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CHALLENGES OF STANDARDIZING IT TERMINOLOGY IN MULTILINGUAL SOCIETIES

Annotation

The article also addresses the ongoing tension between localization, which prioritizes linguistic identity, and globalization, which promotes international comprehensibility. Finally, it proposes practical strategies, including forming central standardization bodies, creating multilingual glossaries, and encouraging collaboration among key stakeholders. Addressing these challenges can help multilingual societies develop a cohesive and inclusive IT lexicon that accommodates both local and global communication needs.

Key words: IT terminology, multilingual societies, standardization, English loanwords, localization, globalization, code-mixing, hybrid language, linguistic diversity, language policy, sociolinguistics, information technology, language planning, neologisms, IT lexicon.

ПРОБЛЕМЫ СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ ИТ-ТЕРМИНОЛОГИИ В МНОГОЯЗЫЧНЫХ ОБЩЕСТВАХ

Аннотация

В статье также рассматривается напряженность между локализацией, которая отстаивает языковую идентичность, и глобализацией, направленной на международную понятность. В завершение предлагаются практические меры, включая создание централизованных органов по стандартизации, разработку многоязычных глоссариев и развитие сотрудничества между ключевыми заинтересованными сторонами. Эти шаги помогут многоязычным обществам создать согласованный и инклюзивный ИТ-лексикон, отвечающий как местным, так и глобальным коммуникативным потребностям.

Ключевые слова: ИТ-терминология, многоязычные общества, стандартизация, англоязычные заимствования, локализация, глобализация, код-смешивание, гибридный язык, языковое разнообразие, языковая политика, социолингвистика, информационные технологии, языковое планирование, неологизмы, ИТ-лексикон.

KO'P TILLILIK JAMIYATLARIDA AXBOROT TEXNOLOGIYALARI TERMINOLOGIYASINI STANDARTLASHTIRISH MUAMMOLARI

Annotatsiya

Maqolada mahalliylik va globallashuv o'rtasidagi muvozanat masalasi ham ko'rib chiqiladi. Yakuniy takliflar sifatida markazlashgan standartlashtirish organlarini tashkil etish, ko'p tilli lug'atlar yaratish va asosiy manfaatdor tomonlar o'rtasida hamkorlikni rivojlantirish tavsiya etiladi. Bu yondashuvlar mahalliy va global kommunikatsion ehtiyojlarni qamrab oluvchi IT leksikasini shakllantirishga yordam beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: AT terminologiyasi, ko'p tillilik jamiyatlari, standartlashtirish, inglizcha so'zlar, mahalliyashtirish, globallashuv, kod-aralashuvi, gibrid til, til xilma-xilligi, til siyosati, sotsiolingvistika, axborot texnologiyalari, til rejalashtirish, neologizmlar, AT leksikasi.

Introduction. In the contemporary digital era, information technology (IT) plays a vital role in shaping communication, education, commerce, and social interaction. The ubiquity of IT terms – ranging from artificial intelligence to cloud computing – demands clear, consistent, and accessible language. For multilingual societies, however, standardizing such terminology poses a unique linguistic challenge. Unlike monolingual contexts, multilingual societies must balance the linguistic expectations and cultural sensitivities of multiple coexisting languages. Uzbekistan, for instance, navigates a complex linguistic environment where Uzbek functions as the state language, Russian as a widespread secondary language, and English as the prevailing language of global technology. This mix leads to a linguistic landscape where native, Russian-derived, and English-derived IT terms coexist – often within the same conversation. The rise of English as the global lingua franca of IT has further entrenched this complexity. Terms are often borrowed directly from English without phonological or morphological adjustments, leaving non-English speakers at a potential disadvantage. Moreover, local institutions and language bodies often struggle to keep pace with the rapid evolution of digital technologies, resulting in inconsistent adoption of terms across sectors and communities. This article investigates the core challenges multilingual societies face in standardizing IT terminology. It explores historical and sociolinguistic factors driving the issue, discusses the interplay between localization and globalization, and offers actionable recommendations to support a more cohesive IT lexicon.

