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STUDYING TERMINOLOGICAL UNITS RELATED TO ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE PROCESS OF SELF STUDY

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Abstract: This article explores the study of terminological units related to ecology and environmental protection within the context of independent learning. It discusses the significance of ecological terms and how mastering them contributes to the development of environmental awareness and culture. The article also analyzes contemporary ecological issues, particularly water scarcity. The role of self study in personal development and improving ecological literacy is highlighted. In conclusion, the article emphasizes the importance of youth in fostering ecological culture.

Keywords: ecological issues, environment, climate change, biosphere, biogeocoenosis, resources, sustainable development, atmosphere, anthropogenic impact, ecosystem

Introduction

Today, ecological issues are among the most pressing concerns facing humanity. As the population grows and industrial and technological development accelerates, factors harming the environment are also increasing. Problems such as water scarcity, air pollution, waste management, and climate change have become global threats. Therefore, the protection of ecology and the environment is a responsibility that falls on every individual, especially the younger generation. In this regard, the role of the education system is indispensable. Through independent learning, understanding and assimilating ecological knowledge and related terminology can foster the development of ecological culture.

Methods

This article explores the essence, of ecological terminology, as well as methods for studying it through self study. It also discusses the role of these terms in developing environmental thinking, the possibilities of using modern technology, and international experience in environmental education.

Results

The results show that foreign language skills play a key role in improving the quality of ecological terms. During the learning process, students may encounter problems in various areas of knowledge in English classes. For example, analyzing, comparing, and understanding texts on various issues related to water resources, as well as not understanding terminology when completing exercises.

Discussion

Ecological terms represent key concepts in the field of ecology. Terms such as “ecology,” “biosphere,” “biogeocoenosis,” “resources,” “sustainable development,” “atmosphere,” “anthropogenic impact,” and “ecosystem” are essential for ecological literacy today. In independent learning, students delve into these terms and strive to

understand their practical significance in real life. Ecology is the science that studies the relationships between living organisms and their surrounding environment, including the interactions between humans, animals, plants, and nature. As global ecological issues become increasingly urgent, mastering ecological terminology helps students not only acquire theoretical knowledge but also develop analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. For instance, the term “sustainable development” helps students understand the balance between society, economy, and the environment.

1. *The Role of Terminological Approach in Self study.* Self study involves students actively seeking new knowledge and analyzing it on their own. Studying ecological terminology independently enriches vocabulary and enhances ecological thinking. When students engage with ecological articles, documents, scientific papers, and literature, they gain a deeper understanding of the scope, meaning, and significance of the terms used. For example, through the term “green economy,” students learn about sustainable production, environmentally friendly technologies, and the rational use of natural resources.

2. *Current Environmental Issues*

Today, Uzbekistan and the world face numerous ecological challenges, including:

- *Water scarcity* – In arid regions like Uzbekistan, water resources are decreasing rapidly, affecting agriculture, drinking water supply, and industry.
- *Air and soil pollution* – Vehicles, industrial enterprises, and waste significantly harm the environment.
- *Waste problems* – Household and industrial waste is increasing, while recycling rates remain low.
- *Climate change* – Rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and droughts disrupt ecological balance.

Addressing these issues requires an environmentally conscious and well-educated generation. Water is the source of life. It plays a vital role in human health, food security, agriculture, and industry. However, the reduction and pollution of water resources have become global problems. The following measures are necessary to protect water:

- *Rational use of water;*
- *Introduction of modern technologies in irrigation systems;*
- *Reducing sources of water pollution;*
- *Developing systems for water recycling and reuse.*

According to WHO, more than 2 billion people worldwide live without access to safe drinking water. In Uzbekistan, the decreasing flow of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and the drying up of the Aral Sea have become environmental catastrophes.

Modern Methods for Studying Ecological Terminology

Today's technology provides vast opportunities for independently learning ecological terms:

- *Electronic dictionaries and mobile applications;*
- *Online courses, webinars, and ecological forums;*
- *Interactive tests, quizzes, and project-based learning;*
- *Video lessons, documentaries, and ecological blogs.*

These methods increase the effectiveness of independent learning and promote ecological literacy and critical thinking.

Ecological Culture and the Young Generation

It is crucial to teach ecological knowledge and concepts from an early age. By learning ecological terms, children and students adopt environmentally responsible behaviors such as sorting waste, planting trees, and conserving water. Independent learning motivates them to make informed decisions and analyze ecological conditions, which contributes to the formation of ecological culture in society.

One of the most critical ecological challenges today is water scarcity and the pollution of water resources. Although clean drinking water is essential for every human being, many regions suffer from serious shortages due to several reasons:

- *Population growth* – Increased demand for water;
- *Water wastage* – Inefficient and excessive use;
- *Climate change* – Reduced rainfall, drying rivers, and more frequent droughts.

In Uzbekistan, the Aral Sea tragedy exemplifies the worst effects of the water crisis. Once the world's fourth-largest inland sea, the Aral Sea has largely dried up due to the diversion of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for cotton irrigation since the 1960s.

Among the most pressing global issues today is the ecological crisis. Environmental pollution, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and global warming affect not only nature but also human health, economic stability, and societal sustainability.

Nonetheless, local and international efforts are underway to address these issues. Organizations like the UN and UNESCO are developing programs to protect the environment. The government of Uzbekistan is also implementing projects to adapt to climate change, transition to a green economy, and use water efficiently. Key initiatives include:

- *Promoting renewable energy (solar and wind power);*
- *Introducing water-saving technologies (drip irrigation systems);*
- *Expanding green spaces and afforestation;*
- *Projects like “Green Space” and “One Million Trees” aimed at raising ecological awareness among youth.*

Young people are expected to take an active role in such initiatives. Today's environmental issues will shape tomorrow's future. Youth have a sacred duty to:

1. Increase ecological awareness and culture – protecting nature, properly sorting waste, and saving water;

2. Participate in volunteer ecological activities – tree planting, clean-up events, and community projects;
3. Develop technological solutions – creating innovative ideas for environmental protection;
4. Spread awareness – using social media to promote ecological responsibility.

Conclusion

In conclusion, ecological sustainability is not only the responsibility of governments and international organizations but also of every individual, especially the youth. Loving and protecting nature is the best legacy we can leave for future generations. From this perspective, the independent study of ecological terminology is an essential component of modern education. Students can better understand environmental problems and explore solutions, particularly to urgent issues such as water scarcity. Moreover, through the environmental awareness of the younger generation, ecological culture will spread throughout society. By enhancing the ecological mindset of every student, teacher, and citizen, we take confident steps toward a healthier, greener, and more sustainable future.

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