# A LINGUISTIC JOURNEY: MORPHOLOGY AND POLYSEMY IN ENGLISH TOURISM TERMS

**¹Haydarova Gulhayo Ahmadaliyevna**, **²Kurbanova Muqaddam Ahmedovna**,
**³Abdullayeva Dilfuza Muhitdinovna**, **⁴Akramov Shukurjon Tokhtasinovich**,
 **⁵Usarova Nilufar Yakubovna**, **⁶Yigitaliyeva Mukhlisa Ahadovna**,

*1 PhD, senior teacher in Kokand state pedagogical institute, Uzbekistan*
*Email: h.gulhayoxon90@gmail.com*
*Orcid: https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0009-0007-8262-304X*
*2 PhD researcher at KSPI, Uzbekistan*
*3 PhD researcher in University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan*
*Email: abdullaeva.dil@mail.ru*
*Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3512-2820*
*4 Candidate of Philological sciences, associate professor  in KSPI, Uzbekistan*
*Email: shukurjonakramov84@gmail.com*
*Orcid: https://orcid.org/0009-0004-9866-7651*
*5 PhD researcher at KSPI, Uzbekistan,*
*Email: nilufarusarova2904@gmail.com*
*Orcid: https://orcid.org/0009-0000-7672-1068*
*6 PhD, senior teacher at KSPI*
*Email: muhlisa.ismoilova@mail.ru*

**Abstract:**
This article examines the polysemantic nature and morphological diversity of tourism-related terms in the English language, showcasing their critical role in communication within the global tourism industry. By categorizing terms into one-component, compound, and affixal forms, the study explores their structural complexities and semantic richness. The analysis reveals how these terms, such as *tour*, *resort*, and *cruise*, acquire multiple meanings depending on context, illustrating the adaptability and creativity of the English language in tourism. Additionally, the research delves into the morphological processes that shape tourism vocabulary, including prefixation, suffixation, and compounding, which contribute to the formation of specialized terms like *overbooking* and *domestic tourism expenditure*. While the polysemy of such terms enriches their expressiveness, it also necessitates careful contextual framing to ensure clarity and precision. By bridging linguistic analysis and practical application, the study offers valuable insights for linguists, educators, and tourism professionals navigating this complex lexicon.

**Key words:** tourism terms, tourism-related vocabulary, morphological structure, one-component terms, two-component terms, open compound terms, closed compound terms, affixal terms, polysemy, semantics, multiple meanings, contextual framing, versatility of language

### Introduction

Tourism is a global phenomenon deeply intertwined with language. Its terms serve as the cornerstone of communication in an industry that spans cultural and linguistic boundaries. These words not only possess polysemantic richness—where a single term can convey multiple related meanings—but also showcase a diverse range of morphological structures. From one-component words like *flight* to multi-component terms like *gross fixed capital formation,* the linguistic fabric of tourism reflects its multifaceted nature. This article delves into both the polysemantic features and the morphological diversity of tourism-related words in English, highlighting their role in shaping effective communication within this dynamic field.

Tourism represents a multifaceted phenomenon encompassing social, cultural, and economic dimensions. It involves the mobility of individuals traveling to destinations beyond their habitual surroundings, whether for leisure, professional, or business pursuits. These individuals, referred to as visitors—comprising tourists or excursionists, and both residents and non-residents—engage in activities integral to the tourism sector, often accompanied by related expenditures.

[1]Haydarova Gulhayo Ahmadaliyevna, [2]Kurbanova Muqaddam Ahmedovna,
[3]Abdullayeva Dilfuza Muhitdinovna, [4]Akramov Shukurjon Tokhtasinovich,
[5]Usarova Nilufar Yakubovna, [6]Yigitaliyeva Mukhlisa Ahadovna

The tourism sector might be divided into sub-types such as professional, academic and public, depending on the state of communication, goals and type of addressee. Each type is a unique network of communication strategies, distinguished by its lexical composition and genre-stylistic structure.

Professional and academic speech acquires its own characteristics due to the fact that it is expressed with special terms. Also, the field of mass tourism forms a wide-layered vocabulary and includes special terminology (Тарнаева, Дацюк, 2013).

