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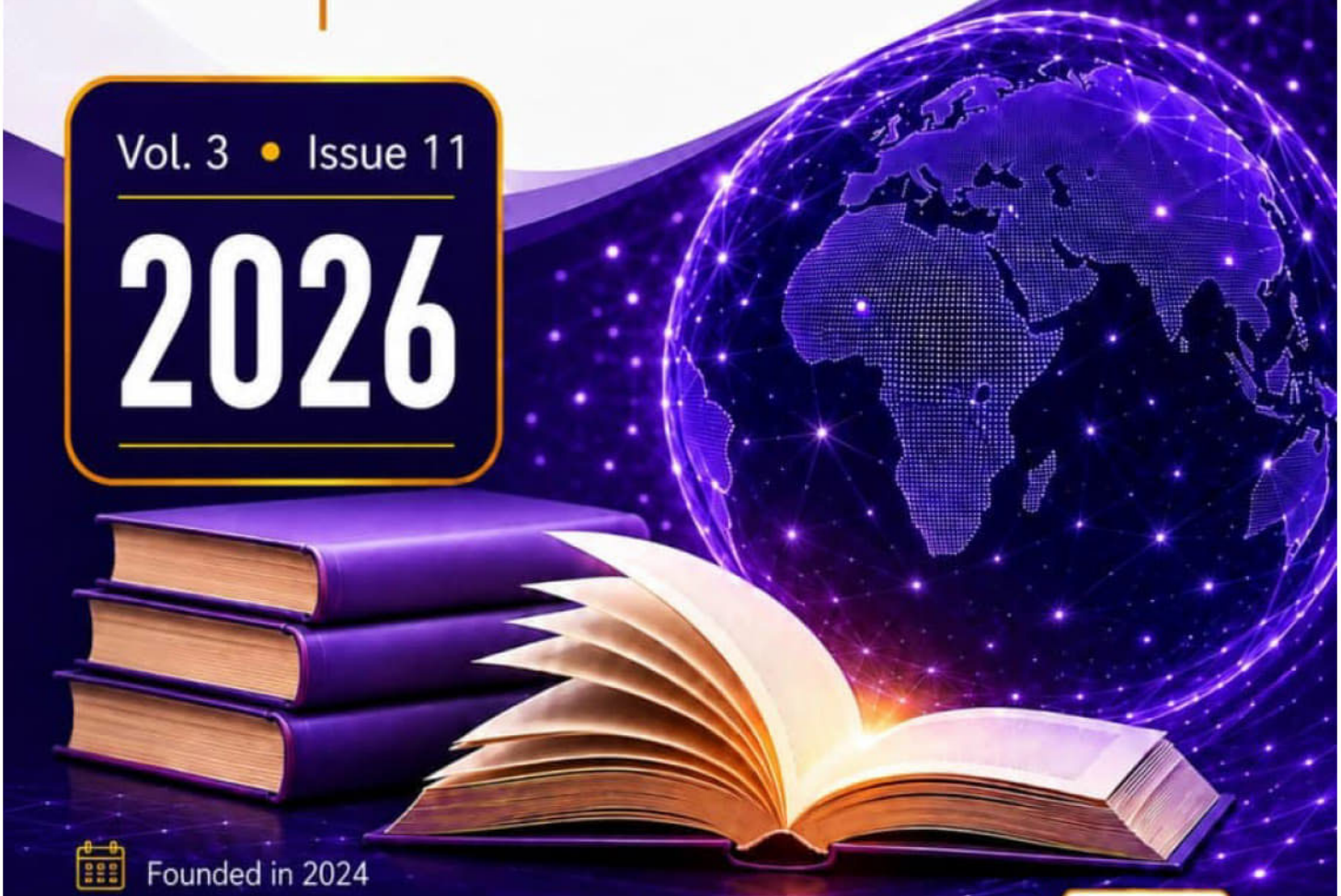

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TURIZM TERMINOLOGIYASINING STRUKTURAVIY-SEMANTIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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Annotatsiya.

