

**FEATURES OF THE FORMATION OF KAZAKH GRAMMATICAL
TERMINOLOGY PRIOR TO A.BAITURSYNULY**

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**A.BAYTURSUN O'G'LIGA QADAR QOZOQ GRAMMATIK TERMINOLOGIYASINING
SHAKLLANISH XUSUSIYATLARI**

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**ОСОБЕННОСТИ ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ КАЗАХСКОЙ
ГРАММАТИЧЕСКОЙ ТЕРМИНОЛОГИИ ДО А.БАЙТУРСЫНУЛЫ**

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Tayanch soʻzlar: qozoq terminologiyasi, grammatik terminlar, XX asr boshi, termin yaratish, milliy ilmiy til, ruscha-qozoqcha lugʻatlar, jadid maʼrifatchiligi.

Rezyume. Maqolada XX asr boshlarida qozoq grammatik terminologiyasining shakllanishi uchun dastlabki shart-sharoitlar va uning tarixiy-lingvistik xususiyatlari koʻrib chiqiladi. Tadqiqot davomida ilk ruscha-qozoqcha lugʻatlar va oʻquv qoʻllanmalaridagi terminlarning koʻpvariantlilik, koʻpqatlamli lingvistik tabiati hamda orfografik beqarorligi tahlil qilindi. Shuningdek, arab grammatik anʼanasi, rus missionerlik lingvistikasi va jadid maʼrifatchiligining qozoq termin yaratish jarayoniga taʼsiri yoritildi. Natijada Baitursynulygacha boʻlgan davr qozoq ilmiy terminologiyasining prateoretik, oʻtish bosqichi sifatida baholandi.

Ключевые слова: казахская терминология, грамматические термины, начало XX века, терминообразование, национальный научный язык, русско-казахские словари, джадидское просвещение.

Резюме. В статье рассматриваются предпосылки формирования казахской грамматической терминологии в начале XX века и её историко-лингвистические особенности. В ходе исследования анализируются многовариантность терминов в первых русско-казахских словарях и учебных пособиях, их многослойная языковая природа, а также орфографическая нестабильность. Также рассматривается влияние арабской грамматической традиции, русской миссионерской лингвистики и джадидского просвещения на процесс казахского терминообразования. В результате период до Ахмета Байтурсынулы оценивается как претеоретический, переходный этап развития казахской научной терминологии.

Key words: kazakh terminology, grammatical terms, early twentieth century, term formation, national scientific language, Russian-Kazakh dictionaries, Jadid enlightenment.

Summary. The article examines the prerequisites for the formation of Kazakh grammatical terminology in the early twentieth century and its historical-linguistic characteristics. The study analyzes the multivalence of terms, their multilayered linguistic nature, and orthographic instability in early Russian-Kazakh dictionaries and educational materials. It also explores the influence of the Arabic grammatical tradition, Russian missionary linguistics, and Jadid enlightenment on the development of Kazakh term formation. As a result, the period prior to Akhmet Baitursynuly is evaluated as a pre-theoretical and transitional stage in the development of Kazakh scientific terminology.

Introduction. The early twentieth century, regarded as a period of institutionalization in Kazakh linguistics, is characterized not only by the emergence of individual scholarly works but also by the expansion of the social functions of the language system as a whole. During this period, the national written language, secular education, the periodical press, scientific style, and subject-based terminology developed simultaneously. Such synchronous development required the language to move beyond its previous functional boundaries and adapt to new social demands. In particular, the Kazakh language was for the first time expected to function not merely as a means of everyday communication but also as a medium of education, administrative governance, public discourse, and scientific cognition. This, in turn, brought the problem of naming, systematizing, and stabilizing new concepts to the forefront.

These transformations were shaped in connection with the establishment of the colonial administrative system of the Russian Empire, the spread of the Jadidist reformist movement, and the opening of new-style schools. The inclusion of secular subjects in Jadid schools necessitated the development of educational materials in the Kazakh language. As a result, the issue of naming disciplinary concepts in the native language that is, the formation of terminology became increasingly significant. This period marked an expansion of the Kazakh language's role as a language of education and initiated a new stage in its functional development.

