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Semantic Transformation of Latin Loanwords in the Economic and Financial Domain in Uzbek Official Documents

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Abstract. *This article examines the semantic transformation of Latin-rooted loanwords pertaining to the economic and financial domain in Uzbek official documents. The relevance of the study stems from the need for a scholarly account of the semantic changes taking place in the lexical system of Uzbek under the influence of globalization, international economic relations, the system of financial governance, and contemporary terminological processes. The theoretical framework draws on E. Haugen's theory of linguistic borrowing, E. C. Traugott and R. B. Dasher's account of semantic change, and A. Blank's cognitive typology of the motivations for the emergence of new meanings. The empirical material comprises seven presidential decrees and resolutions on economic and financial matters issued between 1991 and 2025. The study combines statistical, etymological, semantic, and contextual methods of analysis. The results of the statistical analysis show that the proportion of Latin loanwords in official documents has increased considerably compared with the early years of independence. In particular, the etymology, routes of borrowing, contextual use, and semantic extension of such lexemes as balans, eksport, import, inkubator, komissiya, kompensatsiya, sanksiya, and tendensiya are analyzed. The study finds that most of these units entered Uzbek through Russian mediation and are used in official documents predominantly in their denotative, terminological, and normative meanings. The findings indicate that Latin loanwords serve as an important lexical source for the formation and development of economic and financial terminology in Uzbek.*

Keywords: *loanword, Latin-rooted lexemes, economic and financial terms, semantic change, internationalism, semantic shift, semantic narrowing*

In recent years, extensive research devoted to the development of the Uzbek language, and terminological research in particular, has shed light on a number of previously unexplored linguistic aspects of Uzbek linguistics. Nevertheless, globalization inevitably affects every developing language and each of its levels, and the vocabulary of Uzbek is no exception. Accordingly, the study of the foreign words and concepts used in modern fields and their branches, as well as of the changes affecting their semantic properties, determines the relevance of the present article. It is well known that every linguistic system enters into both direct and indirect contact with other languages. As a result, foreign words, word combinations, and other linguistic elements are borrowed into many of its layers, primarily the lexical one.

Since the first years of independence, the vocabulary of Uzbek, and its borrowed layer in particular, has been studied extensively. However, there is as yet no research based on the texts of normative legal documents issued in Uzbek in recent years that addresses the Latin-rooted lexical units occurring in them and their semantic changes. For this reason, the object of the present study is the realization of economic and financial Latin loanwords in official documents.

In his article *The Analysis of Linguistic Borrowing*, devoted to the systematic study of loanwords, E. Haugen interprets borrowing not as a simple act of "taking over words," but as the outcome of active contact between the linguistic systems of bilingual speakers. In his view, the analysis of borrowing must begin with the study of bilingual speech behavior[Haugen, 1950]. This approach implies that economic and financial units that have entered Uzbek via Russian, English, or the international terminological stock should be analyzed not only with reference to their etymological roots but also in terms of their phonetic, morphological, and semantic adaptation within the recipient language system. With regard to semantic transformation, E. C. Traugott and R. B. Dasher's *Regularity in Semantic Change* provides an important theoretical foundation[Traugott & Dasher, 2001]. The authors account for meaning change from the standpoint of historical pragmatics and discourse analysis and emphasize that new meanings frequently arise through associative links and contextual inferences in the course of language use. As one of the methods required for a systematic classification of semantic transformation, Blank relates the emergence of new meanings to cognitive factors, communicative needs, sociocultural change, and terminological reinterpretation[Blank, 1999].

The present study covers seven presidential resolutions and decrees on economic and financial

matters issued between 1991 and 2025. First, to ensure the reliability of the research, a statistical analysis was conducted of the frequency of loanwords in official documents and the proportion of Latin loanwords, and the most frequently occurring lexemes were identified.

