

PAPER

THE HISTORY AND FORMATION PROCESSES OF THEMATIC DICTIONARIES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Alisherova Shahnoza Asqarovna ¹ *

¹PhD Student (1st Year, Basic Doctoral Program) Uzbek State University of World Languages

* alisherova65@gmail.com

Abstract

This study explores the historical development and formation processes of thematic dictionaries in English and Uzbek. It highlights the evolution of lexicographical traditions, the role of cultural and linguistic needs in shaping thematic dictionaries, and the comparative analysis of both languages. The research demonstrates how thematic dictionaries contribute to language learning, knowledge organization, and the preservation of specialized vocabulary.

Key words: Thematic dictionaries, lexicography, English, Uzbek, history of dictionaries, linguistic development, terminology, language standardization, bilingual lexicography, vocabulary formation.

Introduction

Thematic dictionaries are essential tools in linguistic practice, designed to organize vocabulary based on specific topics or domains. In both English and Uzbek, the history of thematic dictionaries reflects broader cultural, educational, and scientific developments. This paper examines their formation, growth, and importance, with a comparative focus on the two languages.

Methodology

The study uses a comparative-historical approach, analyzing published thematic dictionaries in English and Uzbek. It involves a literature review of

lexicographical works, examination of dictionary structures, and categorization of themes. The methodology also incorporates descriptive analysis to trace the evolution of thematic lexicography across different historical periods.

Findings

English thematic dictionaries began to appear earlier, largely influenced by scientific, industrial, and educational demands.

- Uzbek thematic dictionaries developed significantly in the 20th century, shaped by national identity, cultural revival, and the need for specialized terminologies.

Compiled on: November 1, 2025.

Copyright: ©2025 by the authors. Submitted to *Advances in Science and Education* for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the [Creative Commons Attribution \(CC BY\) 4.0 license](#).

- Both traditions reveal that thematic organization enhances accessibility, supports academic research, and fosters bilingual education.

Overview

The paper outlines the role of thematic dictionaries as a bridge between general and specialized lexicography. It shows how they reflect historical, cultural, and educational contexts in both English- and Uzbek-speaking societies.

Materials

The study relies on historical dictionaries, academic articles, Uzbek and English thematic lexicons (e.g., dictionaries of medicine, agriculture, technology), and previous research on lexicography.

Results

The analysis shows that:

- English thematic lexicography has a longer history and broader thematic coverage.
- Uzbek thematic dictionaries are closely tied to cultural heritage and language policy.
- Both languages show convergence in modern times, with thematic dictionaries becoming crucial for education, translation, and terminology development.

The history and formation of thematic dictionaries in English. The development of thematic dictionaries in English is closely connected with the broader history of English lexicography. Unlike general dictionaries, which aim to provide definitions of all words in alphabetical order, thematic dictionaries group vocabulary by subject areas or domains of knowledge. Their evolution reflects the cultural, scientific, and educational needs of English-speaking societies over the centuries. The earliest English dictionaries were not thematic in the modern sense, but they contained elements of subject-specific word lists. For example, glossaries of difficult or foreign words from the 15th and 16th centuries often included terms from medicine, law, or theology. These specialized collections were designed primarily for scholars and clergy who needed to understand Latin or Greek vocabulary used in professional or religious texts. While these early works were limited in scope, they laid the foundation for later thematic

