

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL UKRAINIAN – ENGLISH MEDICAL TRANSLATION

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Стаття присвячена проблемам та особливостям перекладу медичних термінів. Розглянуто різні варіанти перекладу медичних англійських термінів на українську мову. Виокремлюються основні способи та специфіка їх перекладу. Зроблено аналіз перекладу "хибних друзів перекладача" на прикладі медичних термінів. Проаналізовано можливі помилки під час перекладу медичних термінів.

Ключові слова: *термін, переклад, лексика, аббревіатура, хибні друзі перекладача.*

В статье идет речь об особенностях перевода медицинских терминов. Рассматриваются разные варианты перевода медицинских английских терминов на украинский язык. Исследуются основные способы и специфика их перевода. Сделан анализ перевода "ложных друзей переводчика" на примере медицинских терминов. Проанализированы возможные ошибки во время перевода медицинских терминов.

Ключевые слова: *термин, перевод, лексика, аббревиатура, ложные друзья переводчика.*

The article deals with the problems and peculiarities of medical terms translation. Different examples of medical terms translation into Ukrainian are described. The main methods and specificity of its translation are investigated. Analysis of translation of "false friends" using the example of medical terms was solved. Possible mistakes during medical terms translation were analyzed.

Key words: *term, translation, vocabulary, abbreviation, false friends.*

Translation has its own, very long history. It began when the parent language started disintegrating into separate languages. It was one of the reasons why it indicated the necessity of the people knowing a few languages. We can review it as the interpretation of the meaning of a text in one language and the production, in another language, of an equivalent text that communicates the same message. There are a number of constraints which translation must take into account:

- context
- rules of grammar of the two languages
- writing conventions
- idioms and so on

For the reason of its interdisciplinary character at the beginning of the twentieth century translation was formed as a separate science for a number of

reasons. The process of translation's development was quick as a result of broadening international relations and changing information. Nowadays translation has taken the status of a separate scientific branch.

Proposed article is dedicated to investigation of one of the most developed terminological sub –system of English and Ukrainian – medical terminology.

The aim of this work is not only to describe but also to display the difficulties of medical terms translation and classify the analyzed examples, to define the problems of the phenomenon “false friends of the translator”, analyze typical mistakes and find out how to avoid these mistakes.

Medical translation is one of the most in demand, most complex and most procedural types of translation. Medical English is an important scientific and technological style, with a derivative and more formal vocabulary. The medical English translation is also different from other English style translation. Medical translation, together with religious translation, may be one of the oldest domains of translation: the sufferings of the body and soul have always been our central preoccupation [8].

A great number of scientists have studied this problem. So, the problem of terminological peculiarities was studied by P. Terebianikov [5], V. Verbytskyiy and T. Shkhvatsabaia [2]. L. Dubrovina [3] and B. Zagidulin [4] have studied the problem of sorting of terminological synonymy. Among the scientists who also investigated this problem were V. V. Akulenko, L. S. Barhudarov, L. I. Borisova, R. A. Budagov, V. V. Vinigradov, E. V. Gorbunov.

The scientific methods that characterize modern Western medicine are traceable to Classical and Hellenistic Greece (500 – 30 BC). During this period, Greek medicine departed from the divine and moved towards logical reasoning [7]. It passed on its traditions first to the Roman Republic (509 – 31 BC) and the Roman Empire (31 BC – 476 AD), and then to Medieval Europe (1100 – 1500 AD). During this process, medical writing developed as a technique for travelling medical scholars to communicate their ideas [6].

This kind of translation is characterized by some constant features that define its complexity. Medical language belongs to the so-called languages for special purposes which differ from everyday language above all in the specificity of the terminology and in that they are used in communication between professionals. The knowledge of the Latin roots helps professionals in the field of medicine understand medical texts in different languages. These languages for special purposes are the part of the language system and can be classified in different ways.

For successful translation it is necessary to understand and use proper specific vocabulary or in other words, terminology. Medical terminology is a “system of system”. It consists of huge number of separate terminological sub – systems: medical, biomedical and some other sciences and fields connecting with medicine. Medical translation requirements are naturally very high. It is self – evident that one's health and life depends on its accuracy, completeness and competence. An important point is that the translation should be faithful to the original content, accurate, complete and scientific expression of the original content, without any alteration, distortion, omission, or any additions or deletions phenomenon.

Translation of medical terms requires from the translator wide experience and competence in terminology. The key requirement of this translation is accurate translations in medical diagnoses. The world of medicine poses an extremely large quantity of specific terminology that can be estimated to be around 20,000 medical terms alone, not taking into account the parts of the body, names of medicine nor names of illnesses. This article shall consider the main problems that translators of this field may come up against, and also the solutions they may take on. Depending on the type of translation, consequences of altering the sense of origin can be different. If we are speaking about translation of medical texts, documents, prescriptions it is necessary to point out that such consequences can do harm for people's life. It should be noted that a translator's work is a difficult enough and we can face different problems arising from divergences of languages in their grammatical, syntactical, and lexical structures during the process of translation of medical texts. There are some problems during the translation of medical terms which

include several factors such as great number of synonyms, wide usage of abbreviations and acronyms, enriching of medical vocabulary, presence of so-called “false friends”.

