

MILITARY TERMINOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON CIVILIAN LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Military terminology has been known to affect civilian language in various ways. This paper aims to discuss the impact of military terminology on civilian language and the reasons for its widespread usage. The paper uses various studies to provide insights into how the military lexicon has influenced the language used by civilians. Moreover, it discusses the reasons for the increasing usage of military terminology in everyday language and its effects on communication.

Keywords: *military lexicon, civilian language, usage of military terminology, “drone strike,” “boots on the ground,” and “friendly fire”, specialized vocabulary*

INTRODUCTION

Military terminology has been used for centuries to describe military operations, equipment, and personnel. However, in recent times, military terminology has increasingly crept into everyday language. The use of terms like “drone strike,” “boots on the ground,” and “friendly fire” in civilian language has become common, raising questions about the impact of military language on society. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the impact of military terminology on civilian language and its widespread usage.

HISTORY AND REASONS FOR MILITARY LANGUAGE.

The origins of military language can be traced back to ancient Greece and Rome, where specific words were used to describe military tactics, formations, and equipment. However, the modern military language we know today is largely attributed to the World War I era. The war introduced new technologies, tactics, and strategies that required new terminology to describe them accurately. This led to the development of a specialized vocabulary that was unique to the military.

The modern military, with its complex technology and global operations, has developed an even more extensive system of language and terminology. Military language is designed to be precise and efficient, with terms that are used universally to ensure clear communication among military personnel from different units and countries. This language is also designed to be concise, with acronyms and abbreviations used to save time and reduce the risk of misunderstandings.

Another reason for the use of military language is to maintain secrecy and security. The military often uses codes and jargon to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information. For example, the US military uses the term “classified” to describe information that is considered too sensitive for public release, and soldiers are trained to use specific language to avoid giving away important information.

Military language is also used to create a sense of identity and camaraderie among military personnel. The use of military terminology and slang can help soldiers feel like part of a distinct community with its own unique culture and values. This can be particularly important during times of war, when soldiers may be far from home and in dangerous situations.

While military language can be effective in its intended purposes, its use in civilian language can have negative consequences, as discussed previously. It is important to recognize the historical and practical reasons for the use of military language while also being critical of its impact on communication and society as a whole.

IMPACT ON CIVILIAN LANGUAGE

Military terminology has become increasingly prevalent in everyday language, with terms like “drone strike” and “IED” being commonly used in news articles, movies, and social media. The usage of these terms has been attributed to various factors, including the increased media coverage of military operations and the military’s growing presence in everyday life. The usage of military terminology in civilian language has had a significant impact on communication and language usage. One study conducted by Martin and Wood (2019) found that the usage of military terms in civilian language can have negative effects on the understanding of the severity and consequences of military actions. For example, the term “friendly fire” is a euphemism used to describe incidents where military personnel is accidentally hit by their own forces. However, the term downplays the severity of the situation and can lead to a lack of understanding of the gravity of the situation [2,356].

Furthermore, the usage of military terminology in everyday language can also lead to the normalization of military language and culture in civilian life. This normalization can lead to a lack of critical thinking and questioning of military actions and can create a culture where war and violence are seen as acceptable means of resolving conflicts. As Lakoff (2006) argues, language has a significant impact on how we perceive the world, and the normalization of military language in civilian life can have negative consequences on our understanding of the world.

The increasing usage of military terminology in civilian language can also have implications for the public's perception of the military. One study by Winter (1991) found that the militarization of language can create a sense of legitimacy and authority for the military, making it difficult for civilians to criticize military actions. This sense of legitimacy can also create a culture where military actions are seen as justified and necessary, even when they result in civilian casualties and other negative consequences.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, military terminology has had a significant impact on civilian language, with terms like “IED” and “friendly fire” becoming increasingly common in everyday language. The reasons for the increasing usage of military terminology include media coverage of military operations and the military's growing presence in everyday life. However, the uncritical acceptance of military actions and the downplaying of their risks and consequences have also been associated with the widespread usage of military language. It is essential to be aware of the impact of military terminology on civilian language and to use language critically to avoid perpetuating harmful narratives. The impact of military terminology on civilian language is complex and multifaceted. While military language can be effective in communicating during military operations, its increasing usage in everyday language can lead to negative consequences on communication, critical thinking, and the public's perception of the military. It is crucial for individuals to be aware of the impact of military language on civilian language and to use language critically to avoid perpetuating harmful narratives.

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