



MILITARY TERMS IN RUSSIAN LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

The article studies the concept of “military terminology” in modern Russian. The relevance of the study is due to the widespread use of military terminology in the media and the rapid advancement of weapons technology. The aim of our research is to study the features of military terminology in modern Russian. The research methods are: the study of scientific literature on the topic, the analysis and the classification. The article distinguishes between the concepts of “military vocabulary” and “military terminology”, defining military terminology as a significant part of military vocabulary. The article explores the problem of studying military terminology in a historical context and analyzes various modern approaches to the classification of military terms concluding that these classifications have a number of shortcomings.

Keywords: Russian language, term, military vocabulary, military terminology, classification of military terminology.

Introduction

Military vocabulary occupies a special place in the lexical system of the Russian language. On the one hand, it is used by every native speaker and can be used in various conditions of communication. On the other hand, military vocabulary has a limited sphere of use. It can be referred to the terminological and professional lexicon. Terminological lexicon represents a large stratum in the system of the Russian language. Each scientific field of knowledge has its own specific terminological system. The concept of term is quite complex and multidimensional. A term is understood as a word or a phrase combination that names a special concept of any particular sphere, for example, science, art, etc. [1, c. 91]. The basis of each term is the definition of the reality it designates. Thus, a term is a precise and concise characteristic of a certain subject or phenomenon. It should also be noted that terms do not exist in isolation, by themselves. They necessarily refer to a certain field of knowledge, the essence of the term is revealed only in the context [2, p. 91]. The emergence and widespread use of terms is due to the rapid development of science and technology in recent centuries. Terminological vocabulary has become an integral part of the Russian language, combining general scientific and special terms. Military





terminology is part of the military vocabulary. It is defined as “a formalized system of established military terms, each of which has a strictly defined meaning with a clearly delineated scope of application and scientific justification” [3, p. 7]. Military terminology has its characteristic properties: 1) systematic; 2) nominative; 3) monosemic within its terminological field; 4) stylistic neutrality; 5) lack of expressiveness [4, p. 98]. The basis of military terminology consists of military terms, which are understood as names that correlate with special concepts from the field of military affairs [5, p. 98]. The semantic structure of military terms includes 2 words “combat” and “military”. Thus, military terminology constitutes the system of nominations of military science. Within the military vocabulary, in addition to military terms, we can also distinguish military jargon (lace-шнурок – значении “матрос”, trunk – хобот – ствол танковой пушки, rake – грач – жаргонное название самолетов, senior lieutenant – старлей – старший лейтенант non-military vocabulary (scoop – черпак – солдат, прослуживший от 1 до 1,5 лет; demobel – дембель – демобилизованный или солдат, ждущий демобилизации; quarantine – карантин – курс молодого бойца). This can also include various situational words that acquire a military character in a certain context: Military terminology is a whole system and includes a large number of components, which consist with each other in certain relations and form a unified whole. Language elements in this terminological system do not exist in isolation, they are a means of reflecting extra-linguistic reality. The study of military terminology is devoted to the works of many linguists, for example, Y. A. Belchikov [7, p. 34], D. Biderksen [3, p. 5], A. N. Kozhin [8, p. 3], A. N. Kolgushkin [9], S. V. Lazarevich [10], F. P. Sorokoletov [11] and others. However, it should be noted that so far the military terminology has not been studied completely. In general, this lexical stratum is very mobile. There are constant changes in it, primarily related to the events occurring in society and politics, as well as scientific and technological progress. Many military terms become obsolete and irrelevant, and new lexemes replace them. The first attempts to describe military vocabulary were made in the work of A. S. Budilovich “Primitive Slavs in their language, life and concepts according to lexical data” [12]. F. P. Filin’s dissertation “The Lexicon of the Russian Literary Language of the Old Kiev Epoch” (1949) is devoted to the study of military vocabulary and phraseology [13]. Among the main works devoted to the study of military terminology of the Old Russian language, the following can be distinguished. For example, the work of S. D. Ledyeva “Russian military vocabulary of the XI-XIII centuries”. [1], in which the elements of military vocabulary are considered from different points of view (word-formation, semantic and phraseological). It is also





necessary to note the study "Russian military vocabulary of the second half of the XVII -the first half of the XVIII century" by M. F. Tuzova [14], which is based on the materials from the documents about the peasant uprisings of Stepan Razin and Kondratiy Bulavin. A great contribution to the study of Old Russian vocabulary was made by P. Ya Chernykh. Here we should note his work "Sketch of Russian historical lexicology" [15], where the author analyzes the formation of military vocabulary, notes the appearance of new words, foreign borrowings in this lexical category. The process of development of military terminology can be traced in the course of studying written monuments of different times, containing vocabulary typical for the linguistic environment of the time period under study. In the literary monuments of the XI-XII centuries the terminology of East Slavic origin prevails (axe, war, hammer, stick, scabbard, rath, etc.).

E. V. Brysina in her dissertation study "Phraseological activity of military vocabulary" [16] offers the following classification of military terminology: 1) names of phenomena related to the construction, movement and composition of troops: front, line, row, flank, march, outpost, reserve, march, etc.; 2) names characterizing the features of military operations: retreat, assault, breakthrough, volley, shelling, defense, ambush, barrage, bombardment, surround, etc.; 2) names characterizing the features of military operations: retreat, assault, breakthrough, volley, shelling, defense, ambush, barrage, bombardment, encircle, shoot, shoot, advance, etc.; 3) names of weapons, military equipment, combat weapons, etc.; 3) names of weapons, military equipment: mine, cannon, spear, shield, sight, misfire, charge, etc.; 4) names of the territory of military operations: frontier, position, point, guard, front line, etc.; 5) various names of military personnel: gunner, dragoon, sentry, machine gunner; private, general, ataman, lieutenant; retired, recruit, etc.; 4) names of the territory of military operations: border, position, point, guard, front line, etc..

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