Every Five-Year Periods	Total Word Count	Percentage of Latin Loanwords
1991-1995	280	5.56%
1996-2000	433	4.62%
2001-2005	1230	5.44%
2006-2010	813	7.13%
2011-2015	358	8.37%
2016-2020	1362	10.35%
2021-2025	942	14.12%

Table 1. Frequency statistics of Latin loanwords in the economic and financial domain.

The results of the statistical analysis presented in Table 1 show that the frequency of Latin-rooted lexical units in Uzbek official documents on economic and financial matters has increased roughly threefold in the most recent five-year period compared with the early years of independence.

The loanwords identified in the course of the analysis that occur five or more times in the official texts are: *balans, eksport, import, komissiya, kompensatsiya, sanksiya, summa, tendensiya*.

Below, the etymology and routes of borrowing of the most active Latin lexical units are examined, together with their semantic changes as illustrated by contextual examples from official documents.

Balans is an internationalism meaning "equilibrium, equality." It derives from the combination of the Latin *bi-* "two" and *lanx* "dish, plate," and in Classical Latin it denoted the pan of a pair of scales[OED, 2025]. In this sense it was borrowed into French as *balance*. The sense of "funds held in a bank account" was found to exist in French, Russian, and Uzbek. It should be noted that, judging by the transliteration and semantic properties of the word *balans*, it can be argued to have passed from French into Russian and from Russian into Uzbek.

In official documents, the use of *balans* in its connotative sense was attested only in Uzbek official documents: "[it] shall be a state educational institution with the status of a legal entity, having its own independent *balance sheet*, personal treasury accounts with the Treasury of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and a seal bearing the image of the State Emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its name in the state language"[Collection of International Treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2004].

Eksport denotes the shipment of goods or capital from one country to other countries for the purposes of trade. Etymologically, the lexeme goes back to the Latin *exportare*, formed from *ex* "out" and *portare* "from a territory, from a port," and *exportare* meant to carry a load out of one place to another. However, its present-day meaning has been in use in English since the fifteenth century[OED, 2025]. Subsequently, the lexeme was borrowed into other languages, including Uzbek, with the same meaning.

It was established that in Uzbek official documents the word *eksport* is likewise used in the modern sense described above: "… may be permitted to enter without prohibitions or restrictions, provided that such means are subsequently re-*exported*"[Collection of International Treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2004].

Import denotes the bringing of goods or capital into a country from abroad. In terms of its etymology, the lexeme *import* was formed in the Middle Ages from the Latin *in portare*, combining *in* "into" and *portare* "to carry, to bring in." In English itself, from the sixteenth century onward *import* came to be used to express notions such as "significance, attention, important sign," while from the mid-sixteenth century *import* began to be used specifically in the sense of an economic process denoting things brought from abroad[Merriam-Webster, n.d.-a]. It was borrowed into Uzbek precisely as a concept denoting a trade relationship. In Uzbek, the lexeme has a single form, *import*, used only as a noun, whereas English has the noun forms *import* and *importation* and the verb *import*. In the official documents of both languages, the lexeme *import* was found to occur in its denotative meanings.

Inkubator (Lat. *incubare* "to sit on eggs, to brood") is a lexeme that has undergone semantic shift within modern English. The term was first used in business-related documents in the United States[OED, 2025]. It was borrowed into Uzbek vocabulary through Russian, since devices associated with the concept of an incubator began to spread widely in the mid-twentieth century.

"Construction of a multifunctional multi-storey building comprising lecture rooms meeting international standards, coworking centers, an IT laboratory, a business *incubator*, and a conference hall"[Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-62 of 07.02.2024].

The combination *biznes inkubator* ("business incubator") has also been observed in several places in recent Uzbek official documents as a concept pertaining to the economic domain. However, this new meaning of the lexeme is not recorded in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries. In particular, the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* gives only the definition "an apparatus for hatching chicks from eggs artificially" for *inkubator*[O'TIL, 2023].

Komissiya is a polysemous loanword in Uzbek; the Latin *commission-, commissio* was borrowed into French and, through French, into Russian. Uzbek, in turn, borrowed it from Russian.

