S. Kot[1]

TEOLINGUISTIC "FOSSILS" IN MACHINE BUILDING TERMS

[1]Vinnytsia National Technical University

Abstract *The article deals the concept of "theolinguistic fossils" in machine-building terms, which refers to instances where terminology used in engineering and mechanical contexts has roots in religious or theological concepts, even if those origins are no longer consciously recognized. To truly identify "theolinguistic fossils" in machine-building terms, one would need to undertake a rigorous interdisciplinary study involving historical linguistics, theolinguistics, and the history of technology. It's a fascinating area for research, but one that requires delving deep into the less obvious layers of language evolution.*

Keywords: "theolinguistic fossils", machine-building terms, language evolution, religious meaning.

Theology, despite often being considered a separate realm of discourse from science and technology, has left an indelible mark on the language we use in these fields [1]. These remnants of theological thought, which we can call "fossils," reveal a fascinating history of how religious concepts shaped the development of scientific and technical terminology.

The concept of "theolinguistic fossils" in machine-building terms refers to instances where terminology used in engineering and mechanical contexts has roots in religious or theological concepts, even if those origins are no longer consciously recognized. These are "fossils" because the original religious meaning has largely faded, leaving behind the word or phrase in a new, secularized context.

While direct, explicit connections might be rare in modern machine building (as the field is highly rationalized and scientific), we can explore this idea by looking at:

Words with broader historical links to "divine" creation or design:

"Design" or "Blueprint": While now purely technical, the idea of a "design" or "plan" can be subtly linked to theological concepts of divine creation, where a higher power "designed" the universe or living beings. The notion of a perfect, underlying structure could echo divine archetypes.

"Fabrication" or "Construction": The act of "making" or "building" something complex, especially something that functions, can parallel religious narratives of creation or the construction of sacred structures (like temples or Noah's Ark).

"Automation" / "Automaton": The word "automaton" comes from Ancient Greek *automaton* meaning "acting of one's own will." Early automata were often used in religious spectacles or as demonstrations of "divine" principles. The idea of a machine acting "of its own will" could have had a quasi-magical or divine connotation in earlier times, before a full understanding of mechanical principles.

"Engine" / "Ingenuity": The word "engine" comes from Latin *ingenium* (cleverness) and *ingeniare* (to contrive or devise), also linked to "gene" (to create, invent, or bring forth) and "engender." This hints at a creative, almost generative power, which in pre-scientific eras might have been attributed to divine inspiration or genius. The concept of "ingenuity" itself, while now secular, could have historically touched upon a divinely gifted cleverness.

Concepts of perfection, order, and harmony:

"Precision" and "Tolerance": The pursuit of extreme precision and minimal tolerance in machine building

can be seen as a secularized echo of a desire for perfection, an ideal that might have historically been associated with divine creation or sacred geometry. Medieval European cathedrals, for example, incorporated symbolic geometry to lead viewers to a better understanding of the divine through mathematics.

The concept of "theolinguistic fossils" in machine building terms refers to the idea that some vocabulary used in engineering and technical fields might carry hidden or forgotten traces of religious or theological origins [4]. While direct, widespread examples of such "fossils" in common, everyday machine building terms are not immediately obvious or well-documented in a systematic way, the broader idea of how language evolves and retains historical influences can be applied.

Potential Areas to Investigate for Theolinguistic Fossils in Machine Building:

While a direct list of such terms in machine building isn't readily available, here are areas where one *might* theoretically find such "fossils," based on the general principles of linguistic evolution and the historical interplay between science, technology, and religious thought:

Fundamental Concepts and Principles:

"Force," "Energy," "Power": These are fundamental concepts in physics and engineering. While their modern definitions are strictly scientific, historically, the understanding of such phenomena might have been intertwined with notions of divine power, natural law, or the "spirit" animating matter. Tracing the etymology of these words back to their ancient roots in Greek, Latin, or other languages might reveal connections to pre-scientific or theological worldviews.

"Order," "System," "Mechanism": The idea of an ordered universe, a "grand design," or the intricate workings of nature often had theological underpinnings in pre-modern thought. The very notion of a "machine" implies an ordered system. While these are now secular concepts, their historical development might have been influenced by a worldview that saw divine order in the cosmos, which then influenced how humans conceived of and built their own ordered systems.