Maqolada ingliz tilidagi turizm terminologiyasining strukturaviy tuzilishi va semantik munosabatlari turizm sohasiga oid institutsional manbalardan maqsadli ravishda tanlab olingan 60 ta termin asosida o‘rganiladi. Tanlangan terminlar IATE terminologik ma’lumotlar bazasi bilan solishtirib tekshirilgan. Tadqiqotda strukturaviy tasniflash, tematik guruhlash, ta’riflarni qiyosiy tahlil qilish hamda leksik-semantik munosabatlarni sifat jihatidan o‘rganish usullaridan foydalanilgan. Maqolaning ilmiy hissasi terminlarning shakliy tuzilishini ularning konseptual tashkil etilishi bilan bog‘lovchi kompleks tavsifiy yondashuvni ishlab chiqishdan iborat. Bunda maqsadli tanlab olingan terminlar majmuasi ingliz tilidagi turizm leksikasining barcha birliklarini statistik jihatdan to‘liq ifodalovchi namuna sifatida qaralmaydi. Tadqiqot natijalaridan turizm sohasiga oid glossariylarni yaratishda foydalanish, shuningdek, kelgusidagi korpusga asoslangan tadqiqotlar uchun ilmiy farazlarni shakllantirish mumkin.

Kalit so‘zlar: ingliz tilidagi turizm terminologiyasi, strukturaviy-semantik tahlil, termin yasalishi, ko‘p komponentli terminlar, tematik maydonlar, leksik-semantik munosabatlar, polisemiya, terminografiya.

СТРУКТУРНО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ТУРИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ТЕРМИНОЛОГИИ

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Аннотация.

В статье исследуются структурная организация и семантические отношения терминологии туризма в английском языке на материале 60 терминов, целенаправленно отобранных из институциональных источников, относящихся к сфере туризма. Отобранные термины были проверены путём сопоставления с терминологической базой данных IATE. Методология исследования включает структурную классификацию, тематическую группировку, сравнительный анализ дефиниций и качественное изучение лексико-семантических отношений. Научный вклад статьи заключается в разработке комплексного описательного подхода, связывающего формальную структуру терминов с их концептуальной организацией. При этом целенаправленно сформированная выборка не рассматривается как статистически репрезентативная для всей туристической лексики английского языка. Результаты исследования могут быть использованы при составлении туристических глоссариев, а также для формулирования научных гипотез в последующих корпусных исследованиях.

Ключевые слова: английская туристическая терминология, структурно-семантический анализ, терминообразование, многокомпонентные термины, тематические поля, лексико-семантические отношения, полисемия, терминография.

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TOURISM TERMINOLOGY

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Abstract.

This article examines the structural organization and semantic relationships of English tourism terminology based on a purposively selected sample of 60 terms drawn from institutional sources related to the tourism sector. The selected terms were cross-

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checked against the IATE terminological database. The research methodology includes structural classification, thematic grouping, comparative analysis of definitions, and qualitative examination of lexical-semantic relationships. The scientific contribution of the study lies in developing an integrated descriptive approach that connects the formal structure of terms with their conceptual organization. The purposively selected sample is not considered statistically representative of the entire range of English tourism vocabulary. The findings may be applied to the compilation of tourism glossaries and may also contribute to the formulation of research hypotheses for future corpus-based studies.

Keywords: English tourism terminology, structural-semantic analysis, term formation, multiword terms, thematic fields, lexical-semantic relationships, polysemy, terminography.

Introduction. Tourism is one of the largest and most international sectors of the global economy. Everyone involved in this sector, from managers and regulators to translators and travellers themselves, relies on a shared body of specialised vocabulary to designate people, places, services, and procedures. The description, formation, and management of such vocabularies constitute the field of terminology [2], [6], [18]. Tourism terminology represents a distinctive case within languages for specific purposes (LSP). It is not confined to a specialised professional community: many tourism-related terms occur in everyday communication, advertising, brochures, and online booking platforms, making the boundary between specialised and general vocabulary difficult to define [7], [16]. At the same time, tourism statistics, regulations, and contracts require precise definitions that are internationally comparable, as demonstrated by the work of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) [21].

Theoretical approaches to specialised vocabularies offer different perspectives. The classical Wüster–Vienna tradition adopts a concept-oriented approach, in which a concept is defined before being assigned a single term in a stable, standardised form [6], [22]. International terminology standards continue to reflect this principle [9], [10]. However, subsequent research has challenged this perspective. The communicative theory of terminology considers a term to be a linguistic unit that acquires specialised meaning through its use in particular communicative contexts [2]. The sociocognitive approach regards prototype structures, polysemy, and synonymy as natural characteristics of specialised language rather than terminological deficiencies [19]. Frame-based and cognitive approaches relate terminology to conceptual frames and metaphorical structures [5], while lexical-semantic approaches examine terms through their relationships with other lexical units [14]. The present study draws on established approaches to term formation [11], [18] and applies conventional methods of sense-relation analysis and componential analysis to describe semantic structures [3], [15].

