

**STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGY – RELATED
TERMINOLOGICAL UNITS THROUGH SELF STUDY**

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Abstract: This article discusses the nature of environmental and ecology-related terminological units, the methods of studying them in independent learning processes, and the significance of such study. The importance of mastering ecological terminology as a foundation for developing environmental literacy is substantiated.

Keywords: Environmental issues, ecological balance, pollution, biodiversity, water resources, communicative competence, recycling, atmospheric pollution, smog, industrial emissions.

Introduction

In recent years, environmental issues have become one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity. The disruption of ecological balance, climate change, pollution of land and water resources, and the loss of biodiversity are largely consequences of human activity. In this context, increasing environmental knowledge and developing ecological awareness and culture—especially among the younger generation—are crucial. A proper understanding and application of environmental terminology play a significant role in this process.

Methods

This article explores the essence, origin, and classification 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 ecology. 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

Environmental terminology is closely linked with multiple disciplines such as biology, chemistry, geography, economics, and law. For example, the concept of “ecosystem” stems from biology, while “sustainable development” originates in economics. Therefore, an interdisciplinary approach is essential when studying these terms. The terminology may also be classified by theme:

3. *Biogeographic terms*: biosphere, biodiversity, biome
4. *Socio-ecological terms*: anthropogenic factors, environmental security
5. *Legal terms*: environmental law, nature protection legislation

Examples include:

- *Ecosystem*: a system of interaction between living organisms and their environment
- *Global warming*: the increase in average global temperatures
- *Resource depletion*: the limited nature of natural resources requiring careful usage
- *Sustainable development*: development that meets present needs without compromising future generations

Self study is a student-centered process based on personal responsibility. It involves searching, analyzing, and synthesizing information autonomously. This method is particularly effective for learning environmental terminology. Some useful techniques may include:

- *Glossary creation* – writing and defining each new term
- *Visual aids* – using videos, diagrams, and charts for deeper understanding
- *Online platforms* – utilizing free ecological courses and training programs

- *Interactive methods* – engaging in eco-clubs, excursions, and practical sessions

Among environmental terms, those related to water are particularly crucial:

- *Drinking water sources* – clean water suitable for human consumption
- *Water scarcity* – insufficient water to meet demand
- *Water pollution* – contamination from industrial, agricultural, and domestic sources
- *Land reclamation (melioration)* – improving water systems to increase land fertility
- *Reuse* – reusing treated wastewater
- *Water footprint* – the amount of water used to produce a product

In Uzbekistan, where water resources are under growing pressure, learning these terms supports both environmental awareness and rational water use. For example, the Aral Sea disaster has highlighted the urgent need for water conservation.

Benefits of Studying Water-Related Terminology

- Increases youth awareness of water protection
- Enhances understanding of the water cycle and its economic and biological importance
- Develops scientific approaches to addressing local and global water issues

In countries like Finland, the Netherlands, and Australia, environmental education includes topics such as “Right to Clean Water,” “Water Management,” and “Declining Precipitation.” Mastery of such terms also expands students’ knowledge in legal and economic contexts.

Digital Tools and National Approaches

In the digital age, AI tools, mobile apps, and educational platforms like Quizlet, Anki, and Google Classroom simplify memorization and retention of ecological terms. Uzbekistan has also taken steps to integrate ecological literacy into the education system. The 2019 Concept on the Development of Environmental Education and Upbringing outlines efforts to include terminology, practical exercises, and projects in curricula from preschool to higher education.

Learning through Local Environmental Problems

Students retain terminology better when it relates to local environmental issues:

- *Waste sorting* – linked to terms like “recycling,” “biodegradation,” “polymer waste”
- *Water scarcity* – includes “drinking water sources,” “melioration,” “groundwater”
- *Air pollution* – involves terms like “atmospheric pollution,” “smog,” “industrial emissions”

This approach allows learners to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.

Research-Based Learning

Self-study of environmental terminology is also relevant for students and young researchers. Research directions may include:

- Lexical analysis of ecological terms
- Adaptation of international terms into Uzbek
- Developing communicative competence through terminology

Such research not only deepens knowledge but also enhances analytical and critical thinking skills. Professionals such as ecologists, naturalists, agronomists, engineers, and environmental lawyers require a solid foundation in ecological terminology. Proficiency is essential for participating in global environmental dialogue and solving complex ecological problems.

International Experience

In many countries, there are dedicated libraries and open platforms for independent study of ecological terminology. UNESCO and UNEP offer educational courses that include not only terminology but also international standards and agreements—helping students prepare for global participation.

Conclusion

Studying environmental and ecology-related terminology through independent learning is a vital aspect of modern education. It not only enhances ecological knowledge but also fosters ecological culture and responsibility. Every young person

should be environmentally literate, view nature with care, and recognize its protection as a civic duty. By mastering terminology, students better understand nature and make informed decisions about environmental preservation. Learning environmental terms goes beyond vocabulary—it is about understanding the balance between humans and nature, and striving to protect it.

Recommendations:

- Encourage students to compile personal ecological glossaries
- Integrate interactive, terminology-based tasks into curricula
- Enrich lessons by incorporating international practices and comparisons

Raising ecological literacy and protecting the environment are critical societal goals. Independent learning of environmental terminology not only imparts theoretical knowledge but also fosters a practical, responsible relationship with nature.

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