Over the centuries, English and Ukrainian have borrowed a multitude of words from different languages. During the translation we should remember although certain words may look and sound similar in the two languages, they do not always have the same meanings in up-to-date usage. This can create confusion and mistakes when translating terms that share the same origins but have evolved differently over time. Sometimes terms that seem alike can have very different definitions – as with the words “glands” (залози) in English and «гланди» (tonsils) in Ukrainian! One main problem faced regarding the translation of a medical text can be false friends. Firstly the term “false friends of a translator” was introduced in 1928 by Kessler and Derokiniin in the book «Les faux amis ou Les pièges du vocabulaire anglais» and meant the results of inadequate and poor translation based on sound similarity of words in foreign and native languages.

A “false friend” is a word in another language that appears similar to one in your own but has a contrasting meaning. The vocabulary of most languages contains a lot of words which are common for two or three languages. It can be explained by definite historical reasons: the origin of some languages, communication of nations, borrowings from Greek and Latin. Sometimes terms that seem alike can have very different definitions – as with the words “angina” (стенокардія) in English and «ангіна» (quinsy) in Ukrainian! However, just because words look or sound similar it does not mean we should automatically assume they have the same meanings in our two languages. Every person who can speak English know very well that the word “examine” doesn’t mean «екзамен», it means – «медичний огляд», the word “rehabilitation” does not mean «реабілітація», it means – «перевиховання». The most experienced “translators” will not be surprised that the meaning of the word “expertise” is not «експертиза», it means «професійні знання та навички», “drug” – is not друг, it means «ліки» or «наркотик».

In our article we would like to pay attention to some of the most common medical “false friends” in English and Ukrainian : ангіна – хвороба горла, angina – стенокардія, презерватив – протизаплідний препарат, preservative – консервант, комунікабельний – товариський; communicable – заразне, інфекційне захворювання; презентація – представлення будь – чого, presentation – акушерське передлежання, опис випадку; гланди – tonsils, glands – залози у цілому. The translation of the term “symptomatic” can be translated not only – симптоматичний, the meaning can be the following – з клінічними проявами, for example: symptomatic hypertension – артеріальна гіпертонія з клінічними проявами, we can't translate it as – симптоматична артеріальна гіпертонія, but symptomatic therapy – симптоматична терапія. There are especially a lot of “false friends” among medical terms. Typical example is – cystic fibrosis. It doesn't mean «кистозний фиброз», the correct translation of this term is «муковисцидоз» [1, с. 50 – 58]. Another common element of medical – based documents is medical abbreviations which again cannot be confused with one another. The translator must be aware of these abbreviations and know how to translate them into the target language. OD – for example is the abbreviation for right eye, OS – for the left eye and OU for both eyes. If any of these abbreviations are mixed up the physician could misunderstand the patient's medical issue. Medical translation requires specialized scientific knowledge and proficiency in languages. In addition, this type of technical translation may be different and a bit complicated compared to any other type of translation. This is because there are large numbers of specialized terms that are not suitable to translate into other languages. Thus, translating of medical terms should only be done by professional and skillful specialists. Next problem faced by medical translators is the free use of abbreviations and acronyms in the field of medicine. The language of medicine is in constant change and development. New terms are added, other ones become redundant. Synonymous medical terms can also pose problems for translation. For instance, in English language the word «хвороба» is also known by other terms like “illness”, “sickness”, “disease”. The translator must then choose which term is more commonly used in the target audience's geographical area or

region. The correct localization of the translated terms is absolutely critical in order to provide accurate and appropriate medical information.

We should distinguish “false friends” in oral and written forms. In English and Russian «false friends» consist of numerous thousands of words. There are four parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs. When people only begin to learn and use foreign language they often given to pass our native language habits into foreign language system. Learning of “fringe international” words can help to avoid many mistakes. It is caused by similarity of words form. Actually, many scientists consider that “false friends” are able to misinform not only beginners who speak English not very well, this language phenomenon is also dangerous for specialists – philologists, interpreters, teachers.

It can be concluded from this study that it is always necessary to take into account all ways of master of borrowed words in any language and semantics of modern terms. Disregard of this can lead to unpleasant effects – ranging from simple lack of understanding of educational material to harm for health of the patient. The obtained results showed that a translator should consider cultural differences and have modern terminological knowledge. Translation requires having to learn how to deal with different kinds of medical terms in accordance with established text sort conventions. The main task of the translator is not only understanding and translation of specific terminology, but also to help physicians in their medical practice. It is necessary to make further investigation of given research as there are constant developments and discoveries within the international field of medicine.

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ВІДОМОСТІ ПРО АВТОРА

Марина Мелашенко – кандидат філологічних наук, старший викладач кафедри іноземних мов з латинською мовою та медичною термінологією вищого державного навчального закладу України «Українська медична стоматологічна академія», м. Полтава.

Наукові інтереси: проблеми англійського термінознавства та термінотворення, міжкультурні проблеми перекладу.