

Article

# The Role and Place Of Botanical Terms In The Development Of Russian And Uzbek Linguistics

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**Abstract:** This study explores the role of botanical terms (phytonyms) in developing Russian and Uzbek linguistics, focusing on their phonetic, morphological, and semantic features. The research highlights the cultural and historical significance of botanical terms, such as their symbolic meanings in folklore and literature, reflecting the unique natural and societal contexts of Russia and Uzbekistan. A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining phonetic and morphemic analyses with comparative studies of Russian and Uzbek botanical terms. The study also examines the processes of lexical borrowing and adaptation, emphasizing how cultural exchange enriches the linguistic systems of both languages. Results reveal key differences in term formation—Russian often uses suffixes, while Uzbek relies on compound words. Additionally, metaphorical and symbolic meanings of botanical terms underscore their importance in linguistic systems. This analysis enhances understanding of how botanical terms function as linguistic, cultural, and historical markers, contributing to vocabulary development and cross-cultural communication.

**Keywords:** Phytonyms, Phonetics, Morphemics, Morphology, Botanical Terminology, Translation, Russian, Uzbek Language

## 1. Introduction

The role of botanical terms in the linguistics of the Russian and Uzbek languages is important both from the standpoint of vocabulary and in the aspect of cultural context. In any language, botanical terms play a unique role, which reflects not only the specifics of nature and the surrounding world, but also the broader cultural and historical characteristics of peoples. The study of botanical terms in the aspect of Russian and Uzbek linguistics involves the analysis of their phonetic, morphological, semantic and syntactic features. Botanical terms in the field of linguistics should be considered important objects of research, since they convey not only the specifics of the flora of the region, but also the peculiarities of the lexical and semantic system of the language. A detailed examination of these terms helps to identify cultural and historical influences, as well as the adaptation of languages to changing environmental conditions and cultural contacts.

## Literature Review

Taking into account the different natural conditions of Russia and Uzbekistan, the botanical vocabulary reflects the floral diversity of each region. In Russian, for example, there is an extensive number of words for coniferous trees (spruce, pine, cedar), while in Uzbek, terms for plants characteristic of Central Asia (jiyda, bo'y, saksavul in uzbek) may

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be more developed. Botanical terms in the Russian language often form whole classes of words related to nature, agriculture and landscape description. These words are used not only in a narrow scientific context, but also in everyday speech, folklore, literature and poetry. For example, in the Russian language, the term "birch" (Latin *Betula*) has great cultural significance, reflected in literature and folklore. "Birch" is not just a botanical term, but also an important symbol of Russian nature, often found in literature. The terms "mountain ash" and "maple" are also actively used in folklore and literature, reflecting a special attitude to nature. In the Uzbek language, the similar term "mulberry" (Latin *Morus*) also has significant cultural significance, since mulberry trees played an important role in the development of sericulture in the region.

## 2. Materials and Methods

This study adopts a qualitative and comparative methodology to analyze the role of botanical terms (phytonyms) in Russian and Uzbek linguistics. The research is conducted in two main phases. The first phase involves linguistic analysis, focusing on the phonetic, morphological, and semantic features of botanical terms. This includes examining their structure, such as suffixation in Russian and compound word formation in Uzbek. Lexical borrowing processes are also explored, tracing the adaptation of terms between the two languages due to historical and cultural exchanges.

The second phase employs a cultural-linguistic approach to assess the symbolic and metaphorical meanings of phytonyms in folklore, literature, and daily communication. Specific attention is given to the socio-historical context influencing the terms' development. By integrating linguistic and cultural analyses, this methodology provides a comprehensive understanding of phytonyms as markers of natural, linguistic, and cultural diversity in Russian and Uzbek contexts.

## 3. Results

The role of botanical terms in the linguistics of the Russian and Uzbek languages is particularly clearly traced through several key aspects: cultural, lexical, semantic and comparative. Botanical terms in Russian and Uzbek languages reflect traditions, customs and worldview formed in certain geographical and climatic conditions. For example, trees such as the birch in Russian and the *djida* in Uzbek not only denote specific plant species, but are also important cultural symbols of these two peoples.