Since the English language is very rich in tourism related expressions, we considered it appropriate to divide them into the following groups:

**I. One-component terms**
**1) Simple terms**

| | |
|---|---|
| *Flight* (N) | *Frame* (N) |
| *Hotel* (N) | *Goods* (N) |
| *Motel* (N) | *Job* (N) |
| *Lin* (N) | *Sample* (N) |
| *Quin* (N) | *Services* (N) |
| *Bias* (N) | *Survey* (N) |
| *Census* (N) | *Tourism* (N) |
| *Employee* (N) | *Travel* (N) |
| *Trip* (N) | *Visit* (V) |
| *Agent* (N) | *Block* (N) |
| *Contract* (N) | *Culture* (N) |

We can come to the following conclusion when looking at terms related to tourism activity in English. In this field, it was observed that the terms are mainly represented by one-component nouns, and sometimes by verbs.

**2) Simple formed terms**
*Booking* (book+ing=V+gerund= N)
*Costing* (cost+ing=V+gerund= N)
*Checking* (check+ing=V+gerund=N)
*Meeting* (meet+ing=V+gerund= N)
*Auditing* (audit+ing=N+gerund= N)
*Bonding* (bond+ing=V+gerund=N)

We can explain the reason for including the given examples in this category because the gerund form of -ing ua has changed the word category of the word uasamau. It should be noted that the simple osama terms were expanded by adding the suffix mentioned above to the lexemes belonging to the noun and verb word groups, and as a result, a word belonging to the noun word group was formed.

**II. Two-component terms**
**1)      Open compound terms (the elements are written separately)**

| | |
|---|---|
| *Departure lounge* (N+N=N) | *Baggage reclaim* (N+V=N) |
| *Window seat* (N+N=N) | *Room block* (N+N=N) |
| *Aisle seat* (N+N=N) | *Room class* (N+N=N) |
| *First class* (Adv+N=N) | *Room rack* (N+N=N) |
| *Business class* (N+N=N) | *Transient business* (N+N=N) |
| *Economy class* (N+N=N) | *Room service* (N+N=N) |
| *Early arrival* (Adj+N=N) | *Half board* (N+N=N) |
| *Youth hostel* (N+N=N) | *Rack ratye* (N+N=N) |
| *Advance order* (N+N=N) | *Receptive operators* (Adj+N=N) |
| *Butler service* (N+N=N) | *Administrative data* (Adj+N=N) |

In the English language, the terminology of tourism has acquired its own characteristics, and we can see that in all the examples above, words are combined with nouns. Their composition mainly has the following forms N+N=N, Adj+N=N and in some places Adv+N=N.

**2) Closed compound terms (the elements are not written separately)**

*Guesthouse* (N)                    *Boardroom* (N)
*Metadata* (N)                      *Microdata* (N)
*Airline*  (N)                      *Benchmark* (N)
*Ecotourism* (N)                    *Gateway* (N)

The composition of terms with a complex structure consists of different word groups, which are written together and all of them form a noun group.

**III. Three-component terms**

*Best available rate* (BAR) (Adj+Adj+N=N)
*National tourism consumption* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Key performance indicator* (KPI) (Adj+N+N=N)
*National tourism expenditure* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Central product classification* (CPC) (Adj+N+N=N)
*Tourism characteristic activities* (N+N+N=N)
*Domestic tourism consumption* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Tourism characteristic products* (N+N+N=N)
*Domestic tourism expenditure* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Tourism connected products* (N+Adj+N=N)
*Domestic tourism trip* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Economically active population* (Adv+Adj+N=N)
*Avarage room rate* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Certified tour professional* (CTP) (Adj+N+Adj=N)
*Inbound tourism expenditure* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Commercial recreation system* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Internal tourism consumption* (Adj+N+N=N)
*Computer reservation systems* (CRS) (N+N+N=N)
*Critical incident point* (CIP) (Adj+N+N=N)

The terms of this type analyzed according to their structure are mainly in the forms of Adj+N+N=N, N+N+N=N, Adj+N+Adj=N, Adv+Adj+N=N, N+Adj+N=N and Adj+Adj+N=N.

