

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Specific Features Of Naming Professions And Job Titles In The Russian And Uzbek Languages

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Abstract

The naming of professions and job titles reflects not only linguistic norms but also social structure, cultural values, historical development, and gender ideology of a society. This article examines the specific features of professional and occupational naming systems in the Russian and Uzbek languages. Special attention is paid to morphological, semantic, grammatical, and sociolinguistic aspects of profession names, including gender marking, borrowing processes, word-formation models, and modernization trends. A comparative analysis reveals both shared characteristics and significant differences conditioned by typological distinctions between the Slavic and Turkic language families. The study demonstrates that professional nomenclature functions as a dynamic linguistic subsystem closely connected with societal changes.

KEY WORDS

Profession names, job titles, Russian language, Uzbek language, gender linguistics, word formation, sociolinguistics.

INTRODUCTION

The system of naming professions and job titles occupies an important place in the lexical structure of any language. Professional names serve not only as designations of occupational activity but also as indicators of social hierarchy, cultural traditions, and historical development. In modern linguistics, the study of professional nomenclature is closely related to issues of sociolinguistics, gender linguistics, lexicology, and comparative linguistics.

The Russian and Uzbek languages present an interesting object for comparative study due to their typological differences. Russian belongs to the East Slavic branch of the Indo-European language family, while Uzbek is a Turkic language characterized by agglutinative morphology. These structural differences influence the ways in which professions and job titles are formed, used, and perceived.

The aim of this article is to analyze the specific features of

naming professions and job titles in Russian and Uzbek, focusing on word-formation mechanisms, grammatical categories, gender representation, and sociocultural factors. The research seeks to identify both universal tendencies and language-specific features.

Theoretical Framework and Previous Research

The study of profession names has been addressed in works on lexicology, terminology, and sociolinguistics. Scholars emphasize that professional vocabulary forms a semi-terminological layer of the lexicon, situated between common vocabulary and specialized terminology. According to sociolinguistic theory, changes in profession names often reflect shifts in social ideology, labor relations, and gender roles.

In Russian linguistics, considerable attention has been paid to

the problem of feminine forms of profession names (e.g., учитель – учительница, врач – женщина-врач). Researchers discuss the balance between grammatical tradition and modern demands for gender equality.

In Uzbek linguistics, profession naming has been studied mainly from the perspective of word formation and borrowing, especially under the influence of Russian and international terminology during the Soviet period and globalization processes in the post-Soviet era.

However, comparative studies between Russian and Uzbek in this domain remain relatively limited, which determines the relevance of the present research.

Morphological Features of Profession Names in Russian

Russian profession names are predominantly formed using suffixation, which is a characteristic feature of Slavic languages. The most productive suffixes include:

- **-ик** (строитель – строительник, ученик)
- **-щик** (водитель – водильщик, переводчик)
- **-тель** (учитель, воспитатель)
- **-арь** (секретарь, бухгалтер)
- **-ист** (журналист, экономист)

These suffixes often carry semantic nuances related to activity, specialization, or professional status.

A distinctive feature of Russian is grammatical gender. Most profession names are masculine by default, even when referring to women (e.g., врач, инженер). Feminine forms can be created using suffixes such as **-к-а**, **-ниц-а**, **-ш-а**, but their usage is stylistically marked and sometimes controversial (докторша, редакторка).

Morphological Features of Profession Names in Uzbek

Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, relies primarily on affixation, but its system differs fundamentally from Russian. Profession names are usually gender-neutral and do not change according to the sex of the referent.

Common Uzbek profession-forming elements include:

- **-чи / -чи** (ўқитувчи – teacher, ишчи – worker)
- **-кор** (меҳнаткор – laborer)
- **-соз** (созанда – musician)

- **-гап** (савдогар – merchant)

These suffixes attach to verbal or nominal roots and indicate occupation or habitual activity. Unlike Russian, Uzbek does not have grammatical gender, which simplifies professional naming and avoids gender-based differentiation.

Gender Representation in Profession Names

One of the most significant differences between Russian and Uzbek profession naming systems lies in gender representation. Russian grammar requires nouns to belong to a gender category, which influences professional terminology. The masculine form is often used as a generic, but modern discourse increasingly questions this practice.

In Uzbek, profession names are inherently gender-neutral. For example, ўқитувчи can refer to both male and female teachers without any morphological change. Gender is specified only lexically if necessary (эркак ўқитувчи, аёл ўқитувчи).

This distinction reflects broader cultural and linguistic differences. Russian shows a tendency toward grammatical gender marking, while Uzbek emphasizes semantic neutrality.

Borrowings and Internationalization of Job Titles

Both Russian and Uzbek have actively borrowed profession names from other languages, particularly during periods of technological and social change.

Russian has absorbed numerous internationalisms from Latin, French, German, and English (менеджер, маркетолог, дизайнер). These borrowings often retain their original form and adapt to Russian morphology.

Uzbek borrowed many profession names from Russian during the Soviet era (инженер, доктор, директор), as well as from Persian and Arabic historically. In recent decades, English borrowings have increased significantly (менежер, айти мутахассиси).

The adaptation process differs: Russian integrates borrowings into its grammatical system, while Uzbek often preserves their invariant form or combines them with native suffixes.

Semantic and Stylistic Aspects

Profession names also differ in stylistic coloring. In Russian, some feminine forms may carry colloquial or even pejorative connotations (бухгалтерша, врачиха). Neutral and official style tends to favor masculine forms.

In Uzbek, stylistic variation is less pronounced in profession names. Most occupational terms are stylistically neutral and suitable for both formal and informal contexts.

Semantic expansion and metaphorical use are more common in Russian (e.g., архитектор реформ), whereas Uzbek tends to preserve literal meanings in professional nomenclature.

Sociocultural Factors Influencing Profession Naming

Language reflects society, and profession names are directly connected with social structure and cultural values. In Russian-speaking societies, debates around gender-inclusive language demonstrate changing attitudes toward equality and representation.

In Uzbek society, traditional values and linguistic structure result in a more stable and uniform system of profession naming. However, modernization and globalization are gradually introducing new terms and concepts.

Historical experience, including Soviet language policy, has significantly influenced both languages, leading to shared terminology but different adaptation strategies.

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis reveals several key contrasts:

1. Russian profession names are grammatically gendered, while Uzbek ones are gender-neutral.
2. Russian relies heavily on suffixation with gender differentiation; Uzbek uses agglutinative suffixes without gender marking.
3. Borrowings in Russian are more morphologically integrated than in Uzbek.
4. Stylistic and emotional coloring of profession names is more prominent in Russian.

At the same time, both languages demonstrate dynamic development and openness to lexical innovation.

CONCLUSION

The study of profession and job title naming in Russian and Uzbek highlights the close relationship between language structure and social reality. Despite shared historical influences, the two languages have developed distinct systems shaped by their grammatical typology and cultural context.

Russian professional nomenclature reflects grammatical gender and stylistic differentiation, while Uzbek emphasizes

neutrality and structural simplicity. These differences have important implications for translation, intercultural communication, and language policy.

Further research may focus on corpus-based analysis, diachronic changes, and the impact of digital communication on professional vocabulary.

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