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СТРУКТУРНЫЕ ТИПЫ АНГЛИЙСКИХ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ ТЕРМИНОВ
STRUCTURAL TYPES OF ENGLISH MEDICAL TERMS

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается проблема типологизации медицинских терминов в английском языке. Автор проанализировал существующие структурные классификации терминологических единиц в английском языке медицины и разработал собственную структурную типологию. Предложенная терминологическая типология будет способствовать более глубокому пониманию медицинских терминов.

Abstract: The present paper focuses on the issue of typologization of medical terms in English language. The author analyzed the existing structural classifications of terminological units in the English language of medicine, and developed their own structural typology. The suggested terminological typology will promote a deeper understanding of medical terms.

Ключевые слова: терминологические единицы, медицинская терминология, структурная типология, семантика

Keywords: terminological units, medical terminology, structural typology, semantics

Introduction. Terms are largely used in medical language, as in the other scientific fields of study and their significance in medical discourse is undeniable. The advantages of terms in medicalese consist in their unambiguous nature and brevity. Terminological saturation in medical discourse, disclose the evolution of medical scientific and applied research, provide continuity of medical knowledge and contribute to the formation of comprehensive terminological field. The widespread utilization of medical terms vastly contributes to a deeper understanding of the development of modern physical thinking and unveils the history of medicine development. The phenomenon of term in the English medical discourse requires further study, in particular, in the light of synchronous and diachronic aspects. The prospects for research include the in-depth study of English medical terms and their structure in the context of specific areas of medical knowledge (both applied and theoretical healthcare).

Statement of the problem and its connection with scientific and practical tasks. Terms constitute an extensive layer of medical vocabulary, and therefore have always been the focus of linguists' interest. The undeniable advantages of terminological units in medical vocabulary are obvious: terms are unambiguous, laconic and concise [4]. Furthermore, medical terminological units provide continuity of medical knowledge and contribute to the formation of comprehensive terminological field [10]. The widespread utilization of medical terms vastly contributes to a deeper understanding of the development of modern physical thinking and unveils the history of medicine development. Undoubtedly, all these advantages make terms an integral part of the medical vocabulary. However, terms can be very complex and confusing on a pragmatic level: they are easy to misspell, misuse or misunderstand. Incorrect use of medical terms in communication between health care professionals and patients leads to problems related to terms understanding [1]. Therefore, medical terms require careful study and systematization. For the layman, learning medical language may seem difficult, but it becomes easier once you know the origins and meanings of medical terms. For the medical professionals, it is second nature. Most medical terms are borrowed from Latin and Greek [2], but you do not have to study these languages to become an expert in utilizing and understanding medical terms. All you need to do is study and learn the structural patterns of medical terminology.

Analysis of the latest research publications on the topic. Medical terms have already been widely studied in almost all national languages. Researches such as S. M. Velichkova [11], thoroughly analyzed medical terminology from the semantic-structural perspective. M. N. Chernyavsky studied specific peculiarities of medical terminological units [2]. Y. V. Lysanets and O. M. Bieliaieva examined etymological aspect of English medical vocabulary [7].

The aim of the article is to analyze existing classifications of medical English terms and to develop a new structural typology designed specifically for the medical field. The proposed typology will facilitate better understanding and deeper memorization of medical terms. The material of the study is the corpus of open access research papers, registered in the electronic database of medical publications "PubMed" [9].

The principal data of the study. Scientific works on structural, thematic and etymological typology of terms of medical English have already been conducted. It is obvious that different classifications of terms emphasize their different characteristics and functions in different discourses. D. V. Golovacheva classify medical terms into groups based on structural features that are applicable only to a certain domain (e.g. monolexemic, polysemantic, and multi-word terms) [5]. E. A. Misuno classifies terms based on their structure into the following categories: (1) simple terms; (2) compound terms; (3) multi-phrase terms; (4) abbreviation terms [8]. Khafizova argues that there is still no single classification of medical terms. She suggests affixal classification of medical terminology based on the creation tools of English medical terms (mostly suffixes) [6]. S. M. Velichkova categorizes medical terminology based on the lexico-semantic aspects [11].

As one can see, the various typologies proposed by different researchers are indeed very detailed. However, we believe that these typologies are primarily focused on general linguistic factors. It is therefore of great importance to develop a structural typology of English eponyms specifically for linguists and medical practitioners.

We propose to classify medical terms as follows: (1) root words; (2) derivations; (3) compound words; (4) multi-word phrases; (5) abbreviations. Let us dwell in more detail on each of these groups.

The group of root terms includes terminological units that consist of a single root word. For example: *Asthma, Caliper, Hives, Lesion, Plague*. In medical discourse, root words can be considered as the basic lexis, as root words, especially of Greek or Latin origin, often serve as the basic building blocks for the derivational process.

The group of derivations consists of terms formed in the process of derivation. This group consists of medical terms that incorporate different affixes, often of Latin or Greek origin. For example: *Appendicitis, Biopsy, Ileectomy, Syncope, Malabsorption*.

The group of compound terms is defined by specialized units that are formed from two or more root bases. For example: *Cholecystectomy, Fibromyalgia, Gastroenteritis, Laparoscopy, Psychotherapy*. It is noteworthy, that from a diachronic point of view, compounding is probably older than derivation, since word-forming affixes developed from independent words [3].

The group of multi-word phrases includes terminological units that structurally consist of phrases. For example: *Acute bronchitis, Addison's disease, Bowen's disease, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, Lesch-Nyhan disease*. In the past derivation and compounding, which preferred Latin and Greek roots and affixes, prevailed, but at the present time the syntactic method prevails – the formation of multi-word phrases [3].

The group of abbreviations consists of various types of abbreviations that function as nominative units. For example: *CST, ECG, MMR, MRSA, SNS*. The abbreviations that comprise this group can be considered as a shortened form of a word or phrase.

Conclusions. Our study indicates that medical English correlates with the general lexical system of the English language demonstrating conventional structural typology. It is noteworthy, that

there are other ways of forming medical terms. However, their structure does not differ from the cases described above. To summarize, it can be said that new medical lexemes can be formed in various ways, but overall English medical terminology system demonstrates remarkably conventional structural typology. We believe that a thorough structural categorization of English medical terms will facilitate their better understanding and deeper memorization, which in turn will help to avoid possible mistakes in the contexts of medical and linguistic study.

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