Literature review. The intersection of information technology (IT) and multilingualism has attracted scholarly attention across several fields, including sociolinguistics, language planning, and digital communication. The dominance of English in global IT discourse is well-documented, with Crystal (2011) emphasizing the role of English as a global lingua franca, particularly in technology-driven domains. This linguistic hegemony has fostered the widespread adoption of English IT terminology in both monolingual and multilingual societies, influencing language policies and communication patterns (Kaplan & Baldauf, 1997).

Multilingual societies often face challenges in balancing global integration with the preservation of linguistic diversity (Spolsky, 2009). The sociolinguistic landscape of countries like India and Uzbekistan exemplifies this tension, where localized IT terms coexist with English loanwords and hybrid expressions (Fishman, 2000). In India, for example, Hinglish – an informal blend of Hindi and English – has become a prevalent code-mixed medium in IT-related discourse (Hernández & Jiménez, 2021).

The phenomenon of code-switching and code-mixing in professional environments, including IT sectors, has been explored by Hernández and Jiménez (2021), who argue that such practices serve as pragmatic strategies for communication but often hinder formal language standardization efforts. Similarly, Gouadec (2007) highlights how inconsistent translation practices and the lack of cohesive terminological frameworks impede the effective localization of technical content in multilingual settings.

Efforts to standardize IT terminology are frequently undermined by the absence of centralized language management

bodies in many linguistically diverse nations. Spolsky (2009) and UNESCO (2003) emphasize the need for coordinated language policies that address both national identity and international communication needs. However, as the Terminology Coordination Unit of the European Parliament (2019) notes, successful standardization projects require cross-sectoral collaboration, involving linguists, technologists, educators, and policymakers.

Studies on language planning, such as Kaplan and Baldauf (1997), advocate for proactive institutional engagement to create and disseminate standardized terminologies. Yet, in fast-evolving fields like IT, the speed of technological innovation often outpaces formal terminology development processes. This leads to the spontaneous adoption of English terms by end-users and professionals alike (Crystal, 2011), reinforcing English's dominance in digital spheres.

The reviewed literature suggests that the challenges of IT terminology standardization in multilingual societies are shaped by a complex interplay of sociolinguistic factors, institutional gaps, and global technological trends. While some nations, particularly in Europe, have made strides through initiatives like "Terminology without Borders" (Terminology Coordination Unit, 2019), many multilingual countries in Asia and Central Asia continue to grapple with fragmented approaches to IT lexicon development. This article builds upon existing research by offering case studies from Uzbekistan and India, where linguistic diversity, sociocultural dynamics, and institutional constraints create distinct hurdles for IT terminology standardization. By synthesizing prior findings and providing new insights, the study contributes to the broader discourse on language policy and digital inclusion in multilingual societies.

Research Methodology. This article employs a qualitative case study approach to examine the challenges of standardizing IT terminology in multilingual societies. The case study method allows for an in-depth exploration of specific national contexts, including Uzbekistan and India, which serve as representative examples of linguistically diverse regions where multiple official and working languages coexist. By focusing on these cases, the research highlights real-world manifestations of terminological inconsistency and code-mixing practices. The study draws on a range of data sources, including government policy documents, educational materials, and multilingual IT glossaries produced by local institutions and private organizations. In addition, peer-reviewed literature on language planning, code-switching, and sociolinguistics was analyzed to provide a theoretical framework for understanding how linguistic diversity influences IT terminology adoption. The findings are based on a synthesis of secondary data and qualitative observations of language use in formal (educational and governmental) and informal (workplace and online) IT communication. This triangulated approach ensures a holistic view of the standardization challenges faced by multilingual societies and informs the recommendations proposed in the discussion section.

