

## THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF STUDYING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TERMINOLOGY

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### Abstract

The article examines the theoretical aspects of studying information and communication terminology in the context of the digitalization of modern society. The influence of information and communication technologies on the development of the lexical system of language and the formation of specialized ICT terminology is analyzed. Particular attention is paid to the problems of defining the term, its grammatical nature, and the main approaches to the study of terminological units in modern linguistics. The study investigates the most productive word-formation methods of information and communication vocabulary, including borrowing, abbreviation, clipping, and univerbation. The paper also discusses the peculiarities of the functioning of professionalisms and colloquial elements in digital communication.

**Keywords:** Information and communication terminology, term, terminology, ICT, digitalization, professionalisms, word formation, computational linguistics, borrowings, digital communication.

### Introduction

The modern stage of societal development is characterized by the intensive implementation of digital technologies in all spheres of human activity. In the context of globalization and informatization, information and communication technologies acquire particular significance, exerting a substantial influence not only on scientific and technological progress but also on the development of the language system. The active spread of computer technologies, the Internet, mobile communication, and digital platforms has led to the formation of a vast body of specialized vocabulary related to the field of information and communication technologies. As a result, modern linguistics demonstrates an increasing interest in the study of terminological systems reflecting the processes of society's digital transformation.

Information and communication terminology represents a complex and dynamic system of linguistic units that includes both standardized terms and professionalisms, colloquial, and slang elements. Its development is accompanied by active word-formation processes, borrowings, compression of linguistic units, and changes in the grammatical models of terms. In this regard, particular relevance is attached to the issues of defining the essence of the term, its grammatical nature, methods of formation, and functioning in professional communication. Despite the considerable number of studies devoted to terminology studies, a number of aspects of information and communication terminology remain insufficiently explored, which determines the necessity for further comprehensive analysis of this lexical sphere.

The purpose of this study is to identify the linguistic features of information and communication terminology, as well as to analyze its structural-semantic and word-formation characteristics. To



achieve this goal, the following objectives are set: to examine the main approaches to defining the term and terminology; to determine the peculiarities of the formation of terminological units in the ICT sphere; to analyze the grammatical forms of terms; to identify the most productive word-formation methods in information and communication vocabulary; and to determine the role of professionalisms and colloquial elements in the development of digital-age terminology.

## METHODS

In the course of studying information and communication terminology, a complex of general scientific and special linguistic methods was employed. The principal research method was the descriptive method, which made it possible to systematize and characterize the terminological units of the information and communication technology sphere, as well as to identify their structural, semantic, and functional features. The method of lexical-semantic analysis was applied to determine the meanings of terms, the peculiarities of their functioning, and the specifics of their usage in professional communication.

To investigate the methods of formation of terminological units, word-formation analysis was used, aimed at identifying the most productive models of term formation, including suffixation, clipping, abbreviation, univerbation, and borrowing. The comparative-analytical method enabled the comparison of various scholarly approaches to the definition of the term and terminology, as well as the identification of the peculiarities of the grammatical expression of terminological units in modern linguistics. In addition, the study employed elements of statistical processing of linguistic material, which made it possible to identify the most frequent and productive terminological models in the ICT sphere. The research material consisted of terms and professionalisms functioning in the contemporary information and communication environment, including the vocabulary of Internet communication, computer technologies, and digital platforms.

## RESULTS

Information and communication terminology represents a key element of modern linguistic science. Its emergence and development are closely connected with the evolution of the technosphere, the advancement of communication technologies, and the rapid increase in the volume of transmitted information.

The history of information and communication terminology is marked by periods of intensive growth and transformation. In the mid-twentieth century, the rapid development of technical means of communication created an urgent need for the introduction of special terms describing the processes of information transmission. During this period, such terms as “encoding,” “decoding,” “information,” and “communication channel” emerged, forming the foundation of information and communication terminology.

The ICT sphere has significantly influenced the emergence of new terms and terminology in language. In this regard, the necessity arose to study the essence of the term and terminology itself.

The works of A.V. Superanskaya, N.V. Podolskaya, N.V. Vasilyeva [7], V.A. Vinogradov, A.M. Shakhnarovich [2], A.A. Reformatsky [5], and M.M. Glushko [3] investigate the issue of the logical definition of the term, emphasizing the relationship between the term and the concept.



The requirements imposed on terms are largely oriented toward their compliance with various standards of the literary language, including orthoepic, phonetic, orthographic, grammatical, lexical, and word-formation norms. It should be emphasized that in the process of functioning, professional language may acquire specific grammatical, stylistic, and other features. This phenomenon, in turn, contributes to the emergence of professionalisms—lexical units characteristic exclusively of a particular field of activity. Such terminological units, being part of professional vocabulary, should not be regarded as violations of literary language norms. Professional terms should be distinguished from words that genuinely fall outside the boundaries of literary norms or fail to comply with their rules. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly differentiate professional terminology that adheres to established standards from expressions that are erroneous or inappropriate within the framework of the literary language.

One of the most relevant contemporary linguistic issues provoking active scholarly discussion concerns the grammatical form in which terminological units are expressed. A number of authoritative scholars, such as A.A. Reformatsky, O.S. Akhmanova, E. Haugen, and others [5], maintain the widely accepted view that a terminological unit can only be grammatically expressed in the form of a noun or a noun phrase. However, this position has been criticized by scholars such as V.P. Danilenko [4], S.D. Shelov [9, 10], A.V. Superanskaya [6], and others, who dispute the necessity of strict adherence to this principle, arguing that a term may also be expressed through other grammatical forms.