**IV. Four-component terms**

*Gross fixed capital formation* (Adj+Adj+N+N)
*Total tourism internal demand* (Adj+N+Adj+N)
*Tourism satellite account aggregates* (N+N+N+N)
*Site destination selection company* (N+N+N+N)

We can state that in terms of the content of the tourism activity in the English language, the components of this type are adjectives and nouns.

**V. Five-component terms**

*Tourism direct gross value added* (TDGVA)
*Tourism direct gross domestic product* (TDGDP)

**VI. Six-component terms**

*Tourism single purpose consumer durable goods*

It is of special attention that English touristic vocabulary comprises some terms consisting of five or six components.

**VII. Affixal terms (formed by adding a prefixes and/or suffixes)**

*Reconciliation* (re+conciliate+ion=N)          *Visitor* (visit+or=N)
*Non-residents* (non+residents=N)               *Mesurement* (measure+ment=N)
*Arrival* (arrive+al=N)                          *Nationality* (national+ity=N)
*Activity* (active+ity=N)                        *Production* (produce+tion=N)
*Aggregation* (aggregate+tion=N)                 *Traveller* (travel+er=N)
*Employment* (employ+ment=N)                     *Establishment* (establish+ment=N)
*Attraction* (attract+ion=N)                     *Contractor* (contract+or=N)

[1]Haydarova Gulhayo Ahmadaliyevna, [2]Kurbanova Muqaddam Ahmedovna,
[3]Abdullayeva Dilfuza Muhitdinovna, [4]Akramov Shukurjon Tokhtasinovich,
[5]Usarova Nilufar Yakubovna, [6]Yigitaliyeva Mukhlisa Ahadovna

The above-mentioned affixal terms are nouns formed by adding prefixes and suffixes to verbs and adjectives.

## VIII. Prepositional terms

| | |
|---|---|
| *Check-in* | *Economy of reference* |
| *Above the line* | *Employment in tourism industries* |
| *Heads in bed* | *Exports of goods and services* |
| *Overbooking* | *Forms of tourism* |
| *Run of house (ROH)* | *Grossing up* |
| *Balance of payments* | *Add-on* |
| *Country of reference* | *After-departure charge* |
| *Country of residence* | *Back to back* |
| *Closeout* | *Code of conduct* |

To delve deeper into the linguistic dynamics of tourism-related vocabulary, it is essential to explore their polysemantic characteristics. These terms, often rich in layered meanings, play a vital role in facilitating nuanced communication within the tourism sector. Words like *resort* and *tour* demonstrate how a single term can adapt to various contexts, reflecting the versatility of language in this field. Understanding the polysemantic nature of such terms not only enriches our appreciation of linguistic flexibility but also highlights the challenges of ensuring clarity in professional tourism discourse. This examination underscores the need for precise contextual framing to navigate potential ambiguities effectively.

In all languages, there are words with multiple meanings, i.e. polysemantic words. Etymologically, the term polysemy is of Greek *poly* – many, multiple + *sema* – sign and it studies the feature of words having multiple meanings. All the meanings of the word may be related to each other in one way or another, forming a more complex semantic unit of the word. We can observe the phenomenon of multiple meaning in the terms used in certain sciences. Tourism terms are not an exception to this process.

Polysemy, the phenomenon where a word has multiple related meanings, is pivotal in tourism-related terminology. Tourism often borrows and adapts terms to fit diverse contexts, creating layers of meaning. For example, a term like *stay* can refer to both the duration of a trip (*a five-day stay*) and the act of residing temporarily (*We stayed at a guesthouse*). This linguistic flexibility aids communication but can lead to misunderstandings if context is unclear (Cruse, 1986).

Terms are generally monosemantic while some terms have the ability to express more than one meaning. Terms have their own meaning even without text, that is, they are described as monosemantic. However, it is noted that the terms are related to the text in the scientific literature, that is, they show their meaning more fully in the context. The polysemy of terms does not eliminate the possibility of their correct understanding.

During the study of terms related to tourism in English, due to the existence of terms with one and multiple meanings, we found it permissible to divide them into two groups – monosemantic and polysemantic terms.

