

PAPER

THE FORMATION AND SEMANTIC EVOLUTION OF THE TERM “BANKROT” BORROWED FROM GERMAN INTO UZBEK

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Abstract

The etymology, semantic evolution, and functional characteristics of the political and economic term “bankrot” (Bankrott), which was adopted from German into Uzbek, are all examined in this article. Semantic and etymological dictionaries in German, Russian, and Uzbek are used in systematic comparative research that forms the basis of the analysis. Both the term’s primary (financial-legal) and secondary (political, social, and moral) figurative meanings are identified in the study. The results have significant implications for translation theory, terminology research, and comparative linguistics.

Key words: Bankrott, semantic evolution, terminology, political and economic discourse, economic and legal domain, explanatory and etymological dictionaries, debtor, mediation, loss of reputation, historical roots, expression, expressive features, semantic core, metaphorical potential

Introduction

In modern linguistics, the formation, borrowing, and semantic development of political and economic terms are considered among the most significant scientific issues. In particular, terms borrowed from European languages into Uzbek play an important role in enriching the linguistic system. One such term is “bankrupt,” which is

actively used not only in the economic and legal domain but also in political and social discourse.

The aim of this article is to conduct a comparative analysis of the etymological sources, semantic development, and discursive features of the term “bankrot” in German, Russian, and Uzbek.

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Literature Review

Explanatory and etymological dictionaries of the German, Russian, and Uzbek languages consistently reflect the formation and semantic expansion of the term “bankrot”.

In German sources, the terms *Bankrott* / *bankrott* are initially interpreted as economic and legal concepts. In the Duden and Langenscheidt dictionaries, the term is primarily defined as a state characterized by the inability to fulfill financial obligations. At the same time, German explanatory dictionaries record the figurative meaning of the term, namely the collapse of a system, policy, or idea (*politischer Bankrott*). In Duden, Volume 7 (Etymological Dictionary), it is scientifically substantiated that this lexical unit was borrowed in the mid-15th century from the Italian expression *banca rotta* (“broken bench/table”) [4, p. 126].

In Russian linguistic studies and dictionaries, the term “банкрот” is also explained through two main semantic layers. In the dictionaries compiled by S. A. Kuznetsov, L. P. Krysin, and S. Ozhegov, the primary meaning is identified as an insolvent debtor unable to meet financial obligations. At the same time, it is emphasized that in Russian the figurative meaning of the term is actively used as an evaluative unit expressing political, moral, or social failure. In A. K. Shaposhnikov’s etymological dictionary, it is noted that the term “банкрот” entered the Russian language during the reign of Peter I, initially through the French *banqueroute* and was later consolidated via the German form *Bankrott* [1, p. 46].

In Uzbek sources, the term “bankrot” emerged relatively later and was mainly borrowed through Russian as an intermediary language. The five-volume Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, as well as the two-volume explanatory dictionary, define “bankrot” as a person or enterprise that is unable to repay debts [3, p. 160]. Additionally, some dictionaries indicate the figurative meaning of the term, referring to complete loss of reputation or failure [13, p. 79]. In the Concise Explanatory Dictionary of Socio-Political Terms, the concept of “bankrot” is defined more precisely from legal and economic perspectives, emphasizing its designation of the inability to fulfill obligations to creditors [2, p. 308].

Thus, the analysis of existing scholarly and lexicographic sources demonstrates that in all three languages the term “bankrot” was initially formed as an economic and legal concept and later evolved into an evaluative semantic unit actively used in political and social discourse. Research Methodology. In the course of the study, methods such as comparative linguistic analysis, etymological and semantic analysis, the description of lexicographic sources, and a discourse-based approach were employed. As research material, explanatory, etymological, and terminological dictionaries in Uzbek, Russian, and German were selected.

Analysis and Results

The results of the analysis demonstrate that the term under consideration has a common historical origin; however, it has undergone distinct paths of semantic development within each linguistic system. This circumstance indicates that terms are formed not only as lexical units but also as discursive and ideological instruments within social communication.

The etymological analysis shows that the German term *Bankrott* originates from the Italian expression *banca rotta* (“broken table, damaged counter”). Initially, this unit denoted a real situation related to the financial insolvency of money changers; however, over time it acquired a symbolic meaning and came to represent the general concept of financial collapse. In German, the nominal and adjectival forms of the term developed in parallel: *Bankrott* (noun) and *bankrott* (adjective) [13, p. 126].

The analysis of Russian-language material reveals a clear semantic expansion of the term *банкрот*. While it originally functioned as an economic and legal concept, in Russian it is now actively used in a figurative sense as well. Expressions such as *политический банкрот* (“political bankrupt”) and *нравственный банкрот* (“moral bankrupt”) denote the complete failure of an individual, policy, or idea. This confirms that the term has acquired evaluative and expressive characteristics in Russian discourse [7, p. 115]. In Uzbek, the term *bankrot* is primarily entrenched in the economic and legal spheres; nevertheless, figurative usages are also

observed. The phrase “bankrot bo‘lmoq” (“to become bankrupt”) refers not only to financial insolvency but also to social or personal failure. This indicates that the semantic structure of the term is expanding in the Uzbek language as well [2, p. 79].

As a result of the comparative analysis, the following conclusions were identified:

— in all three languages, the core semantic nucleus of the term is associated with financial insolvency;

— figurative meanings are more actively developed in German and Russian, while in Uzbek they remain relatively limited;

— in political discourse, the term bankrupt functions as an evaluative and critical device.

Thus, although the term bankrupt in German, Russian, and Uzbek shares a common etymological foundation, it has developed semantically in accordance with the socio-political environment of each language. The analysis demonstrates that the term serves as an important communicative tool not only in economic contexts but also in political and social discourse.

Conclusion

This study explored the formation and semantic development of the term “bankrot” in German, Russian, and Uzbek using a comparative-linguistic approach. The analysis shows that the term initially emerged as an economic and legal concept and, over the course of historical development, evolved into an evaluative unit within political and social discourse.

Comparative analysis revealed that although the core semantic nucleus of the term—financial insolvency—is common across all three languages, its discursive activity and metaphorical potential are broader in German and Russian, while relatively limited in Uzbek. This indicates a strong connection between the semantic evolution of the term and the specific social, political, and cultural contexts of each language.

The findings of this research are significant for studying the semantic expansion of political and economic terminology and for clarifying equivalence issues in translation practice. Moreover, this work provides a methodological foundation

for further research in comparative terminology studies and translation theory.

Foydalanilgan adabiyotlar

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