

ARABIC BORROWINGS IN UZBEK MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY: BASED ON ABU ALI IBN SINA'S CANON OF MEDICINE

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Abstract. This thesis analyzes the linguistic features of Arabic-origin medical units used in Abu Ali Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine. The study focuses on how these medical terms entered the Uzbek language, their semantic shifts, polysemy, homonymy, and contextual usage. Particular attention is given to the role of Arabic borrowings in shaping the historical layers of Uzbek medical terminology.

Keywords: Medical terminology, Arabic borrowings, Canon of Medicine, Avicenna, linguistic analysis, semantics, Uzbek language.

Introduction. The development of the lexical richness of the Uzbek language has been significantly influenced by external sources, especially Arabic. This influence is particularly evident in the domains of religion, philosophy, science, and notably in the language of medicine. In the Islamic world, medical knowledge was primarily developed in Arabic, drawing upon ancient Greek and Indian sources, with Arabic functioning as the primary language of science at that time. Medical texts composed in Arabic were later translated into various languages, including Uzbek, and many Arabic medical terms were directly assimilated into the Uzbek lexicon.

One of the most valuable scientific heritages that reflects this process is Abu Ali Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine (Al-Qanun fi't-Tibb). This monumental work holds a unique place in the history of Eastern and Western science. It synthesized centuries of medical experience, integrating Greek, Indian, and Arab knowledge into a theoretically and practically coherent system. The Canon served not only as a principal medical textbook of its time but also as a primary reference for several centuries thereafter. Beyond its significance in diagnosing and treating diseases, it also holds considerable linguistic value.

The medical terminology used in the Canon, particularly Arabic-derived terms, has left a lasting imprint on the formation of Uzbek medical vocabulary. These terms have not only preserved their original medical meanings but have also acquired additional semantic layers over time, often becoming polysemous or homonymous. Some have even permeated artistic and colloquial language, functioning as expressive-emotive

tools. Thus, these terms possess not only historical and scientific value but also linguistic, stylistic, and sociocultural significance.

From a linguistic perspective, Arabic-origin medical terms should not be viewed merely as translated elements, but as multifunctional units that have been deeply integrated into the semantic system of the Uzbek language, enhancing its expressive capacity. In particular, the terminology found in *The Canon of Medicine* reveals the historical roots of the scientific Uzbek medical lexicon.

This thesis focuses on the linguistic analysis of Arabic-origin medical terms found in Ibn Sina's *Canon of Medicine*. The study examines historically rooted, semantically enriched medical units that have been fully assimilated into the Uzbek language, tracing their Arabic origins. Special attention is given to their current semantic load, connotative meanings, lexical functions, and contextual usage in modern Uzbek. The occasional use of such terms in oral and literary discourse as expressive linguistic devices is also discussed.

Analysis. Within the scope of this research, several Arabic-derived medical terms such as *zotiljam* (inflammation of the pleura), *zotirria* (inflammation of the lung tissue), *imtilo* (congestion-related disorder), and *savdoviy* (a condition related to sexually transmitted diseases) have been selected as primary objects of linguistic analysis. These terms are examined in terms of their semantic development in the Uzbek language, their roles in both colloquial and medical terminological systems, their potential semantic shift or narrowing, and, in some cases, their expressive function in spoken or informal usage.

Zotiljam is an Arabic-origin term composed of *zot* (essence/owner) and *jam* (gathering, accumulation). In medical usage, it refers to pleuritis or, in some cases, pneumonia. In *The Canon of Medicine*, Ibn Sina describes *zotiljam* as a severe illness manifested by high fever, chest pain, and difficulty in breathing. The *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* defines it as “inflammation of the lungs, an infectious disease of the lungs.” In modern medicine, it corresponds to pneumonia or pleuritis. The term is still used in colloquial Uzbek, often carrying a strong emotional charge. Compared to its equivalents in other languages (e.g., Russian: *воспаление лёгких*, English: lung inflammation), *zotiljam* stands out due to its historical depth and cultural resonance in the Uzbek language.

Zotirria is also of Arabic origin, composed of *zot* (essence) and *ria* (breath/lung). Ibn Sina used it to describe a deeper inflammation of lung tissues, including the interstitial areas. Unlike *zotiljam*, which refers to pleural inflammation, *zotirria* involves the bronchial and interstitial tissues. According to *The Canon*, symptoms include chest pain, labored breathing, and sputum production. In modern medical terminology, this

condition aligns with interstitial pneumonia (Latin: *Pneumonitis interstitialis*, Russian: *интерстициальное воспаление легких*). Though not commonly used in contemporary Uzbek, the term has entered the lexicon via historical texts, underscoring its relevance for diachronic linguistic study.

Imtilo is derived from the Arabic *imtala'a*, meaning “to be filled.” In Ibn Sina’s classification, it describes the pathological accumulation of fluids or blood in a specific organ. Medically, it may correspond to pleural effusion (*effusio pleurae* in Latin, *плевральный выпот* in Russian), hypertension, or congestive organ conditions. In *The Canon*, *imtilo* is associated with the dominance of cold-moist humors, gradually leading to reduced organ function. Although not widely used in modern Uzbek medical discourse, it is linguistically significant for understanding historical perspectives on metabolism-related diseases. Semantically, the term has narrowed over time and is now largely obsolete in practical usage, though it remains important for historical and lexical analysis.

Savdoviy stems from the Arabic *sawda*, referring to “black bile” or a harmful fluid. In *The Canon*, this term is applied to chronic, contagious conditions, particularly those transmitted sexually. In modern medicine, these are known as STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) or venereal diseases (Latin: *morbi venerei*, Russian: *венерические болезни*). The term *savdoviy* often carries a negative moral connotation and is used pejoratively in colloquial speech. It also functions as an expressive and metaphorical unit, reflecting public attitudes toward sexually transmitted illnesses. Linguistic analysis shows that *savdoviy* has undergone semantic expansion and remains active in metaphorical and emotionally charged speech contexts.

Conclusion. The Arabic-derived medical terms used in Abu Ali Ibn Sina’s *Canon of Medicine*—such as *zotiljam*, *zotirria*, *imtilo*, and *savdoviy*—form a significant layer of historical medical vocabulary in the Uzbek language. These lexical units entered Uzbek primarily through scientific translation and intellectual influence, particularly in the field of medicine. Their semantic, lexical, and stylistic characteristics continue to manifest in different ways within modern language usage.

The analysis reveals that: These terms encapsulate the core medical concepts of classical Arabic medicine and have played a vital role in the development of Uzbek medical discourse;

Each unit has undergone various degrees of semantic broadening or narrowing over time;

While many of these terms have been replaced by modern equivalents in today’s medical terminology, they still retain historical, stylistic, and expressive significance;

Therefore, the linguistic study of Arabic medical borrowings found in The Canon of Medicine contributes not only to understanding the historical stages of the Uzbek language's development but also to identifying the foundational sources of contemporary medical vocabulary.

This research may serve as a valuable foundation for the further scientific development and refinement of the lexical-semantic system of Uzbek medical terminology.

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