The formation of Kazakh grammatical terminology was influenced by Jadidist enlightenment, madrasah education, Russian-Kazakh schools, early textbooks and dictionaries, as well as the national press. However, at this stage, the terminological system had not yet been fully established: a

single concept could be expressed by multiple terms, terminology was often borrowed from Arabic, Persian, and Russian languages, and the systematic use of native word-formation resources remained limited.

Therefore, the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century is regarded as a pre-theoretical stage in the development of Kazakh grammatical terminology, characterized by exploration and formation prior to systematization. This stage laid the historical groundwork for the national scientific system that would later be established through the works of Akhmet Baitursynuly.

Materials and Methods. The primary material of this study consists of Kazakh-language textbooks published in the early twentieth century, Russian–Kazakh dictionaries, works of a grammatical nature, and the earliest examples of the national written language. In particular, terminological units found in lexicographic and educational works related to the formative period of Kazakh linguistics were selected for analysis with regard to their graphic representation, semantic structure, and usage patterns.

In addition, scholarly studies addressing the development of the Kazakh written language in the early twentieth century, the formation of national terminology, and the history of Kazakh linguistics were examined. The theoretical framework of the research is based on the works of Rabiğa Syzdyq, Ömirzak Aitbayev and Sherubay Qurmanbaiuly, particularly their conclusions concerning the development of Kazakh scientific language and processes of term formation.

Discussion. Russian–Kazakh dictionaries published in the early twentieth century played a significant role as one of the earliest practical platforms for the development of scientific term formation in the Kazakh language. These dictionaries functioned not only as translation tools but also as instruments for exploring ways of rendering new concepts in Kazakh, testing alternative lexical equivalents, and determining linguistic correspondences. However, a number of structural and content-related features demonstrate that the terminological system of this period was still in a formative stage.

The missionary school experience initiated by Nikolai Ilminsky also played a certain role in the development of the written form of the Kazakh language [1]. Although the principle of mother-tongue instruction was applied in these schools, their primary aim was religious and educational rather than linguistic or scientific. Nevertheless, the practice of using Kazakh in written form, preparing instructional materials, and explaining grammatical structures contributed to the later development of the national school system.

First, the dictionaries of this period commonly presented multiple equivalents for a single term. For instance, the concept of “sentence” was rendered as *söyleu*, *söilem*, and *fraza*. This phenomenon, on the one hand, reflects the authors’ attempt to identify the most appropriate designation; on the other hand, it indicates that a stable correspondence between concept and designation had not yet been established. The absence of terminological consistency created difficulties in both teaching and usage, as the same concept could be expressed by different terms in different texts.

Second, a notable feature is the simultaneous use of Arabic and Kazakh forms. For example, the concept of

“grammar” appears as both *grammatika* and *nahw*, while “part of speech” is represented by *söz tabı*, *söz bölimi*, and *qism al-kalām*. This demonstrates the coexistence of three linguistic strata: Russian, Arabic and Kazakh. Such a multilayered structure reflects the parallel existence of different educational traditions in Kazakh society, namely *madrasah*-based and secular schooling.

Third, direct transliteration of Russian terms was widely used. Certain concepts were introduced into Kazakh either without modification or with minimal phonetic adaptation (e.g., *grammatika*, *fraza*). While this approach enabled rapid transmission of new concepts, it did not constitute a fully developed solution in terms of national term formation, as such borrowings were not integrated into the internal morphological system of the language and functioned as external elements.

These three features—multivalence, multilayered terminology, and transliteration—clearly demonstrate the transitional nature of early twentieth-century term formation. During this period, terminology had not yet developed into a stable system and evolved at the intersection of multiple influences. On the one hand, the Arabic–Persian scholarly tradition remained influential; on the other hand, the Russian scientific apparatus was being introduced; simultaneously, new terms based on the internal resources of Kazakh were beginning to emerge.

Such parallel usage inevitably led to terminological instability. The existence of multiple designations for a single concept reduced the efficiency of scientific communication and created ambiguity in the educational process. However, this phenomenon should not be interpreted solely as a deficiency. Rather, it represents a natural stage of exploratory development in term formation. Through the coexistence of competing variants, the language gradually selected the most appropriate, comprehensible, and systematic forms.

The variation observed in early twentieth-century Russian–Kazakh dictionaries thus reflects a transitional yet highly significant stage in the development of Kazakh scientific vocabulary. It is not evidence of disorder, but rather of a process of system search, providing an empirical foundation for the subsequent formation of a national terminological system.