1.Terms related to "Creation" or "Design":

"Engineer" itself: While its modern etymology is traced to "ingenare" (to generate or engender), suggesting ingenuity, one could explore if earlier senses of "creation" or "making" were implicitly linked to a divine creator in some linguistic traditions.

"Fabrication," "Construction," "Assembly": These terms describe the act of bringing something into being. Historically, the act of creation, even human creation, might have been seen as mirroring a divine act.

2.Terms related to "Control" or "Governance":

"Governor," "Cybernetics": As mentioned in one search result, "Cybernetics" comes from the Greek word *kubernetes* for the helmsman of a ship, which Latin borrowed to become *gubernator*, from which "governor" derives . While not directly theological, the concept of "governance" or "control" has often had parallels in religious thought regarding divine rule or providence. One could explore if the transfer of these terms to mechanical or automated control systems carried any subconscious echoes of their earlier applications to human or divine authority.

3.Figurative Language and Metaphors:

Technical language, like any language, uses metaphors. If certain metaphors for machine parts, functions, or processes originated in a pre-scientific era where religious concepts were more pervasive, those metaphors could be "fossils." For example, if a part was once analogized to a "heart" or "soul" in a non-biological context, and that analogy had religious connotations, it could be a subtle fossil.

Challenges in Identifying Theolinguistic Fossils:

Secularization of Language: Many words have undergone a process of secularization, where their original religious meanings have faded or been completely replaced by secular ones.

Deep Etymological Tracing: Unearthing such "fossils" requires deep linguistic and etymological research, often going back to Proto-Indo-European or even older language roots, and connecting them to ancient religious beliefs.

Lack of Explicit Documentation: Unlike terms directly from religious texts, "theolinguistic fossils" in technical language are unlikely to be explicitly labeled as such. Their identification would involve interpretation and inference based on historical context.

To truly identify "theolinguistic fossils" in machine-building terms, one would need to undertake a rigorous interdisciplinary study involving historical linguistics, theolinguistics, and the history of technology. It's a fascinating area for research, but one that requires delving deep into the less obvious layers of language evolution. The "fossil" aspect is crucial. Modern engineers don't typically think of these terms in a religious light. The direct religious meaning has become obsolete or lost in the technical context. However, their etymological roots or the underlying philosophical ideas they convey might have once been intertwined with religious or metaphysical beliefs about creation, order, and causality. The evolution of language often leaves such traces, even as human understanding of the world shifts from spiritual to scientific explanations.

It's important to note that identifying clear "theolinguistic fossils" can be challenging, as the links are often subtle and require delving into the deeper etymological and conceptual histories of words. Many terms in machine building are directly descriptive or derived from Latin and Greek roots with no immediate religious connotation. However, the influence of broader cultural and philosophical frameworks, often shaped by religious thought, can sometimes be detected in the underlying concepts that inform technical language.

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Sergii O. Kot – PhD, assistant professor, Vinnytsia National Technical University, Vinnytsia, kot.sergii@vntu.edu.ua

«Теолінгвістичні копалини» в термінах машинобудування

Анотація *У статті розглядається поняття «теолінгвістичних скам'янілостей» у машинобудуванні, яке стосується випадків, коли термінологія, що використовується в інженерному та механічному контекстах, має коріння в релігійних або богословських концепціях, навіть якщо ці корені вже не визнаються свідомо. Щоб по-справжньому виявити «теолінгвістичні копалини» в машинобудівних термінах, потрібно провести ретельне міждисциплінарне дослідження із залученням історичної лінгвістики, теолінгвістики та історії техніки. Це захоплююча сфера для дослідження, але вона вимагає заглиблення в менш очевидні шари мовної еволюції.*

Ключові слова*: «теолінгвістичні копалини», машинобудівні терміни, еволюція мови, релігійне значення.*

Сергій Олександрович Кот *– кандидат філологічних наук, доцент кафедри іноземних мов Вінницького національного технічного університету, Вінниця,* kot.sergii@vntu.edu.ua