Previous research on the language of tourism has frequently focused on tourism discourse and its communicative functions. Dann examines how tourism language shapes travellers' expectations [4], while Gotti discusses its position between technical and promotional registers [7]. Maci distinguishes professional, promotional, and digital forms of tourism discourse [16], whereas Pierini investigates translation quality issues associated with tourism websites [17]. Leiper's model of the tourism system provides a conceptual framework for classifying the principal components of the field [13]. Contrastive studies have also examined tourism terminology across different languages, including English and Albanian [18] and French and Russian [20].

Building on this research, the present study provides a structural and semantic analysis of a documented sample of English tourism terms, using official tourism definitions as a principal source. The study aims to examine the relationship between the formal structure of selected English tourism terms and their conceptual-semantic organisation. Its specific contribution lies in integrating structural classification, thematic grouping, and lexical-semantic relations within a single documented sample while distinguishing institutional definitions from broader patterns of usage.

The analysis is guided by three research questions:

RQ1. Which structural types are represented in the selected sample, and which syntactic patterns occur among its multiword terms?

RQ2. Which thematic fields can be identified, and how do they relate to the tourism-system framework?

RQ3. Which lexical-semantic relations and meaning phenomena are illustrated by the sample, and what do they reveal about the limitations of a strict one-concept–one-term model?

METHODS

The dataset consists of 60 English tourism terms. Definitions were obtained primarily from the UNWTO Glossary of Tourism Terms [21] and the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 [23]. The IATE database [8] and established usage in tourism-related contexts were consulted to verify term forms and document variants.

The terms were selected purposively according to three criteria: they denoted tourism-related concepts or possessed distinctively tourism-specific meanings; they were attested in professional or institutional sources; and they contributed to the coverage of the principal subdomains of tourism, including participants, organisations, accommodation, transport, products and services, forms of tourism, destinations, and economic or administrative concepts.

The complete list of terms, together with the classifications applied in this study, is presented in Appendix A. The terms included in Appendix B serve as additional examples for discussing semantic relations and terminological variants and are not included in the quantitative sample.

Each item was assigned to one primary structural category for the distribution presented in Table 1: simple,

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derived, compound, multiword, or abbreviation. For the subset of multiword terms, the principal syntactic pattern was also recorded.

The semantic analysis employed definitions and contextual evidence to identify thematic fields, hyponymy, antonymy, meronymy, variation, polysemy, and metaphor. All classifications were conducted by a single researcher; no independent second coding or inter-coder agreement assessment was performed.

The sample was purposively selected and is intended to be illustrative rather than statistically representative. Accordingly, all percentages refer exclusively to the 60 selected terms and cannot be generalised to the English tourism lexicon as a whole. The qualitative examples are intended to identify patterns for further investigation rather than provide exhaustive quantitative counts of semantic relations.

RESULTS

Table 1. Structural types of tourism terms in the sample (n = 60)

Structural type	Formation principle	Examples	n	Share, %
Multiword	Open phrase of two or more words	*package tour, tour operator, high season, medical tourism, usual environment*	20	33.3
Simple	One root morpheme	*hotel, resort, hostel, cruise, voucher, guide, visa*	14	23.3
Derived	Root plus affix(es)	*tourism, tourist, traveller, accommodation, overbooking*	10	16.7
Compound	Stems or combining forms written solid or hyphenated	*ecotourism, guesthouse, homestay, stopover, check-in*	10	16.7
Abbreviation	Initialism, acronym or blend	*DMO, OTA, FIT, MICE, B&B, RevPAR*	6	10.0
Total			**60**	**100.0**

Multiword terms form the largest category in the sample, accounting for 20 of the 60 items (33.3%). Simple terms account for 14 items (23.3%), while derived terms and compounds each represent 10 items (16.7%). The remaining six items are abbreviations (10.0%). These figures describe the composition of the purposively selected sample only. They should not be interpreted as estimates of structural frequency or productivity across the English tourism lexicon.

The 14 items classified as simple terms include hotel, motel, inn, villa, camp, spa, cruise, guide, tour and visa. In this study, “simple” refers to the synchronic structural category used for counting; it does not mean that every item has an uncomplicated etymological history. Several items are also used outside tourism, which makes contextual definition important when interpreting them as terms.

