



International Journal of
MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION

ISSN: (Print) ISSN 1987-9601

(Online) E ISSN 1512-3146

Journal homepage: <http://multilingualeducation.org/>

Georgian Terminology- tradition and present state

Tamar Kvitsiani

Ivane Javakhishili Tbilisi State University,
Georgia

Email: tamar.ninidze@tsu.ge

To cite this article: Tamar Kvitsiani (2023):Georgian Terminology-
tradition and present state;
International Journal of Multilingual Education, #22;
DOI: 10.22333/ijme.2023.22000; pp. 105-112.

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.22333/ijme.2023.220013>

Tamar Kvitsiani

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Georgian Terminology- tradition and present state

ABSTRACT

The article presents the results of the study of Georgian Terms with Regard to their Sources and Structural-Semantic Composition. The research revealed several noteworthy issues, which are important from the point of view of the formulation of terminological policy in Georgia. Analysis of the sources and structural-semantic composition of Georgian terms against the backdrop of the history of Georgian term-forming, basing on the contrastive study of the terms created in the classical period on the one hand, and the terms from the fields of knowledge developed relatively recently, on the other hand, showed how necessary intervention of specialists is for the development of terminological work. The research material was extracted from the English-Georgian Online Biology Dictionary, created in the Lexicographic Centre at Tbilisi State University.

Key words: *Georgian terminology, structure, creating methods, transliteration.*

Introduction.

The end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century were marked with major changes in almost every field of science and technology. Modern technologies penetrated into different fields, causing revolutionary changes there. This process naturally resulted in the creation of many new scientific concepts and, consequently, terms, which posed a big challenge to the Georgian language. Even a superficial observation of modern Georgian terminology makes it clear that the terms almost in all fields are introduced into Georgian by means of transliteration. The language is full of transliterated terms such as: “*tulkiti*” (‘toolkit’), “*skrolingi*” (‘scrolling’), “*startaperi*” (‘start-upper’), “*merchendaizeri*” (‘merchandizer’), “*merchanti*” (‘merchant’), “*keshplou*” (‘cash flow’), “*kontrasignacia*” (‘countersigning’, ‘countersignature’), “*imunoprecipitacia*” (‘immunoprecipitation’), “*delecia*” (‘deletion’), “*adhezia*” (‘adhesion’), “*kemorepelenti*” (‘chemorepellent’), “*kalcineirini*” (‘calcineurin’), “*dreipi*” (‘drift’), “*shaperoni*” (‘chaperone’), “*inhibicia*” (‘inhibition’) and so on.

This was the main reason for our choice as to the research topic: Study of Georgian Terms with Regard to their Sources and Structural-Semantic Composition. We analysed terms basing on the contrastive study: on the one hand, we analysed the terms created in the first half of the 20th century and, to this end, selected 800 terms from the traditional fields, such as botany, zoology and anatomy. We also studied 800 terms selected from the fields developed later, such as immunology, genetics and biotechnology. The research material was extracted from the English-Georgian Online Biology Dictionary (<http://bio.dict.ge/>), created in the Lexicographic Centre

at Tbilisi State University.

The research showed that the Georgian language and the words from common Georgian vocabulary were quite skilfully used for the creation of terms in the first half of the 20th century. Almost 90% of the analysed terms from that period are created by using resources of the Georgian language itself.

The situation is different as concerns the terms from the fields developed relatively later, such as immunology, genetics and biotechnology. The research showed that 90% of new Georgian terms are merely transliterated from their respective source-language equivalents. In the process of analysing terms, norms of the Georgian language are often neglected. On the other hand, there is also the increasing number of analytical terms in modern terminology. Transliteration of analytical terms causes considerable terminological ambiguity.

Our research showed that the history of Georgian term-forming provides a remarkable proof of the fact that the Georgian language has ample resources for the formation of new terms. We would also like to emphasize that it is impossible to create all terms relying exclusively on the resources of the Georgian language itself and that we cannot avoid using internationalisms. In our opinion, the best solution of the problem resides in the rich history of the Georgian term-forming, which may be designated as “the golden mean”.

History of terminological work in Georgia.