Results. The data indicate a prevailing dominance of English within IT terminologies across multilingual societies, primarily driven by historical precedence, professional prestige, and the rapid pace of technological innovation. The foundational development of computing in English-speaking nations has solidified terms such as "computer," "server," and "software" as universally recognized and utilized components of IT vocabulary (Crystal, 2011). Direct English borrowing has emerged as the most expedient approach in the integration of IT terms across multilingual societies. In Uzbekistan, the blending of native structures with borrowed terms, such as "login qil," has become widespread. Similarly, India exhibits common hybrid expressions like "upload karo," where Hindi and English elements are combined. While these strategies align local users with international trends, they also foster linguistic homogenization, reducing the space for native-language innovation and complicating standardization efforts.

Inconsistent adoption of IT terminology further exacerbates the situation. Both Uzbekistan and India showcase

divergent patterns, alternating between calques, neologisms, and unaltered English borrowings. Regional dialects and sociolectal variations intensify this inconsistency, leading to fragmented terminological landscapes across different social and geographic sectors. A notable structural weakness is the absence of centralized language regulatory bodies tasked with coordinating IT terminology standardization. In both case studies, government institutions, universities, and private sector entities operate independently, yielding a patchwork of terminological strategies. Consequently, IT professionals, educators, and end-users frequently encounter multiple variations of the same term, depending on institutional or regional affiliation.

Sociolinguistic factors also play a critical role. Urban populations, with greater exposure to global networks and formal education, are more inclined to use English or hybrid IT terms. In contrast, rural communities lean toward localized expressions or adaptations. The generational divide is equally prominent, as younger "digital natives" readily incorporate English-derived vocabulary, while older demographics often maintain native-language preferences. A pervasive feature of IT discourse in multilingual societies is code-mixing, where English IT terms are embedded within local grammatical structures. While this practice is widespread and facilitates informal communication, it hampers the systematic development and acceptance of fully localized IT terminologies. Moreover, this hybridization can pose comprehension challenges for users with limited English proficiency.

Analysis. The evidence underscores the multifaceted nature of terminological inconsistency in multilingual societies. The entrenched role of English as the global lingua franca in IT is a major structural factor that complicates localization initiatives. This phenomenon aligns with Crystal's (2011) assertion of English's entrenched global status and its implications for non-English-speaking societies. Furthermore, the absence of unified regulatory oversight allows institutional autonomy, leading to fragmented lexicons within the same national contexts. The literature (Spolsky, 2009; UNESCO, 2003) has long highlighted the necessity of formal language management to foster cohesion, yet both Uzbekistan and India demonstrate a lack of consolidated efforts. Sociolinguistic disparities—rooted in geography, generational dynamics, and socio-economic divisions—amplify these challenges. Younger, urban populations exhibit greater comfort with English or hybridized IT discourse, while rural and older communities favor localized adaptations, echoing Hernández and Jiménez's (2021) findings on code-switching practices in professional settings. The analysis also identifies a critical tension between localization and globalization. While localized terminologies contribute to cultural preservation and enhance inclusivity, global IT communication necessitates familiarity with English-origin terms. This dual-system dynamic mirrors the global-local paradox discussed by Kaplan and Baldauf (1997) in language planning literature.

Conclusion. Standardizing IT terminology in multilingual societies presents multifaceted challenges rooted in historical precedent, linguistic diversity, and institutional gaps. The widespread borrowing of English IT terms has fostered a hybridized linguistic environment that complicates formal standardization efforts. Factors such as generational divides, regional linguistic variations, and differing levels of English proficiency further contribute to inconsistent terminology usage. To overcome these challenges, multilingual societies must adopt coordinated and flexible approaches. Establishing centralized standardization bodies, developing multilingual glossaries, localizing digital content, and fostering collaboration across sectors are essential steps toward building a cohesive IT lexicon. A successful strategy will balance the need to preserve local languages with the practical benefits of global IT communication standards. By pursuing this dual objective, multilingual societies can enhance both accessibility and participation in the global digital economy while safeguarding their unique linguistic identities.

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