In Uzbek, the word *komissiya* originally denoted the members of a group set up by a body or organization for a particular purpose (such as inspection, the conclusion of a contract, or investigation). Later, with the development of exchange activity, *komissiya* also came to denote the fee paid to an intermediary or agent in exchange transactions for a particular service on the basis of a contractual agreement[O'TIL, 2023].

Kompensatsiya means payment made in return for something; the recovery or payment of compensation for damages.

In Resolution No. PQ-49 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 31 January 2024, the word *kompensatsiya* occurs in the following context: "… for loans of up to 20 billion soums, *compensation* shall be provided from the State Budget to cover the portion of the interest rate that exceeds the policy rate of the Central Bank but does not exceed 1.5 times that rate"[Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-49 of 31 January 2024].

The Latin noun *compensatio* is derived from the verb *compensare* "to weigh together." The lexeme entered the Uzbek lexicon through Russian mediation.

In Uzbek, this lexeme is polysemous. In its literal sense, it denotes a financial or other form of reward given in return for something or for an unforeseen misfortune. Through semantic extension, in speech it expresses a positive counterbalance to the harm caused by any misfortune, i.e., the presence of a positive feature in a situation that also has a negative one.

Sanksiya in normative legal documents and political dictionaries denotes the confirmation that resolutions and decrees have legal force, and, in international politics, the imposition of certain restrictions on a particular government or state by other organizations, communities, or states. In addition, the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* defines four meanings of the word *sanksiya*[O'TIL, 2023].

Sanksiya passed into the European languages from the Latin noun *sanctio*, derived from the verb *sancire* "to confirm, to ratify," and was originally a lexical item denoting "the enactment of laws and their enforcement." Later, as its polysemy expanded, it acquired meanings denoting the enforcement of laws and certain types of restrictions in political and economic spheres as well[Merriam-Webster, n.d.-b]. It should be noted that *sanksiya* was borrowed as a political term and subsequently underwent semantic extension.

In Uzbek official documents, *sanksiya* was found to be used mainly as a term corresponding to the definition "the part of a legal norm or of an article of law that specifies the legal consequences arising from a violation of that law." For instance, the text of Resolution No. O'RMB-3492 of the Board of the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 23 January 2024 states: "… establishes the procedure for applying measures and *sanctions* to members of the supervisory board and the management board, as well as to key employees of the bank," and the same usage is found in a number of other legislative acts[Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-62 of 07.02.2024].

Tendensiya is a concept denoting an inclination or disposition toward a certain character or behavior.

In Uzbek normative legal documents, the word *tendensiya* expresses a widespread inclination or drive toward an existing or innovative development or trend in a particular field. For example, in the sentence "… training, retraining, and advanced training of personnel with higher education, taking into account the latest global *trends* in the fields of economics, finance, and taxation, financial technologies, advanced foreign experience, and the requirements of the real economy"[Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-62 of 07.02.2024], what is implied is the implementation of innovative economic and financial ideas that have been widely promoted in the economic and financial spheres in recent years.

The root of *tendensiya* is the Latin verb *tendere* "to stretch, to bend," from which the noun *tendentia*, meaning "a movement toward something," arose[OED, 2025]. Today, in English, German, Russian, and indeed Uzbek, the word is used in most cases in the sense explained above. However, the *Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* gives as its second meaning "the expression of a particular idea, depiction, or the main idea and content of a work"[O'TIL, 2023].

The analysis of the semantic phenomena discussed above allows the following conclusions

to be drawn:

• Most lexical units borrowed from Latin have undergone semantic extension as a result of the development of modern fields.

• The transliteration and semantic properties of all Latin-rooted lexemes borrowed into Uzbek show the direct influence of Russian.

• In the texts of official documents, the loanwords are used in their denotative meanings; the connotative properties they display in everyday speech were not attested.

It should also be emphasized that the dynamic nature of any language is determined by the changes taking place in its lexical layer.

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