### 1. Monosemantic terms
• *tourist* - a person who is travelling or visiting a place for pleasure;
• *hotel* - an establishment providing accommodation, meals, and other services for travellers and tourists;
• *motel* - a roadside hotel designed primarily for motorists, typically having the rooms arranged in low blocks with parking directly outside;
• *ecotourism* - tourism directed towards exotic, often threatened, natural environments, intended to support conservation efforts and observe wildlife;

• *island hopping* – travelling from one island to another, especially as a tourist in an area of small islands;

• *dude ranch* – (in the western US) a cattle ranch converted to a holiday centre for tourists;

• *rest-camp* – a place where people can stay and rest, and may include accommodation, food, and other facilities;

• *commuter flight* – a short-haul flight on a smaller aircraft that's typically used to commute between work and home;

• *coasteering* – an activity of exploring a rocky coastline by climbing, jumping, and swimming;

• *kloofing* - an adventurous way to explore a river gorge by walking, swimming, jumping, climbing, etc.;

• *tour* – a journey for pleasure in which several different places are visited.

Only a few of the most actively used terms of English tourism are listed above and they are characterized by expressing only one meaning. It is observed that the terms have a monosemantic feature. The definitions are mainly taken from Oxford languages dictionary.

Relying on the sources of Wikipedia and Merriam-Webster dictionary, and Glossary of tourism terms given UN standards for measuring tourism, we can say the term *tourism* has several meanings:

• *The act of traveling:* The practice of traveling to a new place for recreation, relaxation, or pleasure. Tourism can be domestic or international, and can last from one night to one year.

• *The travel business:* The commercial activity of providing services and support for people traveling for pleasure.

• *The guidance of tourists:* The management of tourists, or the promotion or encouragement of touring.

According to Collin's dictionary the term *cabin* as a noun means:

• a private room on a ship or boat;

• a compartment below deck on a boat used for living accommodations.

• the passenger or cargo compartment of a vehicle (such as an airplane or automobile)

• a small one-story dwelling usually of simple construction

The meanings of *porter* in tourism industry:

• *Person who carries things:* A person who carries things, especially luggage, for others, such as at a hotel, airport, or train station. Porters can also be people who help travelers on a train, or who work on mountaineering expeditions.

• *Person who guards an entrance:* A person who stands at a door or gate to admit or assist people entering.

Besides these meanings there are other meanings of the word "porter" that is not related to only tourism, like:

• *Person who cleans:* A person who cleans, especially in a large building, such as a hospital or office.

• *Ticket collector:* A person who is paid to admit only those who have purchased tickets.

Thus, the proper meaning of a polysemantic word is understood in the context.

Moreover, tourism terminology often exhibits polysemy, as seen in words like *resort.* It can denote a vacation destination (*We stayed at a luxury resort in Hawaii*), a solution (*The last resort was to call the authorities*), or a legal measure (*He sought resort in the court system*). Understanding these layered meanings requires a nuanced grasp of context (Palmer, 1981).

Frequently used terms like *tour* exhibit polysemy. For instance, *tour* can refer to a guided travel experience (*We went on a tour of the Eiffel Tower*), a professional journey (*The athlete completed her world tour*), or a casual exploration (*He gave us a quick tour of his farm*). Similarly, *vacation* can mean a leisure break (*I'm taking a vacation to unwind*) or the act of leaving a property (*The vacation of the house occurred after the lease ended*). These terms reflect the adaptive nature of language in tourism contexts (Halliday & Hasan, 1989) .

[1]Haydarova Gulhayo Ahmadaliyevna, [2]Kurbanova Muqaddam Ahmedovna,
[3]Abdullayeva Dilfuza Muhitdinovna, [4]Akramov Shukurjon Tokhtasinovich,
[5]Usarova Nilufar Yakubovna, [6]Yigitaliyeva Mukhlisa Ahadovna

The versatility of tourism-related terms requires contextual clarity to avoid confusion. For example, *cruise* can mean a leisure sea trip (*We enjoyed a Caribbean cruise*) or driving at a steady speed (*He cruised along the highway*). Similarly, *host* could refer to a provider of accommodation (*The Airbnb host greeted us warmly*) or the main computer in a network. Effective communication in tourism relies on presenting clear, unambiguous context (Dann, 1996).