In both languages, botanical terms are widely represented in folklore, proverbs, fairy tales, and poetry. In Russian, for example, the image of a birch tree often symbolizes Russia and its nature, and in Uzbek poetry flowers such as *lola* (tulip) can symbolize spring and rebirth. Russian literature, for example, often uses the term "mountain ash" (Latin *Sorbus*) to create an image of Russian nature, as well as a symbol of perseverance and feminine beauty. In Uzbek literature, the term "gul" (flower) is often found in poetic works, where it symbolizes beauty, youth and tenderness. Botanical terms play an important role in enriching the vocabulary of languages, especially in the context of naming new plant species or introducing terms from other languages through borrowings. In Russian and Uzbek, botanical vocabulary is often borrowed from other languages, reflecting cultural exchanges and the expansion of knowledge about the world.

Lexical borrowing is the process of transferring words and expressions from one language to another. This process involves a mechanism of interaction between peoples, intensive lexical borrowing, especially in the fields of science, technology and botany. Russian language has been enriched with Uzbek terms, and Uzbek with Russian terms. Botanical terms also serve as the basis for the creation of new words and phrases, which expands the functionality of the language. In Russian, for example, adjectives (birch, oak), nouns (oak grove, hazel) and phraseological units are formed from the names of

plants. For example, in Russian, the term “coniferous” (from the word “needles”) forms various adjectives and nouns, such as “coniferous forest”, “coniferous breed”. In Uzbek, the term “mevali” (fruit) is used to describe fruit trees, for example, “mevali daraxt” (fruit tree).

Botanical terms were most often borrowed due to the lack of their own analogues in the recipient language. This is especially true in situations where a new plant species or its use has become known through scientific research or the introduction of new crops. It should be noted that some plant species characteristic of the Central Asian region had no analogues in Russia, and their names were borrowed directly from the Uzbek language. With the introduction of new crops from Russia to the region, such as wheat, potatoes, new terms appeared, which were then fixed in the Uzbek language. Here are examples of borrowed botanical terms.

From Uzbek to Russian: quince is a term borrowed from the Uzbek language, describing the fruit of a tree of the Rosaceae family, which is important in the culture and cooking of Uzbekistan; here is the name of the tree borrowed from the Uzbek language, the fruits of which are widely used in Central Asia. Russian into Uzbek: potato is a cultivated plant introduced to Central Asia from Russia, got its Russian name in the Uzbek language; sunflower is a plant grown in Russia, which later got its name in the Uzbek language.

Borrowed terms not only expand the lexical stock of the recipient language, but also often undergo adaptation, which manifests itself in changes in phonetics, morphology or meanings. In the Uzbek language, such words could receive suffixes typical of Uzbek grammar, or change in pronunciation. Russian also contains examples of the adaptation of Uzbek terms to Russian phonetics and orthography. The lexical borrowing of botanical terms between the Russian and Uzbek languages is an important indicator of cultural and scientific exchange between the two peoples. These borrowings not only enrich the vocabulary, but also contribute to a better understanding of cultural characteristics and historical processes. The study of such borrowings helps to identify the depth and directions of language contacts, as well as to understand the dynamics of vocabulary changes in the context of cultural interaction. Botanical terms often have several meanings, including metaphorical ones, which makes them important elements of the semantic system of the language. They can not only denote specific plants, but also symbolize certain qualities, phenomena or states.

#### 4. Discussion

The analysis of the phonetic features of botanical terms in the Russian and Uzbek languages gives reason to talk about the patterns of application of the use of certain sounds in plant names. It should be pointed out that botanical terms are adapted to the phonetic systems of the Russian and Uzbek languages in the process of changing their sound forms when borrowed from other languages. For example, in Russian the term “acacia” (Latin. *Acacia*) retains the Latin pronunciation with minor changes. In the Uzbek language, the same term can be modified in accordance with the phonetic features of the language. Thus, the term “acacia” is pronounced with a softer “c” sound or with an emphasis on another syllable.

