

## UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF A TERM: KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND DEFINITIONS

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**Abstract:** The place of terms in the lexical system of the language and the relationship between a term and a commonly used word are revealed. The linguistic features of the terminological vocabulary are considered in this article.

**Keywords:** term, concept, lexical units, definition, specialized vocabulary, terminology.

The concepts of term and terminology are key in science; a term ensures accuracy, clarity and understanding of scientific thought. However, despite the important place of these concepts in the system of scientific knowledge and a large number of studies, there is still no consensus on a number of fundamental issues of terminology: thus, there is no generally accepted definition of a term, there are discussions about the requirements for a term, its grammatical expression, the issue of the place of terminology in the language has not been resolved, etc.

In this article, we will consider existing opinions on the place of a term in the language, determine its most important features and, based on this, try to give a definition of this concept.

Terminology is part of specialized vocabulary, which includes words and phrases that name objects and concepts of various spheres of human professional activity and are not generally used. A comprehensive study of specialized vocabulary as the main component of language for special purposes began in the 20th century. Terminology as the most important part of specialized vocabulary has been actively studied since the beginning of the 20th century. It becomes obvious that this is a special area of vocabulary, a system organized according to its own laws and requiring its own methods and techniques of study.

Despite the large number of studies devoted to terms, one of the main problems of understanding and studying a term as a linguistic category in modern linguistics is its definition. During the study of the features of the term and terminology, a significant number of definitions of the concept of "term" have accumulated. A. V. Superanskaya explains the existence of various interpretations of the concept of "term" primarily by the fact that "... representatives of different disciplines associate it with their own special concepts and ideas, have an unequal volume of content and are defined in their own way" [1]. However, in all logical definitions of a term, its connection with a concept is put first. "Terms are special words, limited by their special purpose; words that strive to be unambiguous as an exact expression of concepts and naming of things" [2]; "a term is a word (or phrase), the linguistic sign of which is correlated (connected) with the corresponding concept in the system of concepts of a given field of science and technology" [3]; "a term is a word or phrase of a special (scientific, technical, etc.) language, created (adopted, borrowed, etc.) for the precise expression of special concepts and designation of special objects" [4]; "a term is a word (or word combination), which is a unity of a sound sign and a corresponding concept correlated (connected) with it in the system of concepts of a given field of science and technology" [3].

Thus, based on the above, we consider the ability of a term to designate a certain scientific concept to be its most important feature: "for a term, the named concept is simultaneously the named object, i.e. the "name-concept" connection dominates. Behind a term there is always an object of

thought, but not thought in general, but a special thought limited to a certain field” [4]. The problem of determining the place of terminology in the composition of language also causes numerous disputes. There are two main points of view on this issue: supporters of the normative approach, deriving terminology from the composition of the national language, come to the conclusion about the artificiality of the term as a special unit and consider terminology as a system of artificially created signs, such requirements are imposed on the term as fixed content (definiteness), accuracy, unambiguity, absence of synonyms, brevity, etc., other scientists - supporters of the descriptive approach recognize terminology as an integral part of the vocabulary of the literary language, they essentially refuse to limit the term by any formal requirements, emphasizing the need to study the actual processes of functioning of terminology.

Among the requirements imposed on a term, they also name the conformity of the term to the norms of the literary language, orthoepic, lexical, word-formation, grammatical, and orthographic. However, it should be noted that any professional language in the process of its functioning can acquire some grammatical, stylistic, and other features, which often leads to the emergence of professionalisms in a special sphere of communication. Thus, in our opinion, it is necessary to distinguish lexical units that represent a professional version of the norm from words that do not meet the rules of the literary language or go beyond its limits.

Thus, generalizing the above and sharing the point of view of a number of other scientists, we understand a term as a word or phrase associated with a special concept, phenomenon or object in the system of any field of knowledge. We consider the most important features of terminological linguistic units to be, first of all, correlation with a certain scientific concept, accuracy and systematicity. The requirements of unambiguity and brevity, in our opinion, cannot be considered as obligatory for modern terminological units, since many terminological nominations often turn out to be polysemantic and multicomponent. We consider terminology to be an integral part of the vocabulary of the literary language, independent, but not isolated, which implies the subordination of terminology to the general trends in the development of the literary language, on the one hand, but also some independence, on the other. We see the function of the scientist to a greater extent in the study and description of the state of terminological systems than in their rigid artificial regulation; normative restrictions imposed on terms, in our opinion, rather slow down and limit the development of terminological systems than help them.

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