Working on Georgian terminology starts in the Middle ages and it goes through different stages. Middle ages are characterised with purism epoch, when all the terms are created with the use of the Georgian language and there are no examples of internationalisms. Another important period for the development of Georgian terminology is the first half of the 20th century and foundation of the first Georgian university. This is the period, when there is an attempt to develop Georgian terminological work. In this period dominant is Pilipe Makharadze’s idea, that internationalisms make the language much more beautiful. Next significant period in the history of Georgian terminological work is Bolsheviks’ invasion, that affected the Georgian language and its development. This is a period, when everything is created in Russian and Russification starts. Epoch of English starts from the last decade of the 20th century, when it becomes dominant and has a big influence on Georgian. The terms almost in all fields are introduced into Georgian by means of transliteration.

From the very beginning of Georgian terminological work, the main source of terminology is the Georgian language vocabulary. At that time terminology receives and uses Georgian words that were created throughout the long history of the Georgian language and makes them part of some specific fields.

The process of migration terms from common language vocabulary into terminological system is common in every language. This process changes the meaning of a word. Terminological system is characterised with all the aspects of development of meaning: metaphorical and metonymical usage of a word, change of a meaning according to the principle of adjacency, differentiation of the meaning, etc. It is worth to mention, that there are not only cases, when words from common language vocabulary migrates into terminology, but there are some cases, when a term becomes a part of common language vocabulary and loses the qualities characteristic for terminological system.

In the process of term-forming, old Georgian vocabulary and the dialects of the Georgian language plays

also a big role. There are many examples of borrowings as well, that is caused by economical, political, cultural and religious contacts among countries and nations. Thus, we see a big number of borrowings from Arabic, Turkish and Persian languages. From the 19th century most terms are created with a big influence of the Russian language. This process is caused by political situation in Georgia at that time. Despite all the difficulties Georgian terminologists faced from Russian imperialistic politics, they still tried to use the Georgian language in the process of creating Georgian terminology.

There is radically different situation from the 1990s, when Georgia became an independent country and it was no more part of Soviet Union. The English language becomes dominant in all fields. Confusion of the nation caused by getting independence, chaotic terminological work and incoordination has a significant influence on the language.

We are living in an epoch, when all the fields are developing rapidly. This results in having need of new concepts and terms. Thus, creating terms is process that requires the coordination of specialists to set standards and elaborate terminological policy. There is no language in the world existing independently without having any kind of influence from any other language, but it does not mean that it should not be controlled. We have to protect our native language. It is harmful for the language as a significant symbol of nation's identity. This process is also harmful for the development of the field, where the words are entering from other languages without control. This way the term becomes ambiguous, so the usage of the term is also doubtful.

Process of creating terms in Georgia has been started from the very beginning of setting up Georgian scientific society. At that time it was very difficult task and full of responsibilities. Working language for scientific fields was not Georgian because of the existing political situation in the country. Nothing in scientific fields was created with the use of the Georgian language. From the period of foundation of the first Georgian university (in 1918), scientific society, that first started working on terminology, began using Georgian skillfully in the process of creating terms.

Using a big number of foreign words in Georgian has been a result of political infirmity throughout the history of Georgia. The language was full with barbarisms from the Russian language. Nowadays there is a similar situation in regard to English. Consequently, it should be mentioned that the intervention of specialists is desperately needed in the process of terminological work. There should be some institutions, that will work on creating, implementing and popularisation of terms. Recommendations given by them should have some compulsory power. Other way it is impossible to control this process in the epoch of globalisation and worldwide access to the endless amount of information.

Structural-semantic analysis of the terms created in the 1st half of the 20th century.

On the first step, we analysed the terms created in the first half of the 20th century and, to this end, selected 800 terms from the traditional fields, such as botany, zoology and anatomy. The research showed that the Georgian language is a main source for botanical, zoological and anatomic terms. The terms are created with the usage of resources of Georgian. Common language vocabulary of Georgian is also quite skillfully used to create terms in these fields.

Thus, almost 90% of analyzed terms created in a classical period are based on Georgian resources. These terms are natural to the Georgian language. For example:

atrabiliary capsules - თირკმელზედა ჯირკვლები.

axial skeleton - ღერძული ჩონჩხი (თავის ქალოა, ხერხემალი და ნეკნები).

basilar artery - ძირითადი არტერია, ბაზალური არტერია (თავის ტვინისა).

bile duct - ნაღვლის სადინარი.

blind spot - ბრმა ლაქა (თვალის ბადურაზე).

blood vessel - სისხლძარღვი.

body cavity – 1. ზოოლ. სხეულის ღრუ.

2. ანატ. სხეულის ღრუ.