Suffixation is the main process among the ten items classified as derived: examples include -ism in tourism, -ist in tourist and excursionist, -er in traveller, -ation in accommodation, reservation and cancellation, -ure in departure, and -ity in hospitality. Overbooking combines the prefix over- with the suffix -ing. The ten compounds include combining-form formations (ecotourism, geotourism), noun compounds (guesthouse, homestay, timeshare), verb-particle formations (stopover, check-in), sightseeing and all-inclusive. The classification of backpacker is less straightforward because it may be analysed as a derivative based on backpack or as a compound; it is retained in the dataset but flagged as debatable. The six abbreviated forms include DMO, OTA, FIT, MICE, B&B and RevPAR. These forms are used in professional contexts and may be less transparent to non-specialists. Their classification is descriptive and should be checked against the terminology conventions of the target journal.

Table 2. Syntactic models of multiword terms (n = 20)

Model	Typical referents	Examples	n	Share, %
Noun + Noun	Agents and products of the trade; places and facilities; documents and financial notions	*package tour, tour operator, travel agent, tourist attraction, theme park, boarding pass, city break, room rate, travel insurance, tourism destination*	10	50.0
Adjective + Noun	Types of tourism (7 of 10); seasons, environment, kinds of visitor	*inbound / outbound / domestic / cultural / medical / rural / sustainable tourism, high season, usual environment, overnight visitor*	10	50.0
Total			**20**	**100.0**

Two patterns are equally represented in the multiword subset: Noun + Noun and Adjective + Noun, with ten items each. Seven Adjective + Noun examples name forms of tourism (inbound, outbound, domestic, cultural, medical, rural and sustainable tourism). This suggests that tourism functions as a productive head in the selected sample, although the

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purposive design does not establish its productivity across the language as a whole. Noun + Noun items name agents and products (tour operator, travel agent), places and facilities (theme park, tourist attraction), and documents or commercial concepts (boarding pass, room rate, travel insurance). The pattern therefore links a general head noun to a modifier that specifies the tourism-related domain or function. The analysis of definitions revealed eight thematic fields (Table 3). The fields overlap: resort, for instance, is both a place and a type of accommodation.

Table 3. Thematic fields of the sample and their place in Leiper's tourism system

Field	Typical terms	Dominant semantic features	Leiper's component
1. Travellers and participants	*tourist, visitor‡, traveller, excursionist, backpacker, overnight visitor*	[+human] [+travels] [± overnight stay]	Traveller
2. Organisations and intermediaries	*tour operator, travel agent, DMO, OTA*	[+organisation] [+mediates / organises]	Tourist industry
3. Accommodation	*hotel, motel, hostel, inn, villa, guesthouse, homestay, B&B, timeshare*	[+place] [+temporary lodging]	Tourist industry
4. Transport and transit	*cruise, boarding pass, stopover, check-in, departure*	[+movement] [+carrier / document / stage]	Transit route
5. Products and services	*package tour, city break, all-inclusive, tour, guide, spa, voucher*	[+commercial offer]	Tourist industry
6. Forms of tourism	*ecotourism, geotourism, inbound, outbound, domestic, cultural, medical, rural, sustainable tourism*	[+type of travel] [+criterion of classification]	Classificatory layer
7. Destination and attractions	*destination‡, tourist attraction, theme park, resort, sightseeing, usual environment*	[+space] [+object of interest]	Destination region
8. Economic and administrative notions	*high season, room rate, tariff, travel insurance, visa, RevPAR, reservation, overbooking, cancellation*	[+price / regulation / management]	Administrative layer

The thematic classification identifies eight overlapping fields (Table 3). They broadly correspond to components of Leiper's tourism system: participants, the tourism industry, transit routes and destination regions [13]. Forms of tourism and administrative or economic concepts function as classificatory layers that cut across this system. The fields are not mutually exclusive: resort, for example, can denote a destination as well as a type of accommodation. The classification should therefore be read as a practical map of the sample rather than a rigid ontology.