The polysemy of terms in tourism demands precision, particularly in advertising and customer interaction. Misinterpretations can arise from vague phrases like *room with a view,* which might disappoint customers expecting scenic vistas but receiving a partial street view. Descriptive clarity, such as *oceanfront room with panoramic sea views,* helps mitigate ambiguity. This ensures alignment with customer expectations and enhances satisfaction (Kaplan, 2017).

The polysemantic features of tourism-related terms enrich the English language, fostering linguistic adaptability and creativity. However, they also require careful contextual framing to prevent misunderstandings. As the tourism industry globalizes, mastering the nuances of polysemy is crucial for effective communication with diverse audiences (Pearce, 2005).

**Conclusion**

The study of tourism-related terms in English reveals a fascinating interplay between form and meaning. Their morphological diversity, encompassing simple, compound, and affixal structures, mirrors the complexity of the industry they represent. Meanwhile, their polysemantic nature demonstrates the language's adaptability, with words evolving to capture varied nuances of travel, hospitality, and leisure. These linguistic features not only enhance the richness of communication but also pose challenges, particularly in ensuring clarity across diverse contexts. By understanding and addressing these features, professionals and linguists alike can better navigate the intricate language of tourism, fostering effective and meaningful connections in a globalized world.

**References**

1.      Cruse, D.A. *Lentics*. Cambridge University Press, 1986.
2.      Palmer, F.R. *Semantics*. Cambridge University Press, 1981.
alliday, M.A.K., and Hasan, R. *Language, Context, and Text: Aspects of Language in a Social-S*

aplan, R. "Tourism and Language: Bridging Communication Gaps." *Journal of Tourism Studies*,

6.      P
7.      Glossary of tourism terms. UN standards for measuring tourism. https://www.unwto.org/glossary-tourism-terms#:~:text=Tourism%20is%20a%20social%2C%20cultural,personal%20or%20business/professional%20purposes.
8.      Тарнаева Л. П., Дацюк В. В. Туристический дискурс: лингвопрагматические характеристики // Вест-ник СПбГУ. Сер. 9.2013. Вып.3.
9.      Rahmonova, N. (2024). TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH LITERATURE AND CONNECTING WITH LANGUAGE TEACHING. *Kokand University Research Base*, 224-229.
10.      ZZ, I., & Rakhmonova, N. B. An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal.
11.      Turakhudjaeva, A. X., Usmanova, O. C., & Abdurakhmonova, Z. S. (2016). THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL-POLITICAL LEXIS IN LINGUISTICS. *Ученый XXI века*, (4-1), 64-66.
12.      Khalilullaevna, T. A., Shokirjonovich, K. S., & Ghiyosiddinovich, J. M. (2022). Component Analysis Of Socio-Political Lexemas In Uzbek Language. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(11), 1338-1342.
13.      Sobirova, N., & Rajapova, M. (2024). EASY TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL. *Models and methods in modern science*, 3(4), 122-124.
14.      Rajapova, M., & Mamajonov, A. (2023). Linguistic and cultural characteristics of allegorical devices used in a literary text. *Society and innovations*, (4), 2181-1415.

15.    RAJAPOVA, M. ALLEGORIK VOSITALARNING LINGVOKOGNITIV VA LINGVOPRAGMATIK XUSUSIYATLARI. *Я ПРЕПОДАВАНИЕ*, 197.

16.    Haydarova, G., & Muhammadjonova, G. (2024). THE FAIRY TALE GENRE OF FOLKLORE. *Models and methods in modern science*, *3*(1), 13-16.

17.    Haydarova, G. (2024). ALISHER NAVOIY AN'ANALARI VA XX ASR O 'ZBEK G 'AZALIYOTI. *Alisher Navo'i and 21 st century*, *1*(1).

18.    Haydarova, G., & Haydaraliyeva, R. (2024). FEATURES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF KUNTUGMISH DOSTON. *Академические исследования в современной науке*, *3*(1), 32-36.