According to S.D. Shelov, “in a terminological dictionary oriented toward the conceptual and semantic system of a particular field of knowledge, there is no need to insist that nominal forms must necessarily serve as the entry forms; it is sufficient to determine the form of terminological expression that requires definition within a given subject area. Therefore, in some terminological dictionaries, the entry form of a term is represented by the part of speech that directly occurs in the definitional context. Thus, the thesis that a term is always either a noun or a substantive phrase can hardly be accepted as a basis for establishing the linguistic specificity of the term” [10, p. 160].

With the emergence of the Internet, mobile communication, and social networks, information and communication terminology continues to evolve. Terms related to cybersecurity, digital footprints, fake news, and digital content are becoming increasingly significant for linguistic research.

Furthermore, when considering terms and terminology, it is essential not to overlook the origin of lexical units in the field of information and communication technologies. Specialized ICT vocabulary in the Russian language, from the perspective of its origin, can be divided into native Russian and borrowed lexical units. Native Russian lexical units are characterized by a variety of word-formation methods within the professional ICT sphere, especially in colloquial and specialized speech. The largest number of denominal and deverbal nouns are formed through suffixation. For example, among the terms denoting persons, one may find such lexical units as “yablochnik” (meaning “a person using an iPhone or Apple products,” slang), “razrabotchik” (“developer,” a specialist engaged in software and game development, professionalism), and “testirovshchik” (“software tester,” colloquial usage). Among the names of objects classified according to their functional characteristics, the term “raskladushka” (“flip phone,” a mobile phone consisting of two foldable parts, colloquial usage) may be distinguished.



At the word-formation level, ICT vocabulary demonstrates the active development of stem clipping processes, also referred to as compressive word formation or univerbation. This phenomenon is especially characteristic of colloquial-professional speech, where lexical units undergo reduction and modification. Examples include such forms as “fleshka” (from “flash card”), “operatsionka” (from “operating system”), “komp” (from “computer”), “proga” (from “program”), “(i)net” (from “Internet”), as well as abbreviations such as “PO” (from “software”) and “OS” (from the English “operating system”). These forms reflect the tendency toward simplification of lexical structure. In addition, the process of agglutination is actively used, involving the sequential combination of initial parts of words, which can be observed in the term “ChaVo” (derived from “frequently asked questions”).

It is also important to note the use of the lexical-semantic method of word formation, which is often associated with elements of language play. This explains the emotional coloring and colloquial nature of professionalisms formed in such a way. Examples include slang expressions such as “mamont” (“a person who became a victim of Internet fraud”) and “chainik” (“an inexperienced user poorly skilled in computers”), which, in addition to their functional role, convey a certain emotional and evaluative connotation.

## DISCUSSION

The results of the study confirm that information and communication terminology is one of the most dynamically developing subsystems of modern vocabulary. The active development of digital technologies, Internet communication, and software contributes to the continuous renewal of the terminological composition of language, which is reflected in the emergence of new terms, professionalisms, and colloquial-professional units. The analysis of linguistic material demonstrated that ICT terminology is characterized by a high degree of variability and flexibility, while its formation occurs under the significant influence of borrowing processes, linguistic economy, and compressive word formation. Particularly productive methods of term formation include suffixation, abbreviation, stem clipping, and univerbation, which indicates the tendency of professional communication toward simplification and acceleration of information transfer.

The conducted research also revealed the presence of controversial aspects related to the determination of the grammatical nature of terminological units. The comparison of various scholarly approaches made it possible to establish that modern ICT terminology goes beyond the traditional understanding of a term exclusively as a noun or a substantive phrase. In the professional environment, terminological units represented by different parts of speech actively function, which indicates the necessity of a broader approach to defining the term. In addition, the analysis of professionalisms and colloquial units demonstrated that such lexical elements perform not only a nominative function but also reflect the peculiarities of professional culture, the emotional and evaluative attitude of language users, and the specific features of digital communication. All this indicates the necessity for further comprehensive study of information and communication terminology, taking into account its structural, semantic, pragmatic, and sociolinguistic characteristics.



## CONCLUSION

Thus, information and communication terminology represents a dynamically developing system of specialized linguistic units reflecting the processes of digitalization, informatization, and technological progress in modern society. The development of computer and communication technologies has led not only to the expansion of the functioning sphere of ICT terminology but also to the intensification of scholarly interest in issues related to its origin, structure, grammatical nature, and methods of word formation. In modern linguistics, information and communication terminology is regarded as an important object of research situated at the intersection of terminology studies, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, and the theory of professional communication.

The conducted analysis demonstrates that terminological units in the ICT sphere are characterized by a high degree of variability, intensive word-formation processes, and a significant influence of the colloquial-professional environment. Alongside standardized terms, professionalisms, slang, and compressive forms actively function, reflecting the tendency toward linguistic economy and the adaptation of specialized vocabulary to the conditions of everyday communication. In this regard, particular relevance is attached to the further study of the lexical-semantic, grammatical, and functional features of information and communication terminology, as well as to the investigation of the mechanisms of its adaptation within the system of the modern Russian language.

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