The research showed that 74% of analyzed terms are simple and derived and so is in Georgian. For example:

axillary- ანატ. ილიისა, საილიე.

atrium- ანატ. წინაგული.

arm- ანატ. მკლავი.

arthral- ანატ. სახსრისა, სასახსრე.

apex- ანატ. მწვერვალი.

ankle- ანატ. კოჭი.

ansa- ანატ. მარყუჟი.

aditus- ანატ. შესასვლელი.

11% of terms are complex. For example:

breastbone - მკერდის ძვალი, მკერდი.

cerebrospinal - ცენეროსპინალური, თავის ტვინსა და ზურგის ტვინთან დაკავშირებული.

circumduction - ცირკუმდუქცია, წრიული მოძრაობა (ძვლის სახსარში).

collarbone - ლავიწი.

cuneiform - სოლისებრი, სოლის ფორმისა. ანატ. სოლისებრი ძვალი (ტერფისა).

dolichocephaly - დოლიკოკეფალია, გრძელთავიანობა.

fundiform - მაყუჩისებრი, ფორმით მარყუჟის მსგავსი.

eardrum - დაფის აპკი (ყურისა).

endocranial - ქალასშიგა.

15% of the terms are compound. For example:

association centres - ასოციაციური ცენტრები (თავის ტვინის ქერქისა).

association cortex - თავის ტვინის ასოციაციური ქერქი; ასოციაციური უბნები/ზონები (თავის

ტვინისა).

association fibres - ასოციაციური ნერვული ბოჭკოები.

atrabiliary capsules - თირკმელზედა ჯირკვლები.

axial skeleton - ღერძული ჩონჩხი (თავის ქლოა, ხერხემალი და ნეკნები).

We analyzed terms not only structurally, but semasiologically. Almost 18% of analyzed terms from the fields of classical periods anatomy, zoology and botany are characterized with polysemy. Only 5% of the terms are synonymic.

Thus, as we have already mentioned, the research conducted by us showed that the terms in the traditional fields are mostly simple. Small number of terms are polysemic and synonymic. Terminology of these fields is monosemic.

Structural-semantic analysis of the terms created in the 2nd half of the 20th century.

Next step of our research was to analyze 800 terms from later developed fields, such as immunology, biotechnology and genetics. The terms are studied according to their structural-semantic composition and their creating methods. As it is above mentioned, in today's world development of all fields of science caused creating new terms. Superficial observation of new Georgian terms created during last 15 years shows, that most of the terms in all fields are created by means of transliteration. For example: pretsipitacia (precipitation), retsiprokuli translokatsia (reciprocal translocation), rezidualuri stresis paterni (residual stress pattern) and so on. The process causes ambiguity and negatively affects on the development of the field itself. Study of the terms from these fields gives us a chance to observe how were terms created from the 2nd half of the 20th century till today and what were methods of creating terms in later developed fields.

Therefore, the research showed, that 90% of analyzed 800 terms, selected from the fields developed later, such as immunology, biotechnology and genetics, were created into Georgian by means of transliteration. For example:

cognate- გენ., იმუნ. კოგნატური.

complement- იმუნ. კომპლემენტი

domain- დომენი.

abzyme - გენ. იმუნ. აბზიმი.

cytokine - იმუნ. ბიოქ. ციტოკინი.

detoxification - იმუნ. ეკოლ. დეტოქსიკაცია, დეტოქსიფიკაცია.

granulopoiesis - იმუნ. გრანულოპოეზი, გრანულოციტოპოეზი.

differencial gene expression – გენის დიფერენციული ექსპრესია.

de novo mutation – დე-ნოვო მუტაცია.

dominant lethal – დომინანტური ლეტალი.

Thus, terms are not transparent, which should be an important characteristic of the term itself. They are not clear for users, such as specialists of the field itself or students, who are studying in those fields.

The research revealed some noteworthy issues as well: Almost 90% of English terms are transliterated into Georgian, while the English language uses its resources (common language vocabulary or already existed terms) for creating new terms to deal with this endless amount of new concepts.

Study of the terms from the later developed fields according to their structural composition showed a significant change. 70% of the terms are analytical. That caused increasing number of creating terminological abbreviations. Compound terms are not laconic, but they are transparent. That is one of the important issues that should be taken into account while formulating terminological policy. Transliteration of such terms into Georgian should be avoided, because we get non-laconic and ambiguous terms.

