APPLICABILITY AND VALIDITY OF MICROSOFT WINDOWS TERMINOLOGY IN UZBEK TRANSLATION

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Abstract: *Studying the usage and validity of Microsoft Windows operating-system terminology translated into Uzbek is a pressing task. The translation of Windows OS terms is the purposeful, norm-governed transfer into Uzbek of the lexicon that has developed across information technology, software, user interface (UI), and programming languages. Unlike simple word substitution, this process is systemic (linked to the network of terminology), normative (aligned with standards and style guides), and functional (serving users in accomplishing concrete tasks). Therefore, as a starting point for the study, it is essential to establish the intrinsic relationship between terminology and translation.*

Keywords*: Windows OS terminology; Uzbek localization; usage analysis; validity assessment; translation strategies (borrowing, calque, semantic adaptation); terminological standardization; orthography & orthoepy; UI/UX terminology; corpus-based evaluation; terminography.*

Studying the usage and validity of Microsoft Windows operating-system terminology translated into Uzbek is a topical task. The translation of Windows OS terms is the purposeful, norm-governed transfer into Uzbek of the lexicon formed in the domains of information technology, software, user interface (UI), and programming languages. Unlike simple word substitution, this process is systemic (linked to the terminological network), normative (aligned with standards and style guides), and functional (serving users in accomplishing specific tasks). Therefore, as a starting point, it is necessary to establish the intrinsic relationship between terminology and translation.

For the translation of Windows terms into Uzbek to be successful, the terminological system and translation strategies must complement one another: conceptual clarity ensures terminological stability; user-oriented brevity and consistency ensure practical effectiveness; and normative harmony ensures alignment with language policy and industry standards. Terms developed on this basis are assimilated more quickly in real use and stabilize through educational resources.

To translate Windows terms well, the translator should possess the following knowledge and skills:

• first of all, proficiency in the foreign language and theoretical knowledge of its phonetic, semantic, and lexicographic features;

• linguistic competence (translation techniques such as transformation, calque, substitution);

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• awareness of the work being done in linguistics within the target language for this specific domain.

There are also difficult cases in translating Windows terms. For example, Russians call File Explorer "Проводник." In Uzbek, this has been rendered as Yo'l boshqaruvchi ("road/route controller"), intended to denote an application for viewing and managing the file system. Although somewhat figurative, it may convey the meaning; however, an ordinary user may interpret it as referring to a person, and some specialists note that users may not immediately grasp it as a software term because yo'l boshqaruvchi sounds foreign in that role. Consequently, a new term will require time and promotion to take hold in users' minds.

Microsoft has localized the Windows operating system into many languages. Translation into Uzbek was initially implemented as a Language Interface Pack (LIP). In the Windows XP era there were unofficial translations; for Windows 8 an official Uzbek LIP 1.0 was released in 2019. A LIP also exists for Windows 10 and is installed on top of an English or Russian base. The LIP renders the most important parts of the Windows interface—menus, dialog boxes, and utility texts—into Uzbek. However, a LIP provides only a partial translation; untranslated elements remain in the base language. Thus, a user who wishes to run Windows in Uzbek typically installs the system (e.g., in English) and then applies the LIP, after which the core of the interface appears in Uzbek.

Overall, several strategies have been used in translating Windows terms into Uzbek. Some were retained as borrowings, some calqued, and for some entirely new words or phrases were created.

Password — parol or maxfiy so'z. This term is itself a borrowing via Russian and is widely used as parol in Uzbek. In the 2000s, linguists sought a more Uzbek alternative. Dictionaries often list two variants for password: parol and maxfiy so'z ("secret word"). The latter is fully Uzbek and semantically transparent; in documents (e.g., "Enter the secret word to sign in"), it suits a formal register. However, ordinary users rarely use it; parol is entrenched, and even the English pronunciation ("password") is increasingly familiar, while parol continues to function in that meaning. In sum, parol is the variant adapted to national orthoepy, whereas maxfiy so'z is a stylistically pure Uzbek equivalent. Both appear in dictionaries, but their practical frequencies differ.

For a user-interface element, choosing the functional equivalent is advisable: parol is quickly recognized by users and meets the brevity requirements of labels (e.g., "enter password" → parolni kiriting). Maxfiy so'z can be useful to gloss the primary term in documentation or as a synonymic note, but in the UI it is both longer and less memorable.

In several cases these units can also be terminologically delimited within a paradigm:
• Password — parol (canonical); in normative notes: parol (maxfiy so'z)
• Passphrase — maxfiy ibora (a sequence of words, e.g., GPG/SSH)
• PIN — PIN-kod (numeric identifier; not a password)
• Keyword — kalit so'z (for search; not to be confused with password).

Delimiting the system along parol – PIN – kalit so'z – maxfiy ibora helps prevent confusion and ensures consistency in localization.

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Although parol is recommended due to its high usage frequency, the Terminology Commission under the Cabinet of Ministers, in its minutes No. 62 of July 30, 2025, proposed O'ron to replace parol in the list of "new words and terms formed on the basis of Uzbek language rules and norms to be introduced into official use." However, O'ron is not suitable as a translation of password. The reasons include:

1. Semantic mismatch. O'ron / o'ran ("barrier, enclosure, shelter, coverage") does not accurately express the meaning of password as a sequence of secret symbols used for identity verification.

2. Corpus and norm. In Uzbek technical texts, textbooks, and user interfaces, parol is used consistently.

3. Systemic consistency. Parol forms a stable paradigm with PIN-kod, kalit (key), maxfiy ibora, kalit so'z; O'ron does not fit this system.

4. Pragmatics in UI. Fixed prompts like "Parolingizni kiriting" are short, familiar, and universal; "O'roningizni kiriting" sounds artificial and unclear.

The Commission's O'ron may well occur in historical-military contexts, but in IT the term parol should be retained. It is true that in military usage a secret watchword exists, and adopting O'ron could be seen as introducing a national element. Given that cybersecurity has risen to the level of state policy, such terms may proliferate. Since password/parol entered Uzbek via English/Russian, and denotes a unit that verifies identity or protects hidden data, the Commission may have adopted O'ron with security considerations in mind. This can be viewed as a policy choice; nevertheless, it remains misaligned semantically, morphologically, and stylistically for IT usage.

In conclusion, most Windows terms translated into Uzbek have attained official and lexicographic status and are gaining a firm foothold in educational literature. Their use among users is increasing step by step. For language-policy makers and the IT community, the task is to standardize, promote widely, and coin new terms in more user-friendly forms. Only then will we achieve robust Uzbek expression not only for Microsoft Windows but for the language of all modern technologies.

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