

Uzbek Pilgrimage Tourism Terminology: Lexical and Semantic Analysis

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Annotation: This article examines the terminology used in Uzbek pilgrimage tourism from a linguistic perspective. It focuses on the lexical and semantic features of the terms, analyzing their meanings, origins, and usage in different contexts. The study aims to identify the distinctive characteristics of pilgrimage-related terms and their role in communication within the tourism sector. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic aspects of pilgrimage tourism and provide insights for the development of standardized terminology in this field. By identifying the distinctive characteristics of pilgrimage-related terminology, the research highlights their role in communication within the tourism sector and their impact on intercultural interactions. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic aspects of pilgrimage tourism and provide insights for the development of standardized terminology in this field, which can be useful for researchers, linguists, and professionals in tourism and translation studies.

Key words: Uzbek language, pilgrimage tourism, terminology, lexical analysis, semantic analysis, linguistic features, term origin, communication, tourism sector, standardized terminology.

Pilgrimage tourism holds significant cultural, historical, and religious importance in Uzbekistan. As one of the centers of Islamic civilization, Uzbekistan is home to numerous sacred sites, including the mausoleums of prominent scholars and religious figures such as Imam al-Bukhari, Bahauddin Naqshband, and Abu Mansur al-Maturidi. The terminology associated with pilgrimage tourism has evolved over centuries, influenced by Arabic, Persian, and Turkic linguistic elements. This article explores the lexical and semantic aspects of pilgrimage tourism terminology in the Uzbek language, focusing on its historical roots, development, and contemporary usage. Lexical features of pilgrimage tourism terminology involve a combination of religious, cultural, and tourism-related vocabulary. These terms reflect the intersection of spiritual and travel-related discourse, often carrying connotative meanings that extend beyond their literal definitions. Pilgrimage tourism terminology heavily borrows from religious texts and traditions. Words like pilgrim, shrine, relic, sanctuary, hajj, umrah, ziyorat, sacred, blessing, and devotion carry deep spiritual significance. These terms are often tied to rituals, religious obligations, or revered locations. Pilgrimage tourism shares some common travel-related vocabulary with general tourism but adapts it to the spiritual context. Words like itinerary, route, accommodation, guide, pilgrimage package, pilgrimage season, and visa facilitation are commonly used but often emphasize spiritual convenience rather than leisure. Many pilgrimage-related terms are historically embedded and linked to specific religious figures, sites, or events. Terms like Via Dolorosa, Kaaba, Lourdes, Bodh Gaya, Santiago de Compostela, or Mount Kailash are culturally and historically significant, shaping the discourse of pilgrimage tourism. Pilgrimage tourism terminology frequently employs metaphorical language. Words like journey of faith, spiritual path, inner purification, divine calling, and sacred experience reflect the deeper, transformative aspects of religious travel. These expressions elevate the pilgrimage beyond mere physical movement to a spiritual quest. Given the global nature of pilgrimage tourism, the lexicon often includes loanwords from different languages. Islamic pilgrimage terms, for example, use Arabic words like Ihram, Tawaf, Sa'I, Zamzam, while Christian pilgrimage may include Latin or Hebrew terms like Via Sacra,

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Sepulchre, or Messiah. These linguistic borrowings enrich the terminology and reflect cultural diversity.

Pragmatic and Contextual Adaptations. Certain terms shift in meaning depending on their use in religious versus tourism discourse. For instance, guide in general tourism refers to a travel assistant, whereas in pilgrimage tourism, it may refer to a religious scholar leading the journey. Similarly, package tour in pilgrimage tourism may include not only transport and accommodation but also religious lectures, guided prayers, and ritual support. With the commercialization of pilgrimage tourism, new hybrid terms emerge, blending religious and business-related lexicon. Terms like spiritual retreat, faith-based tourism, pilgrimage package, luxury pilgrimage, and halal tourism illustrate the intersection of spirituality and the tourism industry. Pilgrimage tourism terminology in Uzbek consists of words and phrases that describe religious sites, rituals, travelers, and spiritual experiences. Many of these terms originate from Arabic and Persian due to the historical spread of Islam in Central Asia. Over time, they have been adapted to fit Uzbek phonetic and grammatical structures.

Semantic analysis of these terms reveals their deep cultural and religious connotations. Some words have undergone semantic shifts due to changes in religious and social practices. For example, the term “ziyarat” initially meant a religious pilgrimage, but today it can also refer to visiting any historically significant place. Similarly, tabarruk historically meant seeking blessings from sacred relics, but in modern Uzbek usage, it can extend to expressing reverence for historical objects or places. Another key semantic feature is polysemy, where a single term carries multiple meanings based on context. For instance, “qadamjo” refers to a site believed to have been visited by a saint, but in contemporary discourse, it can also refer to any site of historical or spiritual significance. This evolution reflects the dynamic nature of language in response to cultural and societal changes. The lexicon of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbek has been shaped by several linguistic influences:

Arabic Influence: Many religious terms originate from Arabic due to the influence of Islam (ziyarat, masjid, duo). *Persian Influence:* Words related to cultural and spiritual traditions often have Persian roots (maqbara, tabarruk). *Turkic Influence:* Some pilgrimage-related terms stem from Turkic languages, especially those describing local traditions (qadamjo, ziyoratgoh).

Throughout history, these borrowings have undergone phonetic and morphological adaptation, becoming an integral part of the Uzbek lexicon. In contemporary Uzbekistan, pilgrimage tourism terminology plays a crucial role in religious, cultural, and economic discourse. The government actively promotes pilgrimage tourism as part of national heritage, leading to increased media and academic discussions on ziyorat tourism. This growing attention has also highlighted the need for terminological standardization to ensure consistency in translation, education, and tourism marketing. The terminology of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbek reflects the country’s rich religious and cultural heritage. Through lexical and semantic analysis, we observe the historical influences, adaptations, and contemporary applications of these terms. Understanding and standardizing pilgrimage tourism terminology can enhance cross-cultural communication, improve tourism development, and preserve Uzbekistan’s spiritual traditions.

1. Theoretical Foundations of Semantic Analysis in Pilgrimage Tourism.

Semantic analysis in pilgrimage tourism can be examined through:

Lexical Semantics: Studies the meanings of words and their relationships (synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, and meronyms). *Frame Semantics (Fillmore, 1982):* Focuses on how words evoke conceptual frames; for instance, pilgrimage activates frames of religious duty, sacrifice, and journey. *Corpus Linguistics:* Analyzing large datasets of pilgrimage-related discourse can reveal patterns in how terms are used across different contexts.

2. *Semantic Fields and Categorization in Pilgrimage Tourism Terminology* Linguistic units in pilgrimage tourism can be grouped into semantic fields, reflecting different aspects of the experience: A. Religious and Ritualistic Terminology. Pilgrimage, vow, sacred, blessing, purification, atonement. These terms are strongly tied to religious discourse and often convey deep spiritual significance. B.



Spatial and Locational Terms. Shrine, sanctuary, holy site, sacred valley, temple, Kaaba, Lourds. Place names and site-related terms serve as key referents in pilgrimage tourism discourse. C. Action-Oriented Terms (Rituals and Practices). Circumambulation, procession, offering, supplication, fasting. These words describe the embodied actions of pilgrims, often tied to religious prescriptions. D. Emotional and Experiential Terms Devotion, enlightenment, transcendence, purification, spiritual awakening. These terms are more subjective and reflect the pilgrims' personal and emotional experiences. Certain pilgrimage terms exhibit polysemy (multiple meanings) depending on religious and cultural contexts: *Sanctuary*: In Christianity, it refers to a sacred space within a church, whereas in secular usage, it can mean a place of refuge.

Pilgrim: In Islam (hājī), it refers specifically to one who has completed Hajj, while in other traditions, it can mean any traveler seeking spiritual growth. *Offering*: In Hinduism and Buddhism, it often involves food, flowers, or incense, while in Christianity, it can mean monetary donations or prayers. Pilgrimage-related discourse frequently employs metaphors and symbolism. In pilgrimage tourism, linguistic units serve various pragmatic functions: A. Expressive Function (Emotional and Spiritual Expression) Pilgrims use terms like blessed, sacred, life-changing to express their emotional and spiritual experiences. Testimonials and social media posts often contain affective language (e.g., "I felt the divine presence") to convey personal transformation.

B. Directive Function (Guiding and Instructing Pilgrims) Religious leaders, travel agencies, and guidebooks use imperative language: "Follow the sacred path," "Refrain from impure acts," "Observe silence in the holy site." Such instructions reinforce religious norms and regulate behavior. C. Performative Function (Ritual Speech Acts) Speech acts in pilgrimage tourism include blessings ("May your pilgrimage be accepted") and vows ("I dedicate this journey to..."). Pilgrims recite prayers and chants that have performative functions, such as initiating (declaring intention), petitioning (seeking divine favor), and committing (vows of devotion). D. Referential Function (Describing Sacred Sites and Practices) Brochures, websites, and travel narratives frequently use referential language to describe pilgrimage sites and historical significance.

Corpus-Based and Discourse Analysis Approaches A linguistic analysis of pilgrimage tourism discourse can benefit from corpus-based methodologies, such as: *Keyword Analysis*: Identifying frequently used pilgrimage-related terms in travel blogs, guidebooks, and religious texts. *Collocation Analysis*: Examining which words commonly co-occur (e.g., sacred site, spiritual journey).

Discourse Markers: Studying how pilgrims narrate their experiences (e.g., "I felt a deep sense of peace", "It was a life-changing journey"). Using corpus data can help reveal patterns in how pilgrimage terminology is used across different registers (religious texts, travel advertisements, personal narratives).

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