As for the analyzing terms semasiologically, the research revealed that polysemy is not common in later developed fields. That is caused by increasing number of analytical terms. On the other hand, polysemy of simple terms is frequent. There are two, three or four polysemic meanings within the field. Terms are also migrated into different fields.

Studying synonymy of the terms selected from the later developed fields showed that the number of synonymy is also increased.

Conclusion

1600 terms are analyzed by us. Half of the terms are selected from the traditional fields, such as anatomy, botany and zoology. We also analyzed 800 terms selected from the fields developed in the second half of the 20th century: immunology, biotechnology and genetics. Each of the terms are studied according to their sources and structural-semantic composition. We also studied history of terminological work in Georgia from the Middle ages till today.

Middle age is a period, which is called Purism epoch, when all new terms are created with the use of the Georgian language resources. There are no examples of internationalisms in this period. Then starts Ilia Tchavtchavadze's epoch, who was a Georgian writer and a person who dedicated his life to the survival of the Georgian language. After that, from the beginning of the 20th century, first Georgian university is founded and Pilipe Makharadze's opinion becomes dominant, who says that internationalisms make the language more charming.

Next important period in the history of Georgian terminological work is Bolshevik's invasion and Russification. It is clear for everyone how difficult period may it be for the Georgian language and Georgian terminological work. Today Georgian terminologists are undergoing different problems.

The research revealed that new Georgian terms are mostly transliterated from the English language.

The study showed that the main source of anatomical, zoological and botanical terms is Georgian vocabulary. Terms are created with the help of the Georgian language resources. The research also showed that the Georgian language is skillfully used in the process of creating new terms. Thus, in the classical period creating process of the terms was based on the Georgian language resources. Almost 90% of the terms are

natural for the Georgian language and are characterized with creativity.

As it is above mentioned, 74% of the anatomical, zoological and anatomical terms are simple or derived and they are same in Georgian as well. 11% of them are complex terms. 15% of the terms are structurally compound.

As it is mentioned in the paper, our goal was to study terms not only structurally, but semasiologically. 149 of the 800 terms selected from the classical period are polysemic, which represents 18% of them. 5% of the analyzed terms are synonymic.

Thus, the study revealed that terms in traditional fields are mostly simple. Polysemy and synonymy is not frequent. Terminology in these fields is not polysemous.

It is worth to mention, that the situation is different in the fields developed in the 2nd half of the 20th century. As it is mentioned, we analyzed 800 terms selected from the fields, such as immunology, biotechnology and genetics. First of all, it should be said that 90% of the terms are created by means of transliteration.

Study of later developed fields showed some changes in case of structural composition of the terms. 70% of the terms are compound or analytical. Increasing number of analytical terms resulted in making abbreviations. Compound terms are not laconic that is important characteristic of the term, but they should be transparent. That is also very important issue while formulating terminological policy of the country. To transliterate such words into Georgian is inadmissible, because this way we get non-laconic and ambiguous term.

As for the study of the terms semasiologically, it was revealed that cases of polysemy are not common. That is caused by increasing number of analytical terms (70%). On the other hand, polysemy of simple terms is frequent. Study of synonymy in later developed fields showed that it is common.

To sum up, the study showed, that today most of the terms are transliterated into Georgian. The number of analytical terms is also increasing. The history of Georgian term-forming provides a remarkable proof of the fact that the Georgian language has ample resources for the formation of new terms. We would also like to emphasize that it is impossible to create all terms relying exclusively on the resources of the Georgian language itself and that we cannot avoid using internationalisms. In our opinion, the best solution of the problem resides in the rich history of the Georgian term-forming, which may be designated as “the golden mean”.

References

- Beridze, V. (1952). "For Georgian scientific terminology". "Science and technology", Volume of July.
- English-Georgian biological online-dictionary. <http://bio.dict.ge/ka/>.
- Ghambashidze, R. (1986). "Georgian scientific terminology and its creating methods".
- Hacken, P. T. (2006). "Terminology, computing and translation".
- Margalitadze, T. (2018). "New platform for Georgian online terminological dictionaries and multilingual dictionary management system". Proceedings of the 18th Euralex international congress.
- Margalitadze, T. "For formulation terminological policy in Georgia".
<https://margaliti.com/TerminologicalPolicyMargalitadze.pdf>
- Melikishvili, D. (1975). "Language and style of Ioane Petriwi's philosophical work". Ganatleba.
- Melikishvili, D. (2010). "Dictionary of old Georgian-old Greek philosophical-theological terminology", Bakur Sulakauri publishing house.