Table 4. Componential analysis of the traveller–visitor set

Term	[+movement between places]	[+outside usual environment]	[+overnight stay]
traveller	+	±	±
visitor	+	+	±
tourist	+	+	+
excursionist	+	+	–

The traveller–visitor set illustrates a hierarchical relationship in institutional tourism definitions. Traveller is the broadest category; visitor refers to a traveller whose trip takes place outside their usual environment and meets specified duration and purpose criteria. Visitors are further divided into tourists, who stay overnight, and excursionists, who do not [21], [23]. Table 4 highlights the movement, environment, and overnight-stay features relevant to this distinction. It provides a simplified componential representation rather than a replacement for the full institutional definitions. Other terminological relations include inbound/outbound, high season/low season, domestic/international, and check-in/check-out. These pairs represent different semantic relations: some express direction, others gradability, and still others complementary or converse relations. Part–whole relationships are evident in commercial tourism products: a package tour may combine transport, accommodation, and guiding services, while an all-inclusive offer may include meals and drinks.

Variation is another characteristic of tourism terminology. In everyday communication, tourist, visitor, and traveller may overlap in meaning, whereas institutional definitions distinguish them for statistical purposes. B&B and bed and breakfast represent an abbreviated form and its expanded equivalent, while guesthouse and guest house are

orthographic variants. Such relationships should not automatically be regarded as complete synonymy, as the degree of equivalence depends on the definition, referent, and context of use.

Some terms have multiple meanings or are used beyond specialised contexts. Tour may denote either a journey or a commercial product; guide may refer to a person, a book, or a device; resort may designate a holiday destination or appear in the general-language expression "last resort"; and booking may refer either to the act of making a reservation or to the record of that reservation. Adjectives such as sustainable and elements such as eco- also occur in broader commercial discourse, where their meanings may be extended. Metaphorical and metonymic patterns include high season and low season, which conceptualise quantity in terms of vertical position, and package, which represents bundled services as a single unit. These examples demonstrate why the semantic description of tourism terminology must consider both formal definitions and actual contexts of use.

DISCUSSION

The structural findings indicate that multiword units constitute the largest category in the selected sample and that two syntactic patterns account for all 20 selected multiword terms. This finding is consistent with the role of existing lexical resources in the formation of specialised expressions [11], [18]. The repeated use of tourism as the head element in terms denoting different forms of tourism may be useful for organising terminological records. However, the sample design does not support broader claims about the productivity of this pattern across English tourism discourse as a whole. From a terminographic perspective, a practical implication is the need to document both individual terms and their formation patterns, together with definitions and relevant usage information.

The semantic findings suggest that the selected terms can be organised around the tourism process while maintaining connections across thematic fields. Hyponymy and definitional contrasts are particularly important for institutional and statistical terminology [9], [10], [23]. Variation, polysemy, and metaphor become more apparent when terms circulate between technical, commercial, and everyday registers [2], [7], [16], [19]. These findings support a context-sensitive approach to terminological description rather than the assumption that each term possesses a single, invariant meaning across all contexts.

The study also identifies potential directions for translation research, including abbreviations (FIT, MICE, and RevPAR), polysemous terms (tour, guide, and resort), and multiword expressions (room rate and travel insurance). These represent prospective translation challenges rather than empirically established translation errors, since the present study does not examine a parallel corpus. From a terminographic perspective, the findings support the inclusion of definitions, documented variants, structural information, and usage labels in tourism terminology resources [8], [10], [14].

The study has four limitations. First, the purposively selected sample covers specific tourism subdomains and is not statistically representative of the entire English tourism lexicon. Second, the classifications were conducted by a single researcher, and inter-coder agreement was not assessed; borderline cases, such as backpacker, therefore remain open to alternative interpretations. Third, semantic relations were identified qualitatively rather than quantified systematically. Fourth, the study focuses exclusively on English and does not examine cross-linguistic equivalence. Future research should employ a larger, reproducible corpus, establish explicit coding guidelines, involve independent coders, and compare institutional definitions with actual usage in professional, promotional, and translated texts.

CONCLUSION

The analysis yields three principal findings. First, multiword terms constitute the largest structural category in the selected sample (20/60; 33.3%), with Noun + Noun and Adjective + Noun patterns equally represented among the 20 multiword items. Second, the sample can be organised into eight overlapping thematic fields reflecting the tourism system, interconnected through semantic relations such as hyponymy, antonymy, and meronymy. Third, variation, polysemy, and metaphor are evident where tourism terminology circulates across institutional, commercial, and everyday contexts.

Taken together, these findings characterise tourism terminology as a system that combines concept-oriented standardisation with context-sensitive usage. The article proposes an integrated descriptive framework for the selected sample. However, larger corpus-based and contrastive studies are necessary to determine the extent to which the identified patterns can be generalised beyond the analysed material.

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