



Issues of Tourism Terminology in Current Modern English Languages

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Abstract: The field of tourism has evolved significantly over the past few decades, becoming one of the world's largest industries and a vital component of many economies. As tourism expands globally, the terminology associated with it becomes increasingly complex. This paper explores the various issues surrounding tourism terminology in modern English, addressing its evolution, cultural implications, and the challenges that arise in its standardizing cultural usage.

Key words: tourism, terminology, tourist, cultural exchanges, travelling, transportation eco-tourism and hospitality.



Annotatsiya: Turizm sohasi so‘nggi bir necha o‘n yilliklarda sezilarli darajada rivojlanib, dunyodagi eng yirik sanoat tarmoqlaridan biriga va ko‘plab iqtisodiyotlarning muhim tarkibiy qismiga aylandi. Turizm global miqyosda kengayib borar ekan, u bilan bog‘liq terminologiyasi tobora murakkablashib bormoqda. Ushbu maqola zamonaviy ingliz tilidagi turizm terminologiyasi bilan bog‘liq turli masalalarni o‘rganadi, uning evolyutsiyasi, madaniy oqibatlari va uni standartlashtirish va qo‘llashda yuzaga keladigan muammolarni hal qiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: turizm, terminologiya, sayohlar, madaniy almashinuvlar, sayohat, transport, ekoturizm va mehmondo‘stlik

Introduction: The most important feature of a language for specific purposes is its field-specific Terminology, which refers to the conceptual information of the field named by specific terms. In defining terminology, we refer to Vintar (2008, 37-39), who says that the only possible criterion for determining a term is its function and its specialized use – formal universal criteria for distinguishing terms from non-terms cannot exist – and Gabrovšek (2005, 16-17), who defines terms in the broadest sense as lexemes that refer to specific concepts within a given field and form a subsystem of knowledge. In the past, a term was recognized as a kind of static entity, while the more recent approaches determine its dynamic character and consider it as a “verbalized special concept that appears and improves in the process of cognition” (Leichik, 2012, 235).

The Evolution of Tourism Terminology Tourism terminology has its roots in early travel literature, which often focused on exploration and cultural exchanges. In the 19th century, terms like "tourist" and "travelogue" entered common usage, aligning with the rise of leisure travel. However, as the industry grew, so too did the vocabulary associated with it, diversifying to encompass various sectors, including hospitality, transportation, and marketing.



Emergence of New Terms: In modern English, key issues regarding tourism terminology include: the dominance of English as the global tourism language, potential for misunderstandings due to cultural nuances in translation, lack of standardized terminology across different regions, the rapid evolution of new tourism concepts, and the need for accurate translation of local cultural practices into English for effective communication with international tourists; essentially, navigating the complexities of translating specific cultural experiences into a universally understood language like English can lead to inaccuracies and misinterpretations.

New trends in travel have spurred the creation of novel terms. Phrases such as "eco-tourism," "agro-tourism," and "voluntourism" reflect contemporary concerns, like sustainability and social responsibility, that are shaping travelers' choices. While these terms provide clarity and specificity, they can also create confusion. For instance, "eco-tourism" is often misused or misunderstood, leading to debates about what constitutes truly responsible travel.

Global Influence and Language. As tourism becomes increasingly globalized, the English language serves as the lingua franca in many travel contexts. However, this leads to challenges when English terms are adopted into other languages or when they are translated back into English. Idiomatic expressions and culturally specific terms can lead to significant misunderstandings. The reliance on English terminology, often devoid of local context, risks marginalizing indigenous knowledge and practices related to tourism.

Representation and Authenticity: Language plays a crucial role in how cultures are represented within the tourism sector. The use of terms such as "exotic" to describe certain cultures or destinations can perpetuate stereotypes and fuel commodification. Tour operators might market experiences using buzzwords that appeal to Western consumers, undermining the authenticity of the local culture. The commercialization of cultural



practices can lead to a diluted experience for travelers and discontent within local communities.

Impaction Local Economies: When global tourism companies adopt specific terminology without considering local dialects or market needs, the resulting material may not resonate with the target audience. This disconnect can lead to a lack of engagement from local populations.

Examples of issues:

Translation of local food names:

A dish called “x” in a local language might not have a direct equivalent in English, leading to potential misinterpretations about its ingredients or preparation.

“Guide” vs. “Interpreter”:

Depending on the context, these terms might be used interchangeably, but they have distinct meanings in terms of language skills and role.

“Authentic experience”:

This term can be subjective and may be interpreted differently by tourists and local communities.

Potential solutions:

Developing standardized tourism glossaries:

Creating comprehensive dictionaries with clear definitions and cultural context for key tourism terms.

Cultural sensitivity training:



Educating tourism professionals on the importance of understanding and accurately conveying cultural nuances.

Inconsistency: Terms like “sustainable tourism,” “eco-tourism,” and “responsible travel” are often used interchangeably, yet they hold different meanings. This inconsistency can lead to confusion among travelers, businesses, and policymakers. **Translation Challenges:** When translating tourism terminology, nuances may be lost. Certain terms might not have direct equivalents in other languages, which can affect the understanding of services, products, or concepts in a tourism context. **Cultural Differences:** Terminology that is clear in one culture may not resonate in another. For instance, concepts like “hospitality” vary greatly across cultures, leading to different expectations and experiences for tourists.

Evolving Language: The rapid development of the tourism industry, including trends like “bleisure” (business + leisure) travel or “staycation,” introduces new terms that may not be universally understood or accepted. This can leave some stakeholders struggling to keep up. **Digital Terminology:** The rise of online travel agencies (OTAs), social media, and travel apps has introduced new jargon (e.g., “influencer marketing,” “user-generated content”) that may not be familiar to all industry players.

In conclusion, tourism terminology can be quite complex and varies significantly across different languages and cultures. Addressing these issues requires ongoing dialogue among stakeholders in the tourism industry, linguists, and cultural experts to create a more coherent and universally understood set of terms. Improved communication strategies can help bridge the gaps, ensuring a better experience for tourists and a more effective industry overall.



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