

ADAPTATION AND TRANSLATION OF SPECIALIZED MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY FROM ENGLISH INTO RUSSIAN

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The article observes the process of translating medical terms, presents the classification of medical terms, adaptation strategies and factors influencing their selection. Recommendations are given on the choice of strategies and prospects for the use of technologies in medical translation to improve the quality and understanding of texts. Particular attention is given to the challenges posed by culturally specific terminology and the need for consistency in cross-linguistic medical discourse.

Keywords: special terminology, synonymy, apocope, abbreviation, translation transformations.

Translation is a complex human activity in which accuracy and integrity are of paramount importance. Depending on the type of translation, the impact of altering the original message can lead to negative outcomes. Due to the increasing volume of medical information and globalization, high-quality translation of specialized terminology becomes significant for both medical personnel and patients. The adaptation of such vocabulary is a challenging task requiring a comprehensive understanding of both languages and medical procedures. Inaccuracies in translation can lead to misdiagnosis and treatment errors. Therefore, exploring methods for adapting medical terminology is essential, as it enhance the quality of medical translations and ensures the safety of patient.

The impact of altering the original message varies depending on the translation type, and any distortion of meaning can lead to undesirable outcomes.

The purpose of the article is to identify issues associated with the adaptation and translation of specialized terminology in medical texts, to examine various strategies for their adaptation and translation, and to determine the factors that affect the selection of suitable methods. As well as considering the prospects of using modern technologies in the process of medical transla-

tion, which will improve the efficiency and accuracy of the translation of terms.

T. A. Shikanova and M. G. Volkova distinguish three types of medical terms [2, P. 3]:

1. Anatomical terms related to the body: names of internal organs, body tissues, glands and body parts.

2. Clinical – covers terms related to clinical specialties, pathological anatomy and physiology: diseases, processes, symptoms, syndromes, operations, treatment methods, medical instruments.

3. Pharmaceutical terms study the names of plants, as well as the production and use of natural, mineral, synthetic, animal origin medicines.

Medical translation presents challenges stemming from the dynamic nature of medical terminology and the inherent complexities of language. It includes issues related to **synonymy** in medical; **errors in translating abbreviations**; and **the occurrence of "false friends of the translator"**.

In such developing system as medicine, terminology is constantly being refined and updated. The problem of synonymy in this field is typical for most languages.

G. N. Babich speaks about three categories of synonyms: ideographic – bear the same idea but not identical in their referential content ("cardiologist – heart special-

ist – cardiovascular physician”), stylistic – differ in style, for example, “high blood pressure” (colloquial) – “hypertension” (professional), and total synonyms that completely coincide in meaning and style, context and so on, such as, “sternum – breastbone” [1, P. 81].

Some terms have a wide range of meanings, such as “handle”, “feature”, “unique”, and others. They have a variety of translation options: stable ones for technical texts and irregular counterparts depending on the context. For example, “substantial (valuable, full-fledged, important) results” can serve as stable equivalents of the expression “meaningful results”. At the same time, the regular analogues of the word “meaningful” include, “acceptable”, “visual”, “comprehensive” and others.

Nevertheless, synonymy can play a positive role in translation: some of them can add details to the meaning of the word. This can be useful when translating medical texts where specifics are important.

In medicine the correctness and unambiguity of abbreviations are especially critical as errors can lead to serious consequences for the health of patients. In Russian, preference is given to full terms, unlike English, where abbreviations are actively used. For example, LK (“left kidney”) translates as “left kidney”, RK (“right kidney”) as “right kidney” [4, P. 121].

It is important to master the main ways of translating foreign abbreviations into Russian, among which we can distinguish: **transliteration**, when the letters of the original abbreviation are transcribed into Russian letters (e.g. UNESCO); **phonetic transmission (transcription)**; **borrowing, while retaining the Latin letters** (e.g. GCP – Good Clinical Practice); **descriptive translation, when there is no direct equivalent** (e.g. ICPC – International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism); and **replacement of a foreign abbreviation by a Russian equivalent acronym** or creation of a new Russian abbreviation on the basis of Russian equiva-

lents (HIV– Human Immunodeficiency Virus) [3, pp. 297-298].

There is also a group of abbreviations called truncations. The most common option, according to L. Y. Zubova, is apocope, which is often found in colloquial medicine language, for example, chem(istry) or surg(ery) [4, P. 123]. It complicates translation, as grammatical information is lost, the meaning may vary depending on the context (chem istry/ist): “chemistry” or the person of “chemist”.

