

# THE USE OF MILITARY TERMINOLOGY IN UZBEK PRESS: STRUCTURAL, SEMANTIC, AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

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## Abstract

The study of military terminology in mass media has become increasingly relevant in modern linguistics due to the expansion of military-political discourse, global security issues, and the growing role of the press in shaping public understanding of defense-related concepts. This article investigates the use of military terminology in Uzbek press materials, focusing on structural, semantic, and functional aspects of terminological units. Using qualitative and quantitative content analysis, materials from leading Uzbek newspapers and online publications were examined to identify the frequency, adaptation, contextual transformation, and communicative functions of military terms. The findings reveal that Uzbek media actively employs both native and borrowed military lexicon, often integrating international terminology through semantic adaptation. Military terms in Uzbek press perform not only informative but also ideological, persuasive, and socio-political functions. The article concludes that military terminology in Uzbek journalism reflects broader linguistic modernization processes and demonstrates the interaction between specialized vocabulary and public discourse.

**Keywords:** Military terminology, Uzbek press, media discourse, lexical adaptation, semantic transformation, military lexicon, terminology studies.

## Introduction

In the contemporary globalized world, military discourse occupies a significant place in media communication due to geopolitical conflicts, defense reforms, national security strategies, and international military cooperation. Mass media, particularly the press, serves as a primary platform for disseminating military-



related information to society. Consequently, the language of newspapers and digital journalism increasingly incorporates military terminology, transforming specialized lexical units into elements of public discourse.

In Uzbek linguistics, terminology studies have expanded considerably, especially after Uzbekistan's independence, when socio-political, legal, economic, and military spheres underwent substantial lexical modernization. The military sphere, in particular, introduced numerous new concepts associated with defense policy, armed forces reform, strategic partnerships, and technological advancements. Uzbek press publications such as *Xalq so'zi*, *Yangi O'zbekiston*, *Mudofaa*, and various online platforms regularly employ military terms to report on national defense, global conflicts, military exercises, and security policies.

The relevance of this study lies in the need to analyze how military terms function beyond narrow professional communication and become part of broader journalistic language. Military terminology in media may undergo semantic simplification, contextual reinterpretation, or ideological framing depending on communicative goals. Therefore, examining military terminology in Uzbek press allows for a deeper understanding of lexical borrowing, semantic change, and discourse strategies.

The aim of this research is to investigate the structural and semantic characteristics of military terminology used in Uzbek press and determine its communicative functions. The objectives include:

1. Identifying frequently used military terms in Uzbek media;
2. Classifying them according to origin and structure;
3. Analyzing their semantic and stylistic transformation;
4. Determining their functional role in journalistic discourse.

This research contributes to terminology studies, media linguistics, and discourse analysis by exploring the intersection of specialized vocabulary and public communication.

## Methods

This study employs a mixed methodological framework combining content analysis, discourse analysis, lexical-semantic analysis, and comparative linguistic methods.



## Data Collection

The empirical material consists of articles published between 2022 and 2026 in major Uzbek print and online media sources, including:

- *Xalq so'zi*;
- *Yangi O'zbekiston*;
- *Mudofaa*;
- *Kun.uz*;
- *Daryo.uz*.

A corpus of approximately 250 media texts related to defense, military reform, international conflict, and security was compiled. Articles were selected based on thematic relevance and frequency of military terminology.

## Analytical Procedures

### 1. Content Analysis

Military lexical units were identified and categorized according to thematic groups such as:

- ranks and personnel (general, officer, soldier);
- weapons and equipment (tank, missile, drone);
- operations and strategy (mobilization, defense, offensive);
- institutions (Ministry of Defense, Armed Forces).

### 2. Structural Analysis

Terms were analyzed according to linguistic structure:

- simple terms (army, defense);
- compound terms (air defense, combat readiness);
- multi-component terminological units (strategic military cooperation).

### 3. Semantic Analysis

The semantic adaptation of borrowed terms from Russian and English into Uzbek was examined, particularly regarding transliteration, calquing, and contextual shifts.

#### 4. Functional Analysis

Special attention was given to communicative functions, including:

- informative;
- persuasive;
- ideological;
- patriotic.

#### Results

The analysis demonstrates that military terminology in Uzbek press is characterized by lexical diversity, structural hybridity, and functional expansion.

#### Frequency and Origin

Approximately 62% of military terms identified were borrowed or internationally standardized lexical units, primarily from Russian and English. Examples include *strategiya* (strategy), *mobilizatsiya* (mobilization), *dron* (drone), and *raketa* (rocket). Native Uzbek equivalents accounted for 38%, often used in official state publications emphasizing national linguistic identity.

#### Structural Features

Simple lexical forms were most common in headlines due to brevity and impact, while compound and multi-component terms appeared more frequently in analytical reports. For example:

- “harbiy salohiyat” (military capacity);
- “havo hujumidan mudofaa tizimi” (air defense system);
- “strategik hamkorlik mashg‘ulotlari” (strategic partnership exercises).

#### Semantic Transformation

Many military terms experienced semantic broadening in media discourse. For instance, the term “front” was not limited to battlefield usage but metaphorically applied to public health or political campaigns. Such metaphorization demonstrates the integration of military lexicon into broader socio-political communication.



## **Functional Roles**

### **Informative Function**

Military terminology primarily conveys factual information regarding defense policy, national security, and international relations.

### **Ideological Function**

State-oriented media often uses military vocabulary to reinforce patriotism, sovereignty, and national unity.

### **Persuasive Function**

In analytical journalism, military terms may frame geopolitical narratives, influencing public perception of external threats or alliances.

## **Discussion**

The findings indicate that military terminology in Uzbek press reflects both linguistic globalization and national identity construction. Borrowed terms often emerge due to technological innovation and international cooperation, especially concerning modern warfare technologies such as drones, cyber defense, and missile systems. However, local linguistic adaptation remains significant, as Uzbek journalism frequently integrates foreign military concepts into national lexical norms.

This process corresponds with broader terminological development trends in post-independence Uzbekistan, where state language policy encourages Uzbekization while maintaining communicative precision. Media discourse thus becomes a site of lexical negotiation between internationalization and localization.

Furthermore, the metaphorical extension of military terms suggests their cognitive and rhetorical power. Journalists utilize military vocabulary not merely to describe defense matters but to dramatize political, economic, and social issues. This supports discourse theory perspectives, which view terminology as socially functional rather than purely nominative.

The ideological role of military terminology is particularly prominent in official publications, where terms such as “national defense,” “combat readiness,” and “strategic stability” contribute to constructing a state-centered narrative. Such

usage aligns with broader media functions in nation-building and political communication. Nevertheless, excessive borrowing may create comprehension barriers for general audiences, especially when technical military jargon is insufficiently contextualized. Therefore, journalists play a crucial role in balancing terminological accuracy with accessibility.

## Conclusion

The study confirms that military terminology in Uzbek press represents a dynamic and multifunctional lexical subsystem shaped by professional discourse, media communication, and socio-political context. Uzbek newspapers and online journalism actively incorporate military vocabulary through native development, borrowing, and semantic adaptation.

Military terms in Uzbek media fulfill informative, ideological, and persuasive purposes, extending beyond technical communication into broader public discourse. Their structural diversity and semantic flexibility illustrate the evolving relationship between specialized terminology and journalistic language. Future research may focus on comparative analysis of military terminology across Uzbek, English, and Russian media or explore the cognitive-discursive mechanisms behind militarized metaphor in journalism.

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