical and semantic characteristics differ because of their historical development and linguistic structure. English inherited most planetary names from Latin, where they had already been associated with Roman deities. Uzbek, in contrast, adopted these names through international scientific terminology, primarily via Russian scientific tradition, while adapting them to the phonetic and orthographic norms of the Uzbek language.

Lexical-Semantic and Etymological Analysis of Planet Names

Planet names are classified as proper nouns because they identify unique celestial objects. Unlike common nouns, they possess fixed scientific meanings and are internationally standardized by astronomical organizations.

The English name *Mercury* originates from the Roman messenger god, renowned for his speed. The planet received this name because it moves rapidly across the sky. The Uzbek equivalent *Merkuriy* is a transliterated international scientific term that preserves the same denotative meaning while adapting to Uzbek pronunciation. For example, *Venus* is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty. Since this planet appears exceptionally bright in the night sky, ancient astronomers associated it with beauty and brilliance. Uzbek uses the form *Venera*, which retains the original semantic motivation while undergoing phonetic adaptation.

Unlike the other planets, *Earth* is not named after a Roman deity. The English word derives from Old English *eorþe*, meaning "ground" or "soil." Similarly, the Uzbek word *Yer* is a native Turkic lexical unit denoting land and the planet inhabited by humans. Both terms function as scientific and everyday vocabulary.

The planet *Mars* derives its name from the Roman god of war because of its reddish appearance, which symbolized blood and battle in ancient culture. Both English and Uzbek use almost identical forms, demonstrating the international nature of scientific terminology.

Jupiter was named after the supreme Roman god because it is the largest planet in the Solar System. The Uzbek form *Yupiter* differs only in spelling and pronunciation while preserving the same lexical and semantic identity. The name *Saturn* originates from the Roman god of agriculture and time. The Uzbek equivalent maintains both the pronunciation and the scientific meaning with minimal phonetic modification. Unlike most planets, *Uranus* comes from Greek mythology rather than Roman mythology. Uranus was regarded as the god of the sky. In Uzbek, the shortened form *Uran* reflects phonological adaptation while maintaining its scientific reference.

Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea because of the planet's deep blue color. The Uzbek equivalent *Neptun* differs slightly in pronunciation but preserves the original semantic and mythological associations.

Discussion

The analysis indicates that the lexical-semantic characteristics of planet names are closely connected with mythology, history, and linguistic development. Their denotative meanings remain stable because they identify specific celestial bodies, while their connotative meanings preserve cultural references inherited from ancient civilizations.

The comparative study also reveals that international scientific terminology facilitates mutual understanding among languages while allowing individual languages to maintain

their own phonetic and orthographic characteristics. The adaptation of planetary names into Uzbek illustrates how scientific terms become integrated into the lexical system without losing their universal scientific identity.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of planet names in English and Uzbek demonstrates that these lexical units combine scientific, linguistic, and cultural significance. Most planetary names originated from Roman and Greek mythology and entered English through Latin, whereas Uzbek adopted them through international scientific terminology and adapted them to its phonological system. Despite differences in pronunciation and spelling, both languages preserve the same scientific meanings and cultural associations. The study confirms that planet names are valuable linguistic units for comparative linguistics, terminology, lexicography, and translation studies because they illustrate the interaction between language, history, mythology, and science. Future research may extend this comparative approach to other groups of astronomical terms, including the names of stars, constellations, satellites, galaxies, and celestial phenomena

References

1. Xodjayeva D.I. Different viewpoints on lexicography and dictionary types // ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal. – Volume 11, Issue 2. – India, 2021. – P.1270-1273

2. Khusenova M.U. Lexical-Semantic Features of Astronomical Terminology in the English Language // American Journal of Language, Literacy and Learning in STEM Education. ISSN (E): 2993-2769. – Volume 02, Issue 11, 2. – The USA, 2024.

3. Khusenova M.U. Functional Features of Astronomical Terms in English and Uzbek Languages // American Journal of Education and Evaluation Studies. E-ISSN: 2997-9439. – Volume 2, № 1. – The USA, 2025. – P. 138-143

4. Khusenova M.U. The importance of dictionaries and its types //Academy. ISSN: 2412-8236. №. 1 (64). – Russia, 2021. – P. 61-63.

5. Khusenova M.U. Terminology and Features of Terminological Metafora // Central Asian Journal of Literature, Philosophy and Culture. ISSN(E): 2771- 2834. – Volume 03, Issue 11. – Spain, 2021. – P. 37-41

6. International Astronomical Union. (n.d.). *Naming of astronomical objects*. https://www.iau.org/public/themes/naming/

7. Ridpath, I. (2012). *Oxford Dictionary of Astronomy* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.