Interlanguage homonyms (false friends of the translator), are words that are similar in spelling or pronunciation in different languages, often having a common origin, but differing in meaning [3, pp. 306 - 308]. The translator’s false friends include homonymous abbreviations. For example, the abbreviation “CVD” can mean: “cardiovascular disease” or “chronic venous disease”.

Discrepancies in the translation of words that have similar spelling and pronunciation can occur due to their origin (Latin serves as the foundational language for medical terms). For instance, the term “angina” is translated into Russian as “stenocardia”. This term is derived from the Latin “angina tonsillitis” (“suffocation due to inflammation of the tonsils”), while the English word “angina” comes from “angina pectoris” (“chest strangulation” in Latin).

Various languages utilize different criteria to describe phenomena, which can lead to translation inconsistencies. For instance, the English word “lunatic” translates as “insane” or “mad”, not as in Russian, where “lunatic” means “sleepwalker”. This word originated from French and referred to individuals with mental disorders related to the phases of the moon. In English, “sleepwalker” describes someone affected by somnambulism, while in Russian “lunatic” has become a colloquial term for both this condition and people with eccentric behaviour.

The meaning of a word in one language may be broader than in another. The English “agony” includes both emotional

and physical distress: 1) death throes; 2) severe physical pain; 3) a sudden attack of feelings (“agony of fear”); 4) deep mental struggle, despair. The Russian word “agony” means only near-death suffering, which in English is expressed as “death-struggle” or “agony” [3, pp. 307- 308].

Considering these translation problems, it is necessary to examine the following features that may influence the choice of strategy:

1. Target audience: the level of preparedness and specificity of perception of the target group (medical workers, patients, researchers) play a key role. For specialists, a more complex language is acceptable, while for patients a simple, understandable explanation is required.

2. Usage context: depends on the purpose of the text (informational, educational manuals for medical students or popular science text, advertising) and the field of medicine (dentistry, pharmacology, psychiatry) when translating abbreviations.

3. Document type: the strategy may vary depending on the type of document (clinical protocol, scientific article, instruction).

4. Popularity of the term: if the term is widely used, its direct translation is preferable. Otherwise, it is necessary to use adaptation or synonymy is necessary.

The availability of specialized translation programs and databases can facilitate the process of choosing the right strategy. The use of additional materials is extremely necessary, since medical terms require high translation accuracy.

1. Specialized dictionaries such as *Dorland's Medical Dictionary* or *Stedman's Medical Dictionary* provide precise definitions of terms and their uses.

2. Terminology databases. The ICD (International Classification of Diseases) and SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms) provide standardized terms that are used in medical practice.

3. CAT (Computer-Assisted Translation) Tools. Software such as SDL Trados Studio, MemoQ, or Wordfast helps interpreters manage terminology using glossaries and translation memory.

The prospects for using technology in medical translation look promising. Automated translation tools and terminology applications can greatly facilitate the process, increase its efficiency and reduce the likelihood of errors. These tools and resources simplify the search for terms, reduce translation time, optimize the workflow, and allow interpreters to understand the context of terms, which improves the overall quality of translation.

In conclusion, the adaptation and translation of special terms in medical texts are important aspects that require in-depth knowledge in the medical domain. Thus, a focus on the adaptation technics and the implementation of advanced technologies in medical translation enhance both quality of translation and the precision information relay, which has a positive effect on patient safety and the effectiveness of medical care.

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АДАПТАЦИЯ И ПЕРЕВОД СПЕЦИАЛИЗИРОВАННОЙ МЕДИЦИНСКОЙ ТЕРМИНОЛОГИИ С АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА НА РУССКИЙ

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*Статья представлена научным руководителем –
ст. преп. Габдуллиной А. Ш.*

В статье рассматривается процесс перевода медицинских терминов, представлена классификация медицинских терминов, стратегии адаптации и факторы, влияющие на их выбор. Даны рекомендации по выбору стратегий и перспективы использования технологий в медицинском переводе для повышения качества и понимания текстов. Особое внимание уделяется проблемам, связанным с культурно-специфической терминологией, и необходимости обеспечения согласованности в межкультурном медицинском дискурсе.

Ключевые слова: специальная терминология, синонимия, апокопа, аббревиатура, переводческие трансформации.

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