During this period, the use of the Arabic script in the Kazakh written tradition indicates a certain level of established writing culture; however, the absence of standardized orthographic norms significantly hindered the stabilization of the linguistic system. In particular, the incomplete representation of vowel sounds, the lack of consistent marking of vowel harmony (front/back distinction), and multiple graphical variants of the same word disrupted textual uniformity. For instance, the word *gılym* (“science”) appears in forms such as *gılym* and *ilm*, while *söz* (“word”) is recorded in variants such as *söz*, *sözь*, and *sözьь*. These inconsistencies clearly demonstrate the instability of writing practices.

Such orthographic variability was not merely a technical issue; it directly affected the formation of terminology. When the graphical form of a term is not standardized, its recognition as a stable linguistic unit becomes problematic. In other words, when a concept is represented by different spellings, it cannot function as a stable term and remains at a provisional or non-official level of usage. In such cases,

the conceptual boundaries of the term also remain unclear, as instability in form weakens the link between concept and designation.

Furthermore, during this period, a fully independent linguistic model based on the internal structure of the Kazakh language had not yet been established. Kazakh was primarily described through two dominant traditions: the Arabic grammatical school and the Russian missionary-linguistic framework. In the first case, linguistic categories were adapted according to Arabic structural models, while in the second, Russian linguistic models served as the basis. Neither approach fully captured the specific structural characteristics of Kazakh, as both were externally derived systems.

Rabiġa Syzdyq notes that in pre-Baitursynuly Kazakh written language, grammatical descriptions were dominated by practical, instructional exposition rather than systematic scientific principles [2]. According to her, linguistic phenomena were presented not through formal categorization but through explanation, exemplification, and simplified conceptual description.

Ömirzak Aitbayev similarly observes that in the early stages of Kazakh terminology formation, terms were largely borrowed from established scientific traditions or expressed through descriptive means [3]. He argues that no independent national model of term formation existed at this stage, resulting in the coexistence of multiple linguistic influences and a lack of systemic consistency.

Sherubai Qurmanbaiuly characterizes the pre-Baitursynuly period as one of “search and transitional models” in the history of national terminology [4]. This definition underscores the absence of stable principles, the coexistence of diverse linguistic influences, and the lack of a fully developed scientific methodology.

Orthographic instability and theoretical weakness functioned as interrelated phenomena. On the one hand, inconsistency in writing systems hindered the graphical and phonetic stabilization of terms; on the other hand, the absence of a national scientific model impeded their conceptual and systemic consolidation. This situation reflects an initial transitional stage in the adaptation of the Kazakh language to scientific functions.

However, these difficulties simultaneously highlighted the necessity of subsequent reform. The language reform initiated by Akhmet Baitursynuly aimed to eliminate orthographic and terminological instability and to establish a consistent writing system and a national terminological model grounded in the internal structure of Kazakh. Therefore, the period under consideration should be evaluated not as a fully developed stage, but as a preparatory yet crucial phase in the formation of Kazakh linguistics.

Conclusion. The formation of Kazakh grammatical terminology in the early twentieth century was closely associated with historical and social transformations within Kazakh society, the enlightenment movement, and the development of the national written language. During this period, the Kazakh language began to adapt to new social functions, and the need to express scientific concepts in the native language emerged. As a result, the earliest practical models of Kazakh term formation began to take shape.

The study demonstrates that the pre-Baitursynuly period did not represent a fully developed scientific terminological system, but rather a pre-theoretical stage characterized by exploration and transition. The multivalence of terms, the coexistence of Arabic, Russian, and Kazakh linguistic elements, and orthographic instability collectively indicate that the national scientific language was still in the process of systematization.

At the same time, this period served as an important historical prerequisite for the subsequent development of Kazakh linguistics. Terminological inconsistency, orthographic variability, and reliance on external scientific models revealed the necessity of establishing a new linguistic system grounded in the internal structure of the Kazakh language. This need was later realized in the works of Akhmet Baitursynuly, who laid the foundations of a national terminological framework in Kazakh linguistics.

Thus, early twentieth-century Kazakh term formation should be regarded as a transitional yet decisive stage in the development of the national scientific language. This period constituted a foundational phase in the emergence of the scientific style, terminological system, and national linguistic thought in the Kazakh language.

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