Morphemic analysis breaks down botanical terms into roots, prefixes, suffixes and endings, which allows us to identify which morphemes are most often used to create botanical terms in both languages – Russian and Uzbek. In Russian, the suffix model of word formation is often used to refer to plants. For example: larch (from “deciduous” + suffix -nice). In Uzbek, complex words or borrowings are more often used. For example: qizilmiya (from “qizil” – red and “miya” – root). Russian: cherry → cherry (adjective from the name of the fruit); laurel → laurel (adjective associated with the laurel tree). Uzbek language: gul (flower) → gulli (adjective describing something related to flowers);

dogwood (dogwood) → dogwood (an adjective describing something related to dogwood).

Suffixal and prefix models are actively used in the Russian language, while complex words and combinations of roots are popular in the Uzbek language. For example: “pine” (Russian) – the root of pine trees - + suffix -a; “qarag’ay” (Uzbek) – a complex word with Turkic roots: “qora” (black) + “g’ay” (tree, a kind of tree). The Russian language more often uses one-word botanical terms, whereas complex constructions are not uncommon in Uzbek. This is due to the history of language formation and the peculiarities of the grammatical structure. For example: oak (Russian) is a one-word term; ozuqa daraxti (Uzbek) is (literally, “tree of nutrition”) a complex term for a specific type of plant. Word-formation models in Russian and Uzbek languages differ. So, suffixes are often used in Russian, and addition of roots in Uzbek. For example:

cranberries (Russian) – qizilmevali (Uzbek), which literally translates as “красноплодный”. The Russian word is of the same root, with the suffix -va. The Uzbek language uses a combination of an adjective and a noun; spruce (Russian) – juniper (Uzbek). The Russian term is one-word, short, Uzbek is a native Turkic term; fern (Russian) – fern (Uzbek). Both languages use tracing paper. Morphologically, the Russian language often prefers to use one-word botanical terms, while in Uzbek there are complex words. For example: strawberries (Russian) – qizilquloq (Uzbek), which literally means “red-eared”. In Russian, it is a complex word based on the root “earth” with the suffix – nickname. Липа (Russian) – qovoqcha (Uzbek). The term “qovoqcha” is a complex word in the Uzbek language.

Botanical terms do not just mean plants – they carry cultural and historical meanings, reflecting the characteristics and traditions of different peoples. Russian culture, for example, often uses birch to symbolize the beauty and power of Russian nature. In folklore and literature, it is associated with national identity and symbolizes purity and simplicity. In folk songs and poems, there is often a description of the birch as a symbol of Russia. Another example is mountain ash. In Russian culture, it often symbolizes autumn and its colorful colors. In ancient beliefs, it was believed that the rowan tree protects the house from evil spirits. The laurel wreath in Russian culture symbolizes victory and glory, which is reflected in literary works and historical monuments.

In literature, willow is often used as a symbol of sadness and sorrow, which is associated with its weeping form. In the Uzbek language, a drone (flower) is often used in poetry as a symbol of love, beauty and joy. In Uzbek folk songs and poems, dogwood is often mentioned, symbolizing vitality and fertility. In Uzbek culture, for example, the plane tree is associated with longevity and wisdom. Plane trees are often planted in gardens and squares as a symbol of constancy and durability. Jida (persimmon) has deep cultural significance in Uzbekistan, symbolizing fertility and well-being, it is also used in cooking and traditional medicine.

## 5. Conclusion

Terms related to botany often form semantic fields reflecting various aspects of the natural environment, cultural values, and social practices. These semantic fields can vary significantly in Russian and Uzbek, depending on the floral diversity and cultural context. For example, in Russian the word “color” (Latin. Color) can mean not only a botanical object, but also color in the context of art and design. Meanwhile, in the Uzbek language, the word “gul” (flower) also has a figurative meaning, symbolizing youth and beauty. Botanical terms have polysemy and metaphoricality, which makes them important elements of the semantic system of the language. A comparative analysis of botanical terminology in Russian and Uzbek languages reveals both unique and common features in their development. It is important to note that although both languages can borrow terms from other languages, each of them has its own adaptation processes, which leads to the appearance of unique phonetic and morphological features.

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