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PARONYMS IN THE LANGUAGE OF MEDICINE AND HEALTHCARE AS A CHALLENGE FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES

Paronyms are defined as words with similar sounding and a partial coincidence of morphemic composition [1]. These lexical units are frequently found in specialized languages, and the language of medicine is no exception [1; 7]. Medical communication in an English-speaking setting can be often impeded by a range of translation and intercultural challenges [3; 4; 5]. Therefore, it is highly important for future doctors to be aware of such potential difficulties. The objectives of our research are (1) to examine the prevalence of paronyms in the English sublanguage of medicine and healthcare, (2) to describe the major challenges which medical students may face in the process of mastering these lexical units, and (3) to develop their classification in order to eliminate mistakes and to avoid possible misunderstanding. The study of paronyms in the English sublanguage of medicine and healthcare is important for developing guidelines when writing research papers and case reports, to ensure the doctor's effective communicate with patients and other medical professionals. Our research will be useful for translation studies, teaching English as a second language, and developing multilingual competence of future doctors.

The research has demonstrated a number of paronyms which can be encountered in foreign-language medical and dental settings. We suggest the following classification of these lexical units: 1) paronyms in anatomical and histological terminology; 2) paronyms in clinical terminology; 3) paronyms with eponymic component; 4) intersystem paronyms. Let us consider these subgroups in detail.

The subgroup of paronyms in anatomical and histological terminology contains the following examples:

- **afferent** neurons (convey the sensory stimulus to the brain, the efferent neurons) and **efferent** (convey the motor stimulus to the muscles);

- **apophysis** (a projecting part of a bone) and **epiphysis** (the end of a long bone, usually wider than the long portion of the bone, either composed of cartilage or separated from the shaft by a disk of cartilage);
- **callus** (noun) and **callous** (adjective);
- **humeral** (pertaining to the humerus bone) and **humoral** (referring to a body fluid (such as a hormone));
- **ileum** (the gut) and **ilium** (the bone);
- **mucus** (noun) and **mucous** (adjective);
- **osteal** (bony (osseous)) and **ostial** (pertaining to an ostium or os (an opening));
- **perineal** (pertaining to groin) and **peroneal** (pertaining to fibula);
- **pleural** (refers to the pleura, the serous membrane lining each half of the thorax) and **plural** (more than one);
- **prostate** (the prostate gland) and **prostrate** (lying prone);
- **villose**, **villous** (shaggy with soft hairs; covered with villi) and **villus** (plural is villi: small vascular protrusion, particularly a protrusion from the surface of a membrane);
- **vesicle** (noun) and **vesical** (adjective);
- **viscous** (characterized by viscosity) and **viscus** (internal organ; singular form of viscera).

Paronyms in clinical terminology are represented by the following units:

- **enuresis** (inability to control urination) and **anuresis** (retention of urine in the urinary bladder);
- **exacerbate** (to increase the severity, bitterness, or violence of (disease, ill feeling, etc.)) and **exasperate** (to irritate; to annoy greatly; to make very angry or impatient);
- **palpation** (the act of feeling with the fingers) and **palpitation** (the subjective feeling of an irregular or abnormally rapid heartbeat);
- **scatoma** (a tumor-like mass in the rectum formed by an accumulation of fecal material) and **scotoma** (an area of depressed vision; a dark or blind spot in the visual field, which is surrounded by an area of more normal vision).

Paronyms with eponymic component also constitute an important subgroup [2; 6]:

- **Meigs' syndrome** (ovarian fibroma with ascites and pleural effusion), **Meige's syndrome** (blepharospasm with oromandibular dystonia) and **Meige's disease** (lymphoedema praecox);
- **Meniere's disease** (cochlear hydrops) and **Menetrier's disease** (hyperplastic hypersecretory gastrophyl);
- **Wermer's syndrome** (multiple endocrine neoplasms, type 1) and **Werner's syndrome** (hereditary premature aging).

The subgroup of intersystem paronyms contains the following examples:

- **principal** (the most important; the chief) and **principle** (a law or rule);
- **perfuse** (to cause to flow or spread) and **profuse** (lavish, extravagant, bountiful);
- **elicit** (to draw out) and **illicit** (unlawful, improper, not permitted);
- **ensure** (to make certain of) and **insure** (to guarantee protection; used mostly in a monetary sense);
- **access** (admittance) and **excess** (the degree or state of surplus, or beyond the usual);
- **allude** (to make indirect reference) and **elude** (to avoid);
- **appose** (to set one thing beside the other) and **oppose** (to be on the opposite side of an argument/debate);
- **apposition** (setting of one thing beside the other, as in suturing wounds) and **opposition** (act of being opposite).

The suggested classification is expected to facilitate the process of mastering paronyms in medical English by future doctors. This list is by no means exhaustive – it stipulates further development and elaboration. As one can easily observe, it is essential to remember the correct spelling of each lexical unit in order to avoid misunderstanding. It is highly important for future doctors to be familiar with medical paronyms which can be met in the clinical setting in order to be ready to work in a foreign language professional environment.

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