

The Specialized Vocabulary of Crafts

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Estonian

FOUNDING OF UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

The beginning of higher education in Estonia (in Latin, German, Russian)

1632

1807

TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESEARCH

The beginning of ethnography (now ethnology) studies in University of Tartu

TEACHING IN ESTONIAN

The beginning of higher education in Estonian

1919

1994

BEGINNING OF CRAFT STUDIES

The beginning of craft studies in Viljandi Culture Academy

Specialized craft language: old, yet in constant change

The oldest layers of Estonian native words

Uralic: *vask* ‘copper’; *vöö* ‘girdle’, ‘belt’; *rätt* ‘kerchief’; *punuma* ‘to pleat’

Finno-Ugric: *sõba* ‘robe’; *sepp* ‘blacksmith’; *vestma* ‘to carve’

Finno-Permic: *kiud* ‘fiber’; *niin* ‘bast fibre’; *kuduma* ‘to weave’, ‘to knit’

Finno-Samic: *hõbe* ‘silver’

Finnic: *õmblema* ‘to sew’; *kiri* ‘pattern’, ‘letter’; *king* ‘shoe’

Earlier borrowed vocabulary

Proto-Indo-European (5000-3000 BC): *nahk* ‘skin’, ‘leather’;

helmes ‘bead’

Indo-Iranian (3000-1000 BC): *vasar* ‘hammer’; *sarv* ‘horn’; *sool* ‘salt’

Proto-Baltic (1500-500 BC): *kirves* ‘axe’; *vill* ‘wool’; *aas* ‘loop’

Proto-Germanic (2000 BC-9th century): *nael* ‘nail’; *nōel* ‘needle’;

särk ‘shirt’

Old Slavic (7th-14th century): *kasukas* ‘fur coat’; *saabas* ‘boot’;

koonal bunch of tow (or flax) on a distaff

Proto Latvian (8th century): *kanep* ‘hemp’; *palakas* ‘sheet’;

pastel ‘leather slipper’

Later borrowed vocabulary

Low Saxon (13th-16th century): *haamer* 'hammer'; *höövel* 'planer'; *kellu* 'trowel'; *saag* 'saw'; *undruk* 'skirt'

Swedish (16th-17th century): *tasku* 'pocket'; *malm* 'cast iron'

High German (16th-20th century): *kleit* 'dress'; *kampsun* (knitted woolen) 'jacket, pullover'; *vest* 'waistcoat'; *heegeldama* 'to crochet'

Russian (14th-21th century): *niit* 'fine thread'; *kirka* 'pickaxe'; *kuvalda* 'sledgehammer'; *pintsak* 'jacket'

International vocabulary

metall 'metal'; *originaal* 'original'

Terminology work

- In the beginning of the 20. century, ethnographs and other scientists did great work with creating terminology for heritage culture, including crafts.
- During the Soviet time (1940-1991) mainly research into tangible heritage and its vocabulary was developed further.
- Systematical work on the Estonian specialized vocabulary of **craft language** begun in 2016 when the **Committee for Specialized Terms in Craft Research** was created in the Estonian Native Crafts Department.
- The craft terms with definitions are published in the term base *Käsitööteaduse oskussõnad* „Specialized terms of Craft Research“ (term.eki.ee).

Problems in the terminology work

- Specialized language has been used inconsistently during different eras. Various words have been used to express the same terms.
- Some of the specialized language has been forgotten, i.e. *aasnõelumine* 'nalbinding'.
- Historical specialized craft language is inconsistent, due to the multitude of dialects. Often there are too many words to express a single term.
- Object researchers take into account the appearance and function of an object, when creating terms, but do not pay attention to the technique. This can lead to misleading terms.
- Crafters and craft researchers lack time for terminology work.

Thank You!