



## **ETYMOLOGY OF TERMS RELATED TO ROAD SIGNS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES**

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the etymology of common road sign terms in English and Uzbek languages. The aim of the study is to compare the linguistic roots of terms used in both languages to communicate road safety information. The terms analyzed include common road signs like "Stop", "Yield", "Speed Limit" and others. By investigating their historical and linguistic origins, this study sheds light on the cross-cultural influences, the evolution of language, and the importance of standardizing road sign terminology for international communication and safety.*

**Key words:** *term, road sign, Etymological Analysis, comparative analysis, Latin language, Turkish language, linguistic difference.*

### **Introduction**

Road signs are critical components of traffic systems, designed to ensure safety and smooth traffic flow. They convey instructions, warnings, and regulations, often using simple and universally recognized terms. While the basic function of road signs remains the same across languages, the terminology used to represent these signs can vary significantly based on linguistic and cultural contexts.

This paper investigates the etymology of ten common road sign terms in English and Uzbek, with a focus on how these terms have evolved. It examines the origins of these words and how they have been adapted into their modern forms in each language. The comparison of the terms will help to understand how different linguistic traditions approach traffic regulation terminology.

### **Methods**

This study uses a comparative etymological and contrastive approach, gathering data from road signs in English-speaking countries and Uzbekistan. The selected terms are taken from road signs observed in public spaces, transportation systems, and urban areas[4]. The analysis focuses on tracing the linguistic roots of the terms, identifying any foreign influences, and comparing the etymology in both languages. In addition, the study contrasts the etymology of terms in both languages, examining commonalities and differences[3].

Terms analysed:

1. Stop – To'xtash
2. Yield – Yo'l berish
3. Speed Limit – Tezlik chegarasi



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4. Pedestrian Crossing – Piyodalar yo‘lkasi
5. One Way – Bitta yo‘l
6. No Parking – To‘xtash taqiqlangan
7. Roundabout – Aylanma harakatlanish
8. Detour – Boshqa yo‘l
9. Warning – Ogohlantirish
10. Stop Ahead – Oldinda to‘xtash

The methodology involves collecting the terms used in both languages, tracing their origins, and analyzing any loanwords or shifts in meaning. The historical development of these terms is compared, focusing on their roots and semantic evolution. Data for English terms are derived from historical dictionaries such as the Oxford English Dictionary, while Uzbek terms are analyzed through the lens of Turkic and Russian influences[2].

The majority of two-component term combinations in English are formed by the combination of *adjective + noun and noun + noun* (e.g., *steep ascent, road work*). In contrast, in Uzbek, two-component term combinations are predominantly in the form of *adjective + noun* (e.g., *tik balandlik*). These term combinations, when used separately, may belong to different fields of terminology[1].

## **Results**

### ***Stop – To‘xtash.***

In English “Stop” comes from the Old French *estopper*, which means “to block” or “to cease”. This word traces its roots back to Latin *stoppare*, meaning “to block up” or “to stop”. In Uzbek language the term *To‘xtash* comes from the Turkish root *to‘xt-* (to halt, to stop). It is a native Uzbek term that directly expresses the action of stopping.

### ***Yield – Yo‘l berish***

In English, the term “Yield” originates from the Old French *yieldre*, meaning “to give up” or “to surrender”. This word comes from the Latin *jaldere*, meaning “to relinquish”. But Uzbek term “*Yo‘l berish*” is translated literally as “*to give way*” in Uzbek, with *yo‘l* meaning “road” and *berish* meaning “to give”. Moreover, it is a compound term that reflects the action of yielding the road.

### ***Speed Limit – Tezlik chegarasi***

“Speed”, English term, comes from the Old French *espeede*, meaning “haste”, derived from Latin *expeditus* (unimpeded). “Limit” comes from Latin *limitare*, meaning “to bound”. *Tezlik* is, in Uzbek, formed from *tez* (fast) and the suffix *lik*,



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which indicates the quality of being fast. *Chegara* means “boundary” or “limit”, derived from the native Turkish language.

## ***Pedestrian Crossing – Piyodalar yo‘lkasi***

In English language, “Pedestrian” comes from Latin *pedester*, meaning “on foot”, “Crossing” comes from Old English *cross*, meaning “a place where one crosses”. In Uzbek, *Piyodalar yo‘lkasi* is a compound term, with *piyoda* meaning “pedestrian” (borrowed from Persian *piyoda*) and *yo‘lkasi* meaning “path” or “way”, both being native terms.

## ***One Way – Bitta yo‘l***

As English term, “One” comes from Old English *an*, and “way” comes from Old English *weg*, meaning “road”. In Uzbek *Bitta yo‘l* means “one road”, with *bitta* meaning “one” and *yo‘l* meaning “road”, both are native Uzbek words.

## ***No Parking – To‘xtash taqiqlangan***

English term “No” comes from Old English *na*, and “parking” comes from the French *parquer*, meaning “to park”. In Uzbek, *To‘xtash taqiqlangan* means “stopping is prohibited”. *Taqiqlangan* is derived from *taqiqlash*, meaning “to prohibit”, which comes from Arabic roots.

## ***Roundabout – Aylanma harakatlanish***

In English, “Roundabout” is a combination of “round” from Old French *rond* and “about” from Old French *abouter* (to come to a point). In Uzbek, *Aylanma harakatlanish* means “circular movement”, with *aylanma* meaning “circular” and *harakatlanish* meaning “movement” both native Turkish words.

## ***Detour – Boshqa yo‘l***

In English language, “Detour” comes from Old French *détourner*, meaning “to turn aside”, which is derived from Latin *detornare* (to turn away). In Uzbek, *Boshqa yo‘l* literally translates to “another road”, with *boshqa* meaning “other” and *yo‘l* meaning “road”, both are native words.

## ***Warning – Ogohlantirish***

English term “Warning” comes from Old English *warnian*, meaning “to caution” or “to admonish”, from Proto-Germanic *warnon*. In Uzbek, *Ogohlantirish* comes from *ogohlantir-* (to warn) and the suffix *-ish*, used to form nouns from verbs, indicating a native construction.

## ***Stop Ahead – Oldinda to‘xtash***

Another English term is “Stop” comes from Old French *estopper*, and “ahead” comes from Middle English *ahead*, from Old English *on heafod* (on top). In Uzbek,



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*Oldinda to'xtash* means “stop ahead”, with *oldin* meaning “ahead” and *to'xtash* meaning “stop” both are native Uzbek terms[5].

## **Discussion**

The comparison of the road sign terms reveals some interesting insights into the linguistic evolution of both English and Uzbek. English road sign terms are primarily influenced by Latin, French, and Germanic roots, while Uzbek road sign terms are rooted in native Turkish vocabulary, with Russian influence due to historical ties from the Soviet period.

Despite these linguistic differences, both languages reflect similar concepts in traffic safety, and the terms themselves have evolved to fit the modern context. For example, while English incorporates a significant number of loanwords, Uzbek has preserved more of its native roots, with Russian borrowings primarily influencing administrative and technical terms.

The study also highlights the role of language in ensuring effective communication in safety-critical contexts. Road signs serve as universal symbols that transcend language barriers, but their terminology can offer rich insights into the cultural and historical development of each language.

## **Conclusion**

This study provides an etymological comparison of road sign terms in English and Uzbek. Both languages share the common goal of communicating vital traffic information but do so through different linguistic traditions. English terms are influenced by Latin and French, while Uzbek terms retain a strong Turkic base, with some Russian influence. The evolution of these terms reflects the broader cultural and historical context in which each language developed. Understanding the etymology of road sign terms can help improve communication and standardization, ensuring safety on the roads in multilingual environments.

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