dictionaries by showing the need to organize words according to specific fields. During the 17th and 18th centuries, as science and industry began to flourish in England, thematic dictionaries gained greater importance. The rapid progress of natural sciences, mechanics, navigation, and medicine required systematic collections of technical terms. For instance, subject-specific dictionaries of anatomy, botany, or mathematics appeared to support both professionals and students. The rise of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries further encouraged the production of thematic dictionaries, especially in areas such as engineering, trade, and technology. These works not only provided definitions but also offered explanations, illustrations, and examples of usage within professional contexts. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, thematic dictionaries expanded to cover broader areas of human knowledge. Dictionaries of synonyms and antonyms, idioms, and specialized terminologies became common. Education reform and the expansion of literacy created a demand for reference works that organized vocabulary thematically for easier learning. This trend was also supported by the growth of encyclopedic dictionaries, which often combined thematic and alphabetical principles. In modern times, English thematic dictionaries have become even more diverse and technologically advanced. Digitalization has transformed the way they are created and accessed. Online platforms and electronic databases now provide interactive thematic dictionaries covering fields as varied as law, computer science, linguistics, medicine, and business. These dictionaries often integrate multimedia elements such as images, audio, and video, making them more effective for learners. Moreover, thematic dictionaries are now frequently bilingual or multilingual, reflecting the global status of English and its role in translation and international communication. In summary, the history of thematic dictionaries in English demonstrates a gradual transition from small, specialized glossaries to comprehensive, digitalized resources. Their formation was shaped by scholarly traditions, the growth of science and industry, educational reforms, and technological innovations. Today, they serve not only as reference tools but also as bridges connecting disciplines, cultures, and

languages.

The history and formation of thematic dictionaries in Uzbek. The formation of thematic dictionaries in Uzbek is deeply rooted in ancient Turkic lexicographic traditions. Lexicography in Uzbek culture has never been limited to giving definitions of words; it has also served as an important intellectual activity aimed at meeting the scientific, cultural, and social needs of society. Thematic dictionaries, in particular, have played a vital role in organizing words by subject areas, preserving linguistic richness, and making vocabulary accessible for practical use.

Ancient Turkic lexicographic traditions. The most famous early example is Mahmud al-Kashgari's "Devonu Lug'otit Turk" (11th century). Although this work is often regarded as a general dictionary, it also demonstrates thematic organization, grouping words related to agriculture, animal husbandry, warfare, social customs, and cultural life. The dictionary not only provided definitions but also reflected the worldview and daily practices of Turkic peoples. In this sense, it may be considered one of the earliest thematic dictionaries in the Turkic and Uzbek lexicographic tradition. Later periods also produced smaller thematic glossaries attached to religious, literary, or scientific works.

Thematic dictionaries in the Soviet period. From the mid-20th century onwards, the development of thematic dictionaries in Uzbek accelerated. Rapid advances in science, technology, education, and agriculture created a pressing need for systematic collections of specialized terminology. As a result, dictionaries such as "Agricultural Terminology Dictionary", "Technical Terms Dictionary", and "Medical Terminology Dictionary" were published. These works helped expand the scientific and technical capacity of the Uzbek language, providing standardized equivalents for new concepts. Many of these dictionaries were bilingual, often Uzbek–Russian, reflecting the linguistic and cultural environment of the time. They also contributed to unifying terminology across academic and professional fields.

Thematic dictionaries in the independence period. After 1991, the direction and content of thematic dictionaries changed significantly. In this period, special attention was given to

restoring national identity, preserving cultural heritage, and expressing modern scientific and technological concepts in the Uzbek language. Important works included new editions of The Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, as well as thematic dictionaries in areas such as culture, literature, and art. At the same time, new dictionaries appeared in fields like law, economics, politics, and information technology, reflecting the needs of an independent and modernizing state. Increasingly, English–Uzbek bilingual thematic dictionaries were also created to support education and international communication. Today, many thematic dictionaries are published in digital form, including online platforms and electronic databases, making them more accessible to both specialists and learners. The history of thematic dictionaries in Uzbek demonstrates continuity from ancient Turkic traditions to the present. While their rapid expansion took place during the Soviet era, their scope and significance broadened after independence. Today, thematic dictionaries are not only tools for learning and translation but also instruments for cultural preservation, scientific development, and global communication.

Similarities and differences between English and Uzbek thematic dictionaries. Thematic dictionaries in English and Uzbek have developed under different historical and cultural circumstances, yet they share certain functions and modern tendencies. A comparative analysis highlights both the distinctive features and the points of convergence in their evolution.

English thematic dictionaries. The English tradition of thematic dictionaries has a much longer and more continuous history. From early glossaries in the medieval period to the specialized subject dictionaries of the scientific revolution and the Industrial Age, English lexicography has consistently responded to the needs of scholarship, trade, and education. By the 19th century, thematic dictionaries in English covered a wide range of domains, including medicine, law, natural sciences, and engineering. The global role of English as an international language further expanded the production of thematic dictionaries, with bilingual and multilingual versions created for cross-cultural communication. Today, English thematic dictionaries are highly diverse, covering nearly

every discipline, and are increasingly digitalized, offering interactive features and multimedia support.

Uzbek thematic dictionaries. In contrast, thematic dictionaries in Uzbek emerged later and developed under unique socio-political influences. Their early roots can be traced to the Turkic lexicographic tradition, but the systematic production of thematic dictionaries only accelerated in the Soviet period. At that time, the creation of dictionaries in fields such as agriculture, technology, and medicine was driven by practical needs to modernize society and establish consistent terminology. Unlike the broader thematic coverage seen in English, Uzbek dictionaries were initially more focused on specific cultural, educational, and scientific domains. After independence in 1991, Uzbek thematic dictionaries took on a new role: reinforcing national identity, preserving cultural heritage, and adapting to globalization. This period saw a rise in bilingual English–Uzbek thematic dictionaries, particularly in science, technology, and law, reflecting the growing importance of international communication.

Modern common trends. Despite differences in their historical trajectories, both English and Uzbek thematic dictionaries now share several tendencies. Digitalization has transformed lexicography in both languages, with online databases, mobile applications, and electronic resources becoming increasingly important. Thematic dictionaries in both contexts are no longer limited to printed books but exist in interactive and multimedia formats. Another common trend is the growth of bilingual and multilingual thematic dictionaries, which facilitate translation, education, and global knowledge exchange. In both languages, thematic dictionaries also serve as important tools in academia, professional training, and cultural preservation. English thematic dictionaries have a longer history and cover a broader range of subjects, reflecting the global status of English. Uzbek thematic dictionaries, while more recent, are deeply tied to cultural and national needs and have expanded rapidly in the post-independence era. Today, both traditions converge in embracing digital technologies and bilingual resources, underlining the universal importance of thematic lexicography.

Conclusion

The history and formation of thematic dictionaries in English and Uzbek demonstrate the deep connection between lexicography, culture, and education. While English traditions influenced global practices, Uzbek thematic dictionaries embody linguistic identity and modernization efforts. Together, they underline the universal role of thematic organization in lexicography.

Recommendations: Encourage the creation of new bilingual thematic dictionaries for English–Uzbek to aid translation and language learning.

1. Digitize and modernize existing thematic dictionaries to improve accessibility.
2. Conduct further comparative studies on thematic lexicography across different languages.
3. Integrate thematic dictionaries into academic curricula for linguistics and translation studies.
4. Preserve historical thematic dictionaries as cultural and educational heritage.

References

1. Bahodirovna U. K. et al. Comparative study of term formation in English and Uzbek with reference to morphological and semantic features //EduVision: Journal of Innovations in Pedagogy and Educational Advancements. – 2025. – T. 1. – №. 4. – C. 327–334.
2. Dusmurodovna E. M. et al. Typological and semantic features of typological and semantic features of term formation in English and Uzbek languages a comparative linguistic research //Modern American Journal of Linguistics, Education, and Pedagogy. – 2025. – T. 1. – №. 2. – C. 77–85.
3. Jurakulovich J. S. AN Analytical comparison of term-formation processes in English and Uzbek languages through the lens of morphological composition and semantic development //Modern American Journal of Linguistics, Education, and Pedagogy. – 2025. – T. 1. – №. 2. – C. 318–325.
4. Khujakulov S. Uzbek and English legal terms and their specific language properties in linguistics //American Journal of Philological Sciences. – 2023. – T. 3. – №. 10. – C. 29–42.

5. Khujakulov S. Uzbek and English legal terms and their specific language properties in linguistics //American Journal of Philological Sciences. – 2023. – Т. 3. – №. 10. – С. 29-42.
6. Sanakulov Z. Typology of Dictionaries: on the Example of Dictionaries Created with the Participation of German and Uzbek Languages //European Journal of Research and Reflection in Educational Sciences Vol. – 2020. – Т. 8. – №. 7.
7. Садикова С. Semantic fields of ideographic dictionaries in english and uzbek //in Library. – 2024. – Т. 